

## Medical Dermatology Society Mentorship Award Summary 2019-2020

My mentorship experience at the University of Pennsylvania provided tremendous educational value that was relevant to my practice. Prior to my visit, I was already seeing patients with complex dermatologic conditions (including lupus erythematosus, dermatomyositis, scleroderma/morphea, vasculitis, neutrophilic dermatoses, hidradenitis suppurativa, and autoimmune blistering diseases) once a week in my autoimmune skin disease clinic. However, I quickly realized that there are many nuances in the treatment and management of these diseases that could not be found in textbooks or articles. I proactively noted down questions and issues I encountered when caring for these patients and drafted a schedule with Dr. Werth to maximize the 4 weeks I spent at UPenn.

My mentorship experience was strategically split into two 2-week blocks in October 2019 and March 2020. This gave me the opportunity to implement the concepts and pearls I learned in October and to formulate any additional questions/ideas I had before returning in March. During my 4-week visit, in addition to working closely with Dr. Werth, I had the opportunity to observe clinics with the following attendings: Dr. Micheletti (Hidradenitis suppurativa and vasculitis), Dr. Rosenbach (Sarcoidosis and granulomatous diseases), Dr. Kim (CTCL), Dr. Chiesa (Atopic dermatitis), Dr. Payne (Autoimmune bullous diseases), and Dr. Rook (CTCL). I also spent a few days with Dr. Steele on the inpatient consult service, and I had the opportunity to discuss clinical trials with Dr. Werth's clinical research coordinator.

During my visit, I was fortunate to attend three educational conferences. The weekly Duhring Dermatology Case and Quality Improvement conference was organized by the residents. Patients were presented for discussion of their diagnoses, histopathology, treatment, and a review of pertinent medical literature. Lectures were also given by recognized experts on the latest material and findings within their fields.

The Skin Biology and Diseases Resource-based Center (SBDRC) Research Day Symposium was held on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The Keynote lecture "*Epithelial Stem Cells in Development, Regeneration and Cancer*" was given by Dr. Sarah Millar, Professor and Director of the Black Family Stem Cell Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai. Additional lectures highlighting pilot & feasibility studies funded by the SBDRC were also given including a lecture on the pathogenesis of neutrophilic dermatoses and a lecture on Circadian regulation of skin inflammation by the microbiome.

The annual International Pemphigus and Pemphigoid Foundation patient education conference was hosted and organized by Dr. Victoria Werth and Dr. Aimee Payne. The conference was held October 11-13, 2019. Lectures were given by clinicians, researchers, patients, and their caregivers. Ongoing and future clinical trials were announced, and I was able to connect with companies that specialize in services and goods geared towards the management of autoimmune blistering diseases.

This mentorship experience was truly exceptional. Although it was short, I gained pearls that will help sharpen my diagnostic skills and improve my competence in therapeutic management of patient with complex dermatologic diseases. This experience also helped me establish connections for future participation in clinical trials. I am profoundly grateful to the Medical Dermatology Society for giving me this award which has contributed tremendously to my career development.

Sincerely,  
Oluwakemi Onajin, MD