

I am delighted to write this summary of my mentorship elective at the University of California, San Francisco. My mentorship was focused on complex medical dermatology and inpatient hospital consultative dermatology. I worked closely with Dr. Kanade Shinkai to formulate my schedule, which was tailored around my interests in inflammatory skin dermatoses, genodermatoses, and urgent care dermatology.

Typically, I rounded with the dermatology consultative team in the morning. As the main tertiary referral center for Northern California, UCSF has high volume with no shortage of interesting patients. On an average day, we saw patients with diseases such as cicatricial pemphigoid, Sweet's syndrome, blastomycosis-like pyoderma, and possible Kikuchi disease. In the afternoon, I often joined Dr. Berger's clinic, which primarily includes patients with recalcitrant pruritic dermatoses. I also spent time in the pediatric dermatology, autoimmune, and general dermatology clinics.

Dermatology is one of the few remaining medical specialties where physical exam and observational skills are paramount. There are no randomized control trials or strict guidelines for many of our skin diseases. Therefore, I found it important for my own learning to obtain training outside of my institution, firstly to see a different population of patients and secondly to learn from other experienced clinicians their observations and approaches to difficult dermatoses.

UCSF has a large immunosuppressed population (from transplant, HIV/AIDs, or cancer), and therefore we saw many opportunistic infections and cancer-related dermatoses. They also have a large immigrant population; we had one memorable woman from South America with mucocutaneous leishmaniasis. Their patients often had very severe dermatoses with high acuity and complexity. I learned many pearls from the myriad of astute physicians with whom I worked, which I will carry with me as I progress in my career.

Dr. Shinkai is a consummate clinician and patient advocate. She taught me many subtle exam findings and treatment algorithms gleaned from her years of experience. In addition to being very smart, she always made an effort to know each patient, counsel them about their disease, and advocate for the patients' care with the primary team. Her thorough approach to inpatient consults is a model to follow! Also, as program director for the residency program and the director for the medical school derm module, Dr. Shinkai is clearly dedicated to mentorship. She made an effort to find out my career goals at the beginning of the rotation and gave me individualized feedback and advice, for which I'm very appreciative.

I am immensely grateful to the Medical Dermatology Society and to Dr. Shinkai and the rest of the UCSF faculty for this unique opportunity and formative experience. It reaffirmed my commitment to pursuing a career in academic dermatology and clarified my interests within complex medical dermatology.

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