

## Medical Dermatology Society Mentorship Summary Report

In the summer of 2018, I started my mentorship through MDS with Dr. Carrie Kovarik at the University of Pennsylvania. The mentorship is ongoing, and has been focused on four specific goals.

- 1) Dr. Kovarik has provided valuable feedback regarding a research project I undertook during an elective month during which I traveled to Ghana. This project focused on measuring the disability associated with skin problems in rural communities of Ghana. Before, during, and after the trip I consulted Dr. Kovarik on her advice on how best to complete my research goals. The project was a success in that I gathered high-quality data from over 300 participants in 7 rural communities around Kumasi, Ghana. Her input about the structure of my project and manuscript has been essential in making my study unique in the medical literature.
- 2) While in Philadelphia, I worked with Dr. Kovarik in clinic and behind the microscope. Her clinic is unique in that she sees patients with complicated infectious and medical disease. I discovered new approaches to treatment of common things, like HPV warts, and saw diagnoses that I have never seen before, like disseminated superficial actinic porokeratosis. From a dermatopathology perspective, her teaching was valuable in my goal of developing a solid foundation for clinicopathologic correlation in my approach to dermatology.
- 3) During my time at UPenn, I embarked on a research project that Dr. Kovarik had completed an IRB for, but had not yet started. This project focused on the validation of a smartphone camera adapter tool to take pictures of teledermatopathology samples. I took digital images of over 50 cases, which were sent to participating dermatopathologists around the country. These physicians will also receive the physical glass slides of the same cases after a wash-out period so that we can compare the effectiveness of making diagnoses using the digital images. This tool could potential transform teledermatopathology in developing countries, as well offering a convenient alternative for all dermatologists and pathologists interested in capturing images of the slides they're examining. This exercise was helpful for me in that it was a focused study of specific inflammatory dermatoses and their associated pathology, and I will benefit from completing a publishable research project.
- 4) After my time at UPenn, I was invited to participate in a second manuscript with Dr. Kovarik regarding the use of teledermatology as a research tool. This manuscript is underway, and I've developed a more nuanced understanding of this technology and its wide array of applications for clinical and research purposes.

The mentorship through MDS was a highly valuable experience, and I am grateful for the ongoing mentorship with Dr. Kovarik that started with the MDS.

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