

PENN STATE HERSHEY DERMATOLOGY TURNS RESEARCH INTO RESULTS



PENN STATE HERSHEY
Dermatology



We Do The Research in Dermatology

BY: SARA HEILIG, M.D.

The Department of Dermatology at Penn State Hershey Medical Center is dedicated to expanding our knowledge about many dermatological conditions by doing research in the laboratory, as well as in the clinic. We are involved in many exciting research studies so that we can have the most up-to-date information and treatments for our patients.

Dr. Diane Thiboutot, a world renowned acne specialist, is leading a study on Accutane (isotretinoin), which is a vitamin A-like drug. Accutane, as many of our acne patients know, works wonders on severe acne to prevent the lifelong scarring that can occur. Dr. Thiboutot's lab is investigating the complicated mechanisms behind Accutane's effectiveness and looking for other vitamin A compounds with fewer side effects.

Also exploring novel treatments for acne is Dr. Andrea Zaenglein, our expert in pediatric dermatology. Dr. Zaenglein is investigating whether photodynamic therapy is a good treatment for acne in children and adolescents. Photodynamic therapy is a procedure that involves using a medicine on the affected area and exposing it to a special light. The medicine becomes activated by the light and will then attack the acne. This study is being performed in collaboration with other academic centers across the world.

Dr. Dave Adams, our national expert on a condition called hidradenitis suppurativa, is involved in a multicenter study to treat this difficult condition. Hidradenitis suppurativa is a chronic inflammatory skin condition that causes blackheads and painful bumps in the armpits and groin. This condition is often very painful and greatly affects the quality of life of those who suffer from it. Dr. Adams is investigating whether a medicine used for psoriasis and rheumatoid arthritis will be effective for hidradenitis suppurativa, as well.

Dr. Bryan Anderson, our guru on skin cancers who spends one day a week at Penn State Hershey's multidisciplinary skin oncology clinic, is participating in a melanoma study. His study is looking at whether or not melanoma cells are detectable in the blood stream of patients who were recently diagnosed with melanoma. This study will have implications on how melanomas are treated in the future and hopefully lead to the prevention of melanoma spreading from the skin to become a fatal cancer affecting internal organs such as the brain or lung.

Dr. Jeffrey Miller is our hair expert and has done studies that resulted in greater insight in hair disorders, as well as the approval of Rogaine Foam for the treatment of baldness.

What ingredient in cosmetics, personal care products or the workplace is causing that red, itchy rash that resembles poison ivy? Dr. James Marks is a member of the North American Contact Dermatitis Group that identifies and monitors the frequency of allergic reactions to fragrances, preservatives, botanicals, and other materials in our homes and workplace.

We also have other research projects that are discovering new knowledge and investigating new treatments for psoriasis, eczema, and basal cell carcinoma.

Our department is very proud of our research endeavors. Any of our physicians would be more than happy to discuss these studies with you if you have any questions.



May the medical student come in?

What to expect at an academic medical center

BY: LANCE WOOD, M.D.

When you are a patient at an academic medical center, such as Penn State Hershey Medical Center, you are likely to encounter a greater number of health care providers than you normally would at a private practice physician's office. You might be surprised when your primary physician informs you that a "head" or "charge" physician will also be in to see you. Then, you will likely be even more surprised when that physician enters and not only introduces himself or herself, but also introduces you to his or her "team."

So who are these additional "head" physicians and who makes up their teams?

The Medical Center is one of 157 programs in the U.S. (131 confer the degree of medical doctor (M.D.) and twenty-six additional programs confer the degree of doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) that educates and trains medical students to become physicians. Many of these programs, including the Medical Center, also train resident physicians.

Residents are physicians who have completed college and four years of medical school, but who are still training in the field of their choice. For example, in order to become a "board-certified" dermatologist, one must complete medical school and an additional four years of training (three of which are all in dermatology) as a resident.



Here at Penn State Hershey Dermatology, many of the doctors that care for our patients are resident physicians, and the "head" physician that comes in at the end of an appointment, is the attending physician, a board-certified dermatologist who is on the faculty of our department.

In addition to resident and attending physicians, many other physicians (especially residents training in different specialties) and medical students also spend time working with us and learning in our clinic. These individuals comprise the teams of doctors that you may meet during your visit and can be identified by the personal nametags and/or by the length of their white lab coats (medical students, wear short lab coats that look like a white blazer that only goes to their waists).

Hopefully, this background information is helpful to you in understanding the care and service you receive during your visit to our office and Medical Center. We appreciate and enjoy the challenging and exciting day-to-day opportunities provided by being part of a leading education and research medical center. We are also grateful for the environment Penn State Hershey Dermatology provides in helping to achieve our goals of offering both world-class training and world-class care. Most importantly, we are grateful to the patients who allow us, medical students and residents, to participate in their health care.



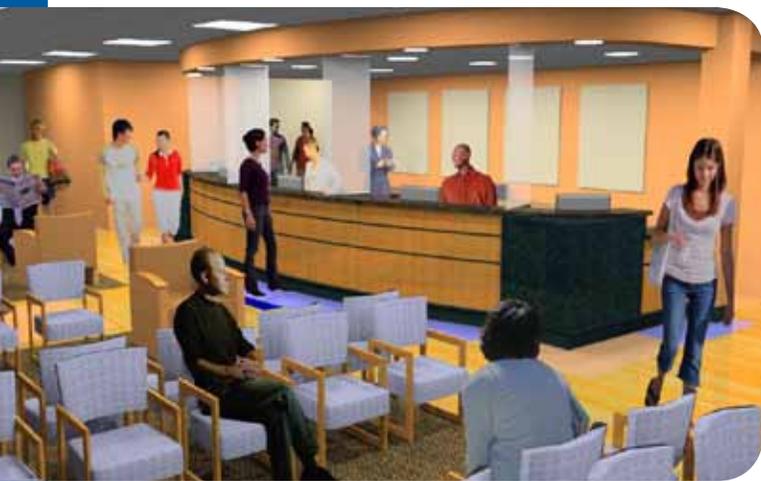
"I support Penn State Hershey Dermatology annually because the mentoring that I received during my residency impacts my career on a regular basis. The department is well-known for excellence in patient care and research, but what is particularly important to me is that I was privileged to train with outstanding physicians who continue to educate and mentor the future leaders in our specialty. For me, it's the people who make Penn State Hershey Derm something really special!"

NANCY HOUSE, M.D., RESIDENT 1991-94

Fresh and New DIGS

BY: HEATHER L. SALVAGGIO, M.D.

Exciting changes are on the way for Penn State Hershey Dermatology. To provide better care for our patients, the Penn State Hershey Dermatology Department will undergo renovation of our current Suite 100 location and expansion into neighboring Suite 200 in the University Physician Center building at Penn State Hershey Medical Center.



Currently, our department operates out of two locations: the Medical Center and the Penn State Hershey Medical Group, Nyes Road in Harrisburg. Our Medical Center location consists of eleven examination rooms and four surgery rooms. Expansion will increase these numbers to seventeen examination rooms and ten surgery rooms. This will allow us to see many more patients. It will also provide us with much needed space for a third skin cancer surgeon, which the department is actively recruiting. Part of the renovation includes expansion of the existing main waiting room with the addition of a child play area. New skin cancer surgery waiting rooms are also in our blueprints. In addition to more space, new flooring, modern furnishings, and fresh décor are in our plan for change.

Renovations will begin soon. The new surgical rooms are expected to be up and running in September 2010. The entire expansion project is projected to be complete by February 2011. If you visit the department during the renovation, you should expect to hear saws buzzing and hammers banging. Other than that, it will be business as usual for Penn State Hershey Dermatology. There will be no diminished patient care services during this much needed and exciting project.

2009 DERMATOLOGY ACHIEVEMENTS

BY: JAMES MARKS, M.D.

Education – The excitement of learning

- Dr. Joslyn Kirby - Young Physician Committee, American Academy of Dermatology.
- Drs. Christie Ammirati and Jennie Clarke co-edit MOC (Maintenance of Certification) textbook for American Board of Dermatology.
- Dr. Kyle Horner - Fellow at the British Academy of Dermatology.
- Dr. Ninad Pendharkar - Penn State University Alumnus Award.
- Dr. David Adams - Editorial Board of Tarascon Pocket Pharmacopoeia.
- Five-year residency accreditation continued with no deficiencies.
- Over fifty community dermatologists attended our monthly patient-centered conference.
- 100 percent of the faculty are tenured or on tenure track.
- Lookingbill Endowment sponsored a prominent Visiting Professor.

Research – The joy of discovery

- Dr. Amanda Nelson - Outstanding Postdoctoral Award.
- #33 in NIH funding of over 100 dermatology departments/divisions nationwide.
- Twelve pharmaceutical-sponsored clinical studies.
- Forty-one peer-reviewed publications featured in national/international journals.
- Annual Food and Wine Event raised over \$14,000 for basic science research.
- Dermatology Professor Endowment helped support Dr. Thiboutot's lab.

Patient Care – The reward of healing

- Top 10 percentile nationwide in Press Ganey Patient Satisfaction – Star Site.
- Twelve of the faculty were recognized in Best Doctors in America.
- 38,971 patient visits.
- Expansion of clinic space into University Physician Center suite 200 approved.
- 19,201 skin pathology cases.
- Dr. Elizabeth Billingsley - International Transplant Skin Cancer Collaborative.
- Dr. Christie Ammirati - Fellow, International College of Surgeons.

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Joslyn Kirby, M.D., Beams about New LASER Clinic

BY: RENEE STRAUB, M.D.

Penn State Hershey Dermatology was happy to welcome Dr. Joslyn Kirby to the faculty in 2008. Dr. Kirby completed her medical school training at the University of Virginia, and her dermatology training at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center. She recently started an adult specialty clinic for LASER services, which complements the already existing pediatric LASER services provided by Dr. Andrea Zaenglein.

The adult LASER clinic has three types of LASER which target different structures in the skin: The pulsed dye LASER (PDL), the intense pulsed light LASER (IPL), and the KTP LASER. LASER is actually an acronym that stands for Light Amplification by the Stimulated Emission of Radiation. Therefore, each of these LASERs operates at a different wavelength of light which destroys different targets in the skin (i.e., age spots/brown color, blood vessels/redness). In this way, LASERs are very useful because they are selective in their destruction of unwanted skin conditions. However, even though LASERs are target-specific and very powerful, the best results still necessitate multiple treatments and a skilled physician.

The KTP LASER is for facial blood vessels that can occur as a result of rosacea, sun damage, and hormones. The PDL is another LASER used to treat blood vessels and larger areas of redness that can be a result of a vascular (blood vessel) birthmark, recent scars that are still pink, and rosacea. The IPL LASER is a third treatment option for patchy areas of redness,

additionally it can treat brown spots such as melasma, sun spots and sun damage. The IPL can also improve the appearance of scars, especially those that are a result of acne. There is the potential for adding a hair-removal module to the IPL to help even more people.

Now, before you get too excited, Dr. Kirby wants you to know that there are side effects of each of these LASERs, as well as costs. The side effects vary from LASER to LASER but often include bruising amongst others. However, be it bruising, crusting, or dark areas, these spots may be covered with make-up and generally resolve in a few days or up to two weeks. The costs are based on the nature of the condition and on an individual's insurance coverage. Our entire faculty is able to answer questions and provide you with more specific handouts regarding the LASER treatments we provide. Penn State Hershey Dermatology is pleased that Dr. Kirby has succeeded at creating an exceptional new service with her LASER clinic on Thursday evenings.



“From our grandkids to our 97-year-old mother, the docs and their assistants at Penn State Hershey Dermatology have cared for our family consistently for the past nineteen years.”



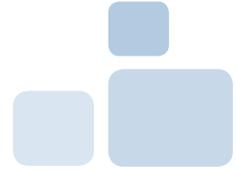
Why you may ask?

They are the best. Their (patient) satisfaction rate is awarded every year *(and you see and feel why)*.

They care.

Your doctor, not a secretary, calls after your appointment with your test results. *(The doctors are there for you)*.

Penn State Hershey Dermatology needs your financial support for the growing patient care, research into all forms of skin disorders and the education of medical students, residents and people like you and me in our local communities.



Patient Satisfaction

BY: MARK EID, M.D.

“Observe, record, tabulate, communicate. Use your five senses. Learn to see, learn to hear, learn to feel, learn to smell, and know that by practice alone you can become an expert.” *William Osler*

William Osler, often referred to as the Father of Modern Medicine, was instrumental in teaching physicians how to improve their craft. In the spirit of Osler, the Press Ganey patient satisfaction survey is a way to observe, record, tabulate, communicate and improve patients' care experience. The Press Ganey survey tool is used by more than 10,000 health care facilities to measure and assess patient satisfaction and in turn direct efforts to improve patient care. While patient satisfaction was always central to the mission of a physician and the rest of the health care team, the Press Ganey survey is a systematic way to measure and report patient satisfaction outcomes.

The Press Ganey survey is mailed to patients of all departments within the Penn State Hershey Medical Center system. Typical questions focus on ease of scheduling appointments; wait times; satisfaction with nurses and care providers; concern for privacy; etc. On a monthly basis, upper

management within the dermatology department collates the information to improve upon the processes within the department, from everything on the way we check patients in, to how we process our large number of patient calls. There have been numerous changes stemming from Press Ganey suggestions, including increasing the number of schedulers and triaging patient inquiries. The results have been impressive. Despite the more than 40,000 patient visits to our department, we are one of the highest ranked clinics within the Medical Center and in the top 10th percentile nationwide.

So if you receive a Press Ganey survey after your visit, please take a few minutes to fill it out and send it back. The department takes all surveys seriously and uses them to identify areas of potential improvement and to recognize employees that have gone above and beyond the call-of-duty in the care of our patients. Using tools like Press Ganey, and with your help, we want to continue being a leader in excellent patient care.



Fifth Annual “An Elegant Evening of Food and Wine Pairing” a Great Success!

“Welcome to the fifth annual Food and Wine Event” were the opening remarks from Dr. James Marks, chair, Department of Dermatology, to ninety-nine eager guests that attended this year's fundraising event, celebrating South American wines and foods. The event's proceeds benefit the Dermatology Research Endowment Fund.

Dr. Marks introduced the faculty in attendance and recognized each to their particular specialty and their relationship to the research they conduct. Mr. Dean Koppenhaver, wine educator, explained the wine and food pairings to be savored throughout the evening. Between courses, guests had ample time to offer a bid on the many donated items, including wine, restaurant venues, original artwork, and a travel destination.



A Taste of California April 16, 2011

Plans are already underway for next year, as the theme will honor the foods and wines of California. Save the date!

Local Resident steps in to support community “Smart Sun” habits

BY: CONNOR PATTERSON, M.D.

Mrs. Jeanne Arnold, facilitated by Dr. Michael Ioffreda of Penn State Hershey Dermatology, recently provided our local community with a “Smart Sun Shade Structure” located at the end of the Jonathan Eshenour Memorial Trail, just off Middletown Road in Derry Township. Inspired by the American Academy of Dermatology’s Shade Structure Program and through Mrs. Arnold’s charitable spirit, a sizeable gazebo is now available for future generations to enjoy a family picnic or activity protected from the sun’s harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the U.S., and one in five Americans will develop some form of skin cancer in his/her lifetime. An estimated 9,000 Americans died of melanoma-type skin cancer in 2009; this is roughly one person per hour! Ultraviolet radiation has been shown to be the highest risk factor for skin cancer, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services just recently declared/designated UV radiation from the sun (as well as artificial sources) as a known carcinogen (cancer-causing substance).

To this end, Penn State Hershey Dermatology advocates Smart Fun in the Sun by:

- generous use of broad-spectrum sunscreens;
- wearing protective clothing where possible;
- getting Vitamin D safely through a healthy diet that may include vitamin supplements;
- protecting children from sun exposure by playing in the shade; and
- by seeking shade, especially from the mid-day sun.

At the dedication ceremony, we formally recognized Mrs. Arnold’s generosity and brought attention to the importance of sun safety and skin cancer prevention while enjoying all that Dauphin County, our community, and Mother Nature bring.



A dedication ceremony was held May 5, 2010. The project will also include mature landscaping, benches, and an educational “sun smart” display.

2009 DERMATOLOGY ACHIEVEMENTS continued from page 3

Community Service – The satisfaction of giving

- 321 individuals examined at our annual free skin cancer screening clinics.
- Monthly Bethesda Mission Clinic for the homeless in Harrisburg.
- Volunteered for children with severe skin diseases at Camp Horizon.
- Sun shade area constructed with a donation from Jeanne Arnold and Derry Township partnership.
- Dr. Elizabeth Billingsley - Whitaker Center Board of Directors.
- Dr. Jeffrey Miller - Medical Advisor for Children’s Alopecia Project.
- Dr. Bryan Anderson - American Academy of Dermatology Leadership Program.
- Dr. Michael Ioffreda - Leader of Sun Protection Project.

Where are they now?

A look at four graduates of the Penn State Hershey Dermatology program

BY: KYLE HORNER, M.D.

As dermatology residents, we spend three years training here at Penn State Hershey Medical Center. But after that time, most people move on to other things (although we have had several former residents stay on as faculty- Drs. Anderson, Adams, Clarke, and Thiboutot). I thought it would be fun to see where several of our grads have settled and find out what they have been up to after residency.



Dr. Emmy Graber was a resident here from 2004-07. She then completed a LASER and Cosmetic Surgery Fellowship at the SkinCare Physicians of Chestnut Hill (near Boston, Mass.) and stayed on as staff there. She has already received many honors and has been involved in multiple

research trials, written at least twenty publications, and she is a consultant for WebMD, Ortho-Neutrogena, and Hershey Foods, among others. She graciously returns each year to give the residents here a lecture on LASERS, which is greatly appreciated. I asked her if she had any funny stories from her residency days. She said, one of her senior dermatology residents once paged her, pretending to be a consult request from an internal medicine doctor, stating they had a patient named Mr. Tigo, Mr. Len Tigo. All the other residents started cracking up before she finally realized it was a joke. Now for you non-dermatologists out there, a lentigo (pronounced lĕn-tĭ-gō) is a harmless brown spot on the skin, also known as a sun spot or liver spot. This joke is akin to Bart Simpson pranking Moe's Tavern, asking if there is a person there named I.P. Freely, and Moe shouting at the bar patrons, "Uh, is I.P. Freely here? Hey, everybody, I.P. Freely!" Trust me, to dermatology residents, that was funny (childish yes, but definitely funny).



Dr. Greg Fulchiero was also a resident here from 2004-07. He traveled next to The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, to do his Dermatologic Surgery Fellowship. Upon completion of that, he returned to Pennsylvania and has set up his own practice called, the

Keystone Dermatology & Center for Skin Surgery, in Altoona, where he and his delightful family live. He has authored numerous publications and invites our residents to come to his practice to watch him do Mohs Micrographic surgery, cosmetic surgery, and general dermatology. I visited for a day a few months ago and had a wonderful visit that was very educational. He enjoys competitive cycling in his free time. When I asked him if he had any funny stories from his residency, he had several. However, his favorite was the time he was carrying a new unused syringe of numbing medicine around in his coat pocket. When he sat down once to examine a patient, the needle was jabbed into his thigh. He had to leave the room to scream, and when the head doctor found out what happened, he was crying because he was laughing so hard. He no longer carries syringes around in his pockets.



Dr. Harper Price was a resident here from 2005-08. She pursued her passion for children by doing a fellowship in pediatric dermatology at the New York University School of Medicine in New York, NY. She then took a faculty position at the Phoenix Children's Hospital Medical Group in

Phoenix, Arizona, where she now lives with her husband. She has authored a number of publications and has volunteered extensively throughout her medical career. I remember her

fondly as one of my chief residents when I was a first-year dermatology resident. While she was in fellowship, another resident and I visited her in New York City while attending a meeting there. The meeting was in December, and on a lark, we bought her a fresh cut Christmas tree and carried it to her very small apartment (we got the tree seller to throw in a plastic five gallon bucket for free, so we could use that as a tree stand). When we reached her apartment building, the doorman thought we were two delivery men instead of doctors. She was happy to see us (and our rather large gift that seemed to take up a quarter of her small flat). I still don't know how she got rid of the tree after Christmas was over. She is currently trying to interest our kid-minded residents to consider Phoenix for a pediatric fellowship, as she loves it there.



Dr. Michael Gette was a resident here from 1988-91. He is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society and is the current Secretary of the Pennsylvania Academy of Dermatology. He has a thriving private practice in Harrisburg. When he was a first-year resident, there were only three



dermatology residents (now we have nine residents) and their office was an eight-foot by eight-foot closet-like room in the back of a basic science research lab. It had built-in counter tops on three sides and just enough space to put three chairs in the middle. He

relates that when all three of them were there at the same time, they all had to take a deep breath just to close the door! How times have changed.

As you can probably gather, the residents here in dermatology are a special bunch of people who love to give back. These four are not unique, as all of our past graduates are respected dermatologists in private practice and academic centers across the country. It is always fun to talk with some of them at local and national meetings and many of us stay in touch long after leaving Hershey.

STEWARDSHIP OF ENDOWMENTS AND GIFTS

BY: JAMES MARKS, M.D.

The calendar year 2009 was one of many accomplishments in the department, and a number of these could not have been done without the funding provided by the gifts and by the interest from our endowments. I wanted to bring you up-to-date concerning the stewardship of these funds.

1. The Dermatology Research Endowment Fund helped fund two investigators: Dr. Holly Gunn's research fellowship explored ways to modify sun exposure behavior and thus prevent the skin cancer epidemic that is now occurring in the United States. Funds were also available to further the research of acne treatment with vitamin A derivatives by Zhaoyuan Cong.
2. The Professorship in Dermatology supported the work of Dr. Diane Thiboutot that explores the mechanism of action of new treatments for acne. Acne is the most common skin disease in teenagers and young adults. It can produce negative psychological effects and result in lifelong scarring. Dr. Thiboutot is an internationally recognized investigator and lecturer on acne.
3. The Donald P. Lookingbill Lectureship was given by Harvard professor, Joseph Kvedar. His presentations updated the dermatology community on the latest advances in information technology that lead toward better patient care.
4. The Sun Protection Project received a gift from Mrs. Jeanne Arnold which was used for the construction of a sun protection pergola along the bike path in Derry Township. This community partnership is aimed at providing shade and educating the public about sun exposure and skin cancer.

Penn State Hershey Dermatology Baseball

BY: NINAD PENDHARKAR, M.D.

What do Penn State Hershey Dermatology and baseball have in common? Fun, teamwork, excellence, and Drs. Michael Ioffreda and Jeffrey Miller! This past spring, Penn State Hershey Dermatology's own boys of summer, teamed up to coach a team of 11- and 12-year-old boys, including their sons, in Hershey Little League.

Despite their collective years of education, Mike and Jeff went back to the books in preparation for the season. Jeff commented that "Mike is a student of the game," while Mike acknowledged about his assistant, "Jeff quickly learned the intricacies of the infield fly rule and the difference between a two-seam and a four-seam fastball." Mike discovered the subtleties of bunting, and Jeff mastered his hand signals.

Despite never having played or coached baseball prior to this season, they were not strangers to organized team sports. They called upon their teenage experiences with different spheroids: a tennis ball (Jeff) and shot-put (Mike). Since the team was sponsored by Penn State Hershey Dermatology, it was apropos that the acronym for the team's core values was "**FRECKLES!**"



The team finished the regular season with the third best record of eight teams. Many of the players commented that the experience as a member of Penn State Hershey Dermatology was very positive, and parents agreed. Even some umpires noted that officiating the team's games was a pleasure due to the high level of sportsmanship, respect, and camaraderie the players demonstrated.

In addition to instilling good core values in the players, Mike and Jeff educated players and their families about the importance of sun protection. The boys were given sun screen and instructed on its appropriate use. In addition, Ginny Lutkewitte, a member of the dermatology department's Community Advisory Board, designed sun protection umbrellas for spectators that said, "Penn State Dermatology... We got you covered!"

We applaud Drs. Ioffreda and Miller for being team players! All the best for next season!

FRECKLES!

Fun!

Respect... everyone

(teammates, other teams, umpires, fans)

Effort...play to your potential

Champions... play like!

(shout out to Jeffrey Miller's Notre Dame roots!)

Klick... play as a team

Learn... skills

Example... be a good one

Safety... first



The Continued Fight against Skin Cancer

BY: HOLLY GUNN, M.D.

One out of every five Americans will develop some form of skin cancer in their lifetime and the U.S. will spend over \$1.5 billion for treatment. Penn State Hershey Dermatology is fighting this battle on three fronts: prevention, early detection, and treatment.

Our endeavors to discover better and new treatments lead to our collaboration with Dr. Adam Glick, who was recruited from the National Cancer Institute's Laboratory of Cellular Carcinogenesis and Tumor Promotion in 2005, to the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences and the Center for Molecular Toxicology and Carcinogenesis at Penn State University Park. His laboratory is in the new state-of-the-art Huck Institutes of Life Sciences research building, which was completed in 2004, and houses scientists from a number of different disciplines. He came to Penn State Hershey, both for the high quality and interactive nature of science at Penn State, and the more relaxed lifestyle in central Pennsylvania. Dr. Glick is a highly published scientist in journals, such as Nature Genetics, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Oncogene and Cancer Research. He is also associate editor of the Journal of Investigative Dermatology and Molecular Carcinogenesis.



Dr. Glick's main focus is cellular molecular mechanisms and signaling pathways that regulate progression of benign, non-life-threatening squamous cell tumors to the malignant type, or squamous cell carcinoma. We believe that identifying and understanding the signaling molecules which control tumor progression is critical to develop new treatment options for patients with skin cancer. Dr. Glick's lab is currently investigating a molecule called transforming growth factor (TGF1). TGF1 is a protein secreted by both normal and tumor cells and is critical for regulation of cell growth and tissue inflammation. Using mice with skin cancer to test their theories, Dr. Glick's lab has found that TGF1 enhances tumor destruction by the tumor fighting immune cells in our body. Understanding how this occurs may lead to treatment strategies which may mimic or boost TGF1 action in human premalignant tumors and prevent their progression to malignancy. With the help of the dermatology department, tissue samples will be collected and Dr. Glick's lab will determine if similar processes are regulated by TGF1 in human skin cancers.

An additional area of focus for Dr. Glick's lab is a project designed to identify biomarkers and gene expression patterns of premalignant lesions that are of high-risk for turning into cancer. In fact, while Ultraviolet rays from the sun or tanning beds can lead to pre-cancerous areas on our skin, not all of these lesions turn into skin cancer. It is very important to know which ones will progress to skin cancer so that they can be treated more aggressively before they convert to cancer. We will use small skin biopsies from the dermatology department's patients with premalignant lesions to identify molecular changes which could predispose them to increased risk for developing cancer. It's a long-term project, but worth the effort because it also has implications for other types of cancers, and will help prevent cancer from occurring. These are just some of the ways that Dr. Glick and Penn State Hershey Dermatology are working together to find ways to better treat and prevent skin cancer in our community.



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