

Through the Medical Dermatology Society's Mentorship award program, I was able to participate in an incredibly enriching and immersive experience under the guidance of Dr. Kanade Shinkai at UCSF. Dr. Shinkai helped tailor the month to my interests in inpatient consultative dermatology and dermatopathology. Other than the inpatient and dermatopathology services, I was also able to rotate through UCSF's subspecialty clinics, including the HIV clinic with Drs. Kieron Leslie and Toby Maurer and the multidisciplinary PCOS clinic with Dr. Shinkai.

UCSF's inpatient dermatology consult service was never bereft of interesting and complex patients. I was reminded how important a comprehensive review of drug administration history can be. One patient who had been previously diagnosed with recurrent pustular psoriasis was found to have had a history of multiple CT scans and exposure to contrast dye days prior to each episode, resulting in a new diagnosis of AGEP. In addition, two cases of leukemia cutis particularly struck a note with me because of their beautiful morphology yet gut-wrenching implications. One patient presented with purpura that marched up and lined her abdominal striae while another's purpura outlined the anterior surfaces of his lower extremity vessels in a classic and dramatic fixed livedo.

While the majority of my inpatient experience was with Dr. Shinkai, I also worked several days with Drs. Lindy Fox and Anna Haemel. I felt very fortunate to not only be able to learn from these brilliant minds but also to see how different providers run the consult service. In the future, I hope to incorporate aspects of their unique approaches when I run my own consult service. My experience on the consult service affirmed my love for hospital dermatology and emphasized the pivotal role dermatology can play in the diagnosis and expedient management of inpatients.

During my time at UCSF, I typically spent half of my day on the inpatient service and the other half in dermpath. The dermatopathology division at UCSF accessioned over a hundred thousand cases a year, including many outside consults. With their large faculty and many international rotators, each day of sign out was a different and incredibly educational experience. I especially found it exciting when the realms of the inpatient consult service collided with dermpath, where we could see our clinical impression reassessed through the lens of histopathologic interpretation.

I would like to thank the Medical Dermatology Society, Dr. Shinkai, UCSF, and my home program for allowing me to pursue this incredibly unique opportunity. Dr. Shinkai was the model mentor; an advocate of medical student and resident education, but also a renowned and astute clinician and academic. I don't know how she finds the time to do everything that she does! Working with her was truly inspiring and I hope to translate my mentorship experience into a meaningful career in academic hospital dermatology and dermatopathology.

Cuong Nguyen, MD
PGY-4 Combined Internal Medicine-Dermatology
University of Minnesota