

My mentorship with Youn Kim M.D. at the Stanford Cancer Center was both an enlightening and career-developing experience. During my time at Stanford, I was able to see many interesting cases of cutaneous lymphoma as well as learn the inner workings of a world-class, multidisciplinary clinic. I will be running the lymphoma clinic at Mayo Clinic Arizona and this experience and mentorship has aided in the development of our clinic.

Dr Kim runs two full-day lymphoma clinics a week, which see primarily late stage and refractory disease. Many of these patients are involved in clinical trials and receive multidisciplinary care with hematology, radiation-oncology, and dermato-oncology. I visited the lymphoma clinic on 3 separate trips, which allowed for longer-term patient follow-up, the development of rapport with patients, and evaluation of treatment success and failure. I was able to interact and work closely with hematology. It was an invaluable experience to listen to the physician-patient interaction during the discussion of the risks and benefits of transplantation and multi-agent chemotherapy. As a dermatologist we rarely have such an opportunity and I now feel comfortable telling my own patients what they can expect when they are referred to hematology. Stanford provides a unique stem cell transplantation for cutaneous T-cell lymphoma. This involves a novel and relatively light induction regime, which reduces the infection risk and mortality of transplantation, and allows for a less strict age limit. I was able to see many of these patients in follow up and even some who have been in complete remission for years with no immunosuppressant medications.

When we were not in clinic, the rest of the week was dedicated to dermatopathology review, clinical trial meetings, and collaborative research efforts. The dermatopathology review provided clinical pathological correlation on difficult cases as well as allowed for a preview of the upcoming cases for the week. I found this very helpful and our lymphoma clinic at Mayo Clinic Arizona will be using a similar process of dermatopathology review. The research days allowed for review of ongoing collaborative research projects with basic science groups as well as updates of ongoing clinical projects. The translational research at Stanford has provided a benchmark for myself as well as a template for what I will be trying to create over the next decade. Dr Kim is the principal investigator on the Prospective Cutaneous Lymphoma International Prognostic Index (PROCLIPi), a multisite international collaborative research effort. I was able to work with Dr Kim and aide in the development of critical data sets for the study as well as ensure that Mayo Clinic Arizona will be part of this collaborative. In addition to translational research, Dr Kim is involved in many clinical trials. I was able to sit in on trial updates, trial meetings, and well as see the effects of trial drugs in clinic. This integrated and vertical design allows for complete understanding of the mechanism, efficacy, side effect profile of a drug, and pitfalls of drug trials.

One major issue and possible research opportunity is the difficulty and inter-rater variability of skin scoring systems and digital imaging in dermatology broadly and cutaneous lymphoma specifically. Standard digital imaging and automated scoring processes may allow for a better assessment of drug response as well as improve the workflow of the clinic. I am currently looking into possible collaborations to develop this technology.

I would like to sincerely thank the Medical Dermatology Society and Youn Kim for the funding and the opportunity to have such a great experience. You are both responsible for furthering my career.

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