

Mentorship Program

Medical Dermatology Society

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Background

- Dermatology residency at UT Southwestern in Dallas, Texas from 2004-2007



- Parkland Memorial Hospital
 - Challenging medical dermatology



Background

- UTSW
 - Rheumatic skin disease
 - Focused clinic Wednesday mornings
 - Melissa Costner, MD
- MDS Mentorship Program
 - Enhance clinical experience in medical dermatology- rheumatic skin disease



Background

- MDS Mentorship Award
2006-2007
- University of Louisville,
Division of Dermatology
- Jeffrey Callen, MD
 - Known for his publications
and expertise in rheumatic
skin diseases



Experience at Louisville

- Clinical experience
 - Clinic flow, approach to patient care
 - Management of difficult cases
- Hospital consults/rounds
 - Private and academic settings
- Education conferences- Grand Rounds, didactics, etc.

Case

- Inpatient consult
- Latino female in 30's with fever and rash
- Primary varicella infection



Case

- Adult female with severe pyoderma gangrenosum
- Had extensive surgical debridement prior to diagnosis



Mentorship Experience

- Mentorship program not just a regular rotation “meet in clinic experience.” Behind-the-scene view of academic medicine
 - Editing work for medical journals
 - Conference calls
 - Administration duties
 - Expert witness on medical legal case. Attended a legal deposition
 - Visiting professor experience- Dayton, Ohio

Mentorship Award

- Award was adequate to cover costs
 - Travel
 - Housing
 - Car rental
 - Other expenses

Value of the Mentorship Program

- Experience a different program/location
- “If you have seen one dermatology program, you have seen one dermatology program”- Paul Bergstresser
- See a different department/division- difficult to accomplish after residency
 - How do they run clinics?
 - How is the residency program set-up?
 - What type of patients do they see?
 - What things to they do well?

Value

- Observe differences in evaluation and treatment strategies in difficult medical dermatology cases
 - Off label uses of medications, biologics
 - Dosing (Thalidomide)
 - Lab monitoring

Value

- Relationship with mentor- provide ongoing support
- Joined faculty at University of Utah in summer 2007. Focus on medical dermatology/rheumatic skin disease clinic
- Dr. Callen
 - Email him questions about challenging cases
 - Speaking opportunities at AAD, Summer academy meeting, etc.
 - Provided experience as a reviewer for journal articles
 - Collaborated and published a review article together on connective tissue panniculitis

Mentorship Program

- Overall positive experience
 - Residents with interest should strongly consider this opportunity
 - Program directors should try to accommodate residents taking an “away elective” where possible
 - Experienced medical dermatologists should consider becoming mentors in the program
 - MDS should continue to financially support the program

Carpe Diem . Seize the day.

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