

Medical Dermatology Society (MDS) Mentorship Summary Report

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Mentor: Jennifer Choi, MD; Northwestern Memorial Hospital

My MDS mentorship rotation with Dr. Choi was by far one of the most formative experiences of my residency. Dr. Choi serves as the Chief of the Oncodermatology division at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and sees patients regularly at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center. During my time at Northwestern, I rotated with her at her clinics at the cancer center in addition to general dermatology and procedural clinics. I also worked with Dr. Cuong Nguyen and Dr. Lida Zheng, who both also see oncodermatology patients. In addition to working in clinic and seeing patients within supportive oncodermatology (one of my major passions), I also spent a significant portion of time on the inpatient consult service seeing hospitalized patients with severe skin disease, which is my other major clinical interest and passion. I participated in oncodermatology and melanoma tumor board meetings as well while at Northwestern.

During my time in the Oncodermatology division, I was exposed to a diverse array of pathology and helped manage patients with primary cutaneous malignancies as well as cutaneous adverse effects from anti-cancer therapies, including chemotherapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy, and radiation. Some cases that come to mind include a pediatric case of severe BRAF-inhibitor induced panniculitis, a challenging case of docetaxel-induced subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus (SCLE), acneiform eruptions from EGFR inhibitors, refractory erythromelalgia in the setting of polycythemia vera, histiocytoid Sweet Syndrome, immunotherapy-induced lichenoid reactions, Kaposi sarcoma, and radiation-induced morphea, in addition to many other conditions. In both the inpatient and outpatient settings I saw severe cases of toxic erythema of chemotherapy (TEC) and how providers at Northwestern approach management of these cases. In particular, I found their use of high dose oral vitamin D (100,00 units for 2 doses) to have incredible results and is something I will certainly use in my practice once I am an attending caring for similar patients. As a resident trained in both internal medicine and dermatology, I greatly enjoy multidisciplinary collaboration. The ability to work directly at the cancer center and co-manage patients directly with the oncology team was a wonderful experience.

I also learned so much in the inpatient setting about being an effective consultant from both Dr. Nguyen (who directs the service) and Dr. Zheng. The teaching they provided was unparalleled and will undoubtedly translate over when I am an attending working in the hospital setting. Everything from clinical pearls to billing overviews to the logistics of running a busy consult service were covered. I got to see pathologies I had never seen prior. I saw several cases of monkeypox and learned the process for collecting samples for testing and coordinating with the public health department. I rotated in clinics with Dr. Nguyen and Dr. Zheng as well and co-managed many

interesting cases with them including, but not limited to: acquired ichthyosis in a patient with systemic lupus; cutaneous coccidiomycosis; erythrodermic and pustular psoriasis; generalized bullous fixed drug eruption; PASH (pyoderma gangrenosum, acne, and suppurative hidradenitis) syndrome; rosacea fulminans; and septic vasculitis. I also got to spend a day in the gastroenterology clinics working with Dr. Stephen Hanauer, an inflammatory bowel disease specialist, given my interest in IBD-associated skin conditions.

This experience without a doubt has contributed to both my fund of knowledge and comfort in treating patients in the hospital setting and patients undergoing cancer treatment with side effects. I feel fortunate to have life-long mentors in Dr. Choi, Nguyen, and Zheng and look forward to working with them collaboratively in the future and continuing to learn from them. Given that my major career interests include working at an academic center and practicing inpatient dermatology and supportive oncodermatology, this experience was perfect as a stepping stone during my final year of residency.