

RESIDENT ROUNDS: PART I

Resident Rounds is a section of the JDD dedicated to highlighting various dermatology departments with residency training programs. Resident Rounds includes three sections: (1) a program spotlight highlighting pertinent information about the department and residency training program; (2) a section presenting study materials used by residents at the program; and (3) a section designed to highlight recent interesting cases seen at the institution. This issue of Resident Rounds features the University of Pittsburgh Residency Program in Dermatology. The editor of Resident Rounds is Dr. Ali Alikhan. If you are interested in highlighting your training program in a future issue, please contact Dr. Alikhan at alialikhan1@yahoo.com.

Program Spotlight: The University of Pittsburgh Residency Program in Dermatology

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The University of Pittsburgh Residency Program in Dermatology is a core part of one of the largest dermatology departments in the nation with 15 faculty members and 6 diverse clinical sites, including the Veterans Affairs Hospital. This combined with the Department's basic and translational research base, which is now ranked in the top 10 nationally for NIH funding, enable us to continue providing one of the most well-rounded dermatology residency programs in the United States.

Our educational focus is to train physicians and future leaders in the field of dermatology. Additionally, our program emphasizes mastering core competencies in medical knowledge, patient care, practice-based learning, and improvement in addition to interpersonal and communications skills, professionalism, and system-based practice.

The University of Pittsburgh Department of Dermatology incorporates a broad range of clinical services, research, and teaching activities. Clinical training is divided into monthly rotations split among six diverse sites as well as a continuity clinic held weekly. The residency is based at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Presbyterian Hospital Campus, which houses many of the subspecialty clinics that provide residents with exposure to complex medical dermatology.

Our department continues to grow, increasing access to clinical services while providing comprehensive care including general dermatology, complex medical dermatology, pediatric dermatology, inpatient adult and pediatric consultation services, dermatologic surgery, cutaneous oncology, cosmetic dermatology, and dermatopathology. Residents also participate in a variety of multidisciplinary clinics with our faculty caring for patients with challenging diseases including cutaneous lym-



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phoma and melanoma, psoriasis, immunobullous disease, hair and nail disease, wound healing, and most recently, the first gastrointestinal dermatology clinic that provides coordinated care to inflammatory bowel disease and celiac disease patients with associated dermatologic conditions.

Residents receive hands-on experience in procedural dermatology, including Mohs and non-Mohs dermatologic surgery, toxins, fillers, and the use of ablative and non-ablative lasers. In addition, residents spend one to two months per year on the pediatric dermatology service, which includes general pediatric dermatology; pediatric surgery and laser clinic in addition to an active pediatric inpatient and teledermatology consult service.

Our research activities span a broad range of investigative endeavors. These include basic science research in: cutaneous biology, immunology, tumor biology, gene therapy, and cutaneous imaging in addition to translational programs in vaccine design, viral and tumor immunotherapy and cutaneous gene delivery. We lead numerous clinical investigations of novel therapeutics including the use of immunomodulators and immunotherapies for the treatment of melanoma, psoriasis, and

cutaneous T-cell lymphoma in addition to the development of photodynamic therapies for skin cancers. Investigators are also studying the application of bioinformatics toward the diagnosis and treatment of skin disease and the development of prophylactic and patient education strategies for the prevention of cutaneous neoplasms.

Our didactic curriculum at the University of Pittsburgh includes weekly half-day didactic sessions which include clinical and basic-science lectures given by members of the faculty and residency. First year residents participate in their own focused weekly dermatopathology conference, studying a new topic each week. Upper level residents attend once-twice weekly general dermatopathology teaching sessions. Monthly basic science journal clubs are co-lead by clinical and basic science faculty to facilitate in-depth discussion of research topics and their impact on patient care. The residency program hosts meetings of the Pittsburgh Academy of Dermatology, which are well attended by dermatologists in our community. These educational events include Grand Rounds with live patient participation, lectures from national leaders in dermatology, and monthly Clinical Pathologic Correlation lectures presented by members of our faculty.

The University of Pittsburgh Department of Dermatology, a leading center for academic dermatology, continues to embark on new initiatives designed to foster continued growth, providing excellence in clinical care, education, and research.

Disclosures

None of the authors have declared any relevant conflicts.

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