

As my dermatology residency nears its end, I am indebted to the Medical Dermatology Society for providing me with the opportunity to spend the month of May 2018 under the mentorship of Dr. Lindy Fox at the University of California, San Francisco. During this immersive experience in inpatient consultative dermatology at UCSF, I was consistently challenged by the complexity of our work, and ultimately inspired to become the best physician I can possibly be in order to care for hospitalized patients with skin disease.

Dr. Fox's stellar reputation precedes her, yet she managed to surpass my expectations from day one. During the orientation given by Dr. Fox to me and the other dermatology residents rotating on the inpatient service for the month, I was struck by her commitment to understanding each learner's goals and expectations for the rotation. Even more impressive, however, was how much she stressed the importance of thinking critically as to provide diligent and compassionate patient care. The fact that she told us she was always available by phone or text should there arise any questions or concerns indicated her dedication to supporting us in times of uncertainty, thereby instilling greater confidence in ourselves.

After a month of witnessing Dr. Fox's diagnostic and therapeutic approaches for patients with complex drug eruptions (DRESS and SJS/TEN), disabling infectious diseases (widespread ecthyma, disseminated zoster, and AIDS), and severe autoimmune/inflammatory dermatoses (dyshidrosiform bullous pemphigoid in the setting of hyper-eosinophilia, pancreatic panniculitis, Sweet's syndrome with pulmonary involvement), I can say confidently that I achieved my primary goal for this mentorship experience: to become adept at improving the lives of dermatology patients who are most in need of help, and learn to master the use of the high-risk medications that are so often required to achieve that end. Additionally, Dr. Fox was thoughtful and generous enough to take the time to meet with me multiple times during the month to offer advice on career planning and my professional aspirations.

Learning these pearls from Dr. Fox could not have come at a better time because, in the rapidly-approaching time following residency, I will be joining the faculty in the Department of Dermatology at the University of California, Irvine, with a clinical focus on medical dermatology and inpatient dermatology. As such, I am confident that this experience has given me the skills to succeed immediately as I begin my academic career. I am extremely grateful to the Medical Dermatology Society for contributing the financial support required for my mentorship with Dr. Fox, who is one of our specialty's finest role models. I am optimistic that I will be able to emulate both the personal and professional traits possessed by Dr. Fox so that I may also become a leader in academic dermatology.

Nathan W Rojek, M.D.  
Chief Dermatology Resident  
Oregon Health & Science University