



# UAMS Department of Dermatology Newsletter

July 2020

**Our Mission: Patient Care, Education,  
Leadership, Research**

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As we begin another academic year, I want to express my gratitude for each of you and the role you play in serving the dermatology needs of the patients of Arkansas, educating the next generation of dermatologists, and expanding our understanding of skin disease through our research and contributions to the medical literature. This spring held unique challenges and opportunities as we grappled with ways to become adaptable, courageous, and creative with our delivery of patient care and resident education in the face of a global pandemic. Although this summer and the upcoming fall will likely see continued anxiety and uncertainty about how COVID-19 will affect our lives individually, collectively, and professionally, I remain optimistic about what the year holds for us as a department.



In the upcoming year, I hope that we will embrace the missions of UAMS and continue to define how we embody those missions in our department. Many of you have met with me already to discuss what our department values and how we can make those values visible to our community, to our institution, and to each other. I know we share the ideals of lifelong learning and continuous improvement, and I look forward to regularly sharing with you our accomplishments in the coming year. UAMS Dermatology has a rich history, starting with some of our early department leaders like Dr. Dillaha and Dr. Jansen, and we are part of the continuation of that story. My plan as your department leader is to continue writing new chapters that build on our exceptional history. We are cultivators of excellence—through patient care, through educating medical students and residents, through our leadership at UAMS, and through our contributions in research. *(continued on next page)*...

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The addition of our new faculty members will expand access to care, allowing patients to be seen in a more timely manner at both UAMS and ACH. Dr. Jennings, as our residency program director, has already begun implementing improvements to resident education and evaluations. I anticipate that our residency program will continue to strengthen under his leadership. The challenges of “going virtual” for residency interviews this year will give us an opportunity to improve the visibility of our program online and on social media platforms, and I know that Dr. Jennings, Ms. Kim Aeilts (program coordinator), and their team will bring innovative solutions to our residency recruitment season. Under the leadership of Dr. Wong and Dr. Shi, we believe that a vibrant clinical trials presence in dermatology is just around the corner. Current trials in cutaneous lymphoma and atopic dermatitis, as well as upcoming trials in hidradentitis suppurativa and other skin diseases, will give new treatment options to our patients while also expanding our knowledge about safety and efficacy of various therapies. We have so much to look forward to in the coming year!

This edition of our newsletter highlights some of the new faculty faces you will see in the coming months, some of the scholarly successes of our residents and faculty members, departmental outreach efforts, and a first person encounter from one of our residents working on the (literal) front lines of the COVID-19 triage center. Many thanks to Amanda Blagg for compiling our newsletter. Thank you all for your continued service to this department and our patients.

— Sara Shalin, M.D., Ph.D.  
Chair of UAMS Dermatology

# LEADERSHIP

Sara Shalin, M.D., Ph.D., became Interim Chair of the Department of Dermatology in March of 2020. She also serves as Program Director of the Dermatopathology fellowship and Program Director of the M.D./Ph.D. program at UAMS.



Profile & Publications: <https://uams-triprofiles.uams.edu/profiles/display/126269>



Thomas Jennings, M.D., Ph.D., began serving as the Program Director of the Department of Dermatology in 2019. He is also Director of Dermatologic Surgery at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at UAMS.

Profile & Publications: <https://uams-triprofiles.uams.edu/profiles/display/1588672>

# NEW FACULTY RECRUITED



Dr. Vivian Shi, M.D., FAAD, joined the UAMS Department of Dermatology as an Associate Professor in July of 2020. Dr. Shi received her undergraduate degree in physiological sciences from UCLA, and subsequently spent a year performing research on gene regulation in pathogenic bacteria in the department of microbiology at UCLA. She earned her M.D. degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago, during which she completed a fellowship in the Skin Immunology Laboratory. She was an integral part of the team characterizing the pathophysiology of atopic dermatitis.

Dr. Shi completed her internship in Internal Medicine at the University of Chicago—North Shore Health System, followed by dermatology residency at the University of California, Davis.

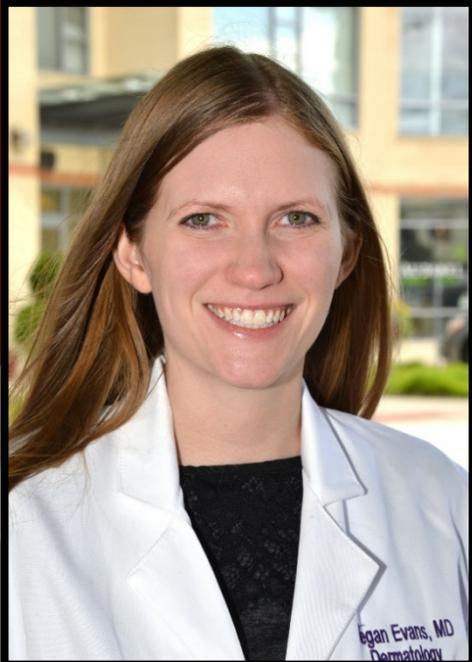
Prior to her tenure at UAMS, Dr. Shi was the Director of Dermatology Clinical Trials, Director of the Inflammatory Skin Research Fellowship Program, and Director of both the Eczema Specialty Clinic and the Hidradenitis Suppurativa Specialty Clinic at the University of Arizona Banner Medical Center in Tucson, Arizona. Dr. Shi's research and clinical interests include complex inflammatory skin conditions (such as atopic dermatitis, hidradenitis suppurativa, and psoriasis), skin barrier repair, transepidermal drug delivery, and integrative dermatology.

Dr. Shi has served as the principal investigator for numerous industry-sponsored and investigator-initiated clinical and translational studies. She has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles and is the editor for two reference dermatology textbooks on atopic dermatitis and hidradenitis suppurativa. Dr. Shi is a recipient of the Patient-Centered Investigation Award from the Dermatology Foundation and is a member of the International Eczema Council.

# NEW FACULTY RECRUITED



Dr. Rodrigo Valdes-Rodriguez earned his M.D. at the Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila in Mexico, after which he completed a dermatology residency at the Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí. He went on to complete a second dermatology residency at Temple University's Lewis Katz School of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA, followed by a fellowship in dermatopathology at the University of Virginia. Dr. Valdes will join our faculty in September of 2020.



Dr. Megan Evans completed her M.D. and residency in dermatology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She went on to complete a fellowship in pediatric dermatology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She will join the dermatology faculty at Arkansas Children's Hospital this August.

# NEW FACULTY RECRUITED



Dr. Katelynn Campbell completed her fellowship in dermatopathology at UAMS in 2020. She will continue as an Assistant Professor through next year. Prior to joining our faculty at UAMS, Dr. Campbell received her medical training at the Medical University of the Americas at Saint Kitts and Nevis, in the West Indies.



Dr. Kayla Mohr, an alumna of the UAMS College of Medicine and recent graduate from our residency program, will continue her service in our department as an Assistant Professor. In addition to holding weekly clinics at the VA, Dr. Mohr is a physician provider at Pinnacle Dermatology here in Little Rock.

# VOLUNTEER FACULTY

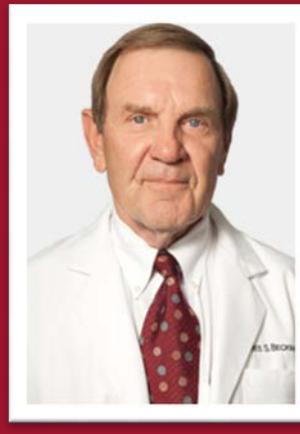
Dr. Dow Stough  
Hot Springs, AR



Dr. Kevin St. Clair  
Fayetteville, AR



Dr. Jim Beckman  
Springdale, AR



Dr. Gunnar Gibson  
Little Rock, AR





# AAD SKIN CANCER SCREENING

UAMS Dermatology screened a total of 47 patients at the AAD SPOTme Free Skin Cancer Screening on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019!



# DERMATOLOGY ABROAD: INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS IN GREECE AND BARCELONA

**Dr. Henry Wong flew to Athens, Greece in September of 2019 to present an abstract at the EORTC Cutaneous Lymphoma Meeting. In February of 2020, Dr. Wong arrived in Barcelona for the 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Cutaneous Lymphomas, where he chaired several sessions.**





# THE FIRST UAMS DERMATOLOGY FALL CLINICAL SYMPOSIUM

OCTOBER 26, 2019

Nearly 30 physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals gathered at the Northwest Regional Campus in Fayetteville for the first UAMS Dermatology Fall Clinical Symposium. Speakers included Dr. Alan Menter, Dr. Henry Wong, Dr. Dow Stough, Dr. Sandy Johnson, Dr. Jim Beckman, Dr. Tara Akunna, and UAMS M4 student Dmitry Nedosekin, Ph.D.



# TRI PILOT AWARD & VA MERIT GRANT



Congratulations to Dr. Wong and his research team, Syed Mehdi, Ph.D., and Andrea Moerman-Herzog, Ph.D., for receiving funding through the Translational Research Involving Special Populations pilot grant in 2019. The team also received a VA Merit Grant in 2020.

# ON THE FRONT LINES: UAMS DERMATOLOGY IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



*My COVID-19 Rotation*  
Edita Newton, M.D., Ph.D.  
PGY-3 Resident

It is hard to believe we are more than three months into possibly the biggest public health challenge of our medical careers. From initial fears and doubts, to total shutdown, and then returning back to normalcy, albeit under new guidelines, we have been witness to many changes at UAMS in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the major efforts of the UAMS response has been establishing testing for the residents of Arkansas, both in a permanent drive-through clinic on campus and mobile triage sites throughout the state. I had the opportunity to be a part of these efforts in March and April, and it has profoundly impacted my medical training in ways I've never expected.

It was a great experience to witness leadership at UAMS truly start a clinical operation from the ground up. When I started volunteering at the Drive-Through Screening, it was a very basic operation with limited supplies and limited ability for testing. In fact the viral culture swabs from our very own Dermatology Clinic held us over when we ran out of supplies in the early days. Over the next 6 weeks, our testing and interface with the patients seemed to evolve daily. With the help of redeployed staff, the amazing leadership of Dr. Jennifer Hunt, and members of the National Guard, a truly...*(continued on next page)*

# ON THE FRONT LINES: UAMS DERMATOLOGY IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



## *My COVID-19 Rotation (continued)*

...remarkable operation was created with the help of attendings, fellows and residents volunteering their time from all departments at UAMS. The Infectious Disease team was a constant support guiding our medical decisions and algorithms.

There were many memorable encounters—emergency situations, tricky confrontations, emotional patients, both scared for their health and grateful for the service provided by UAMS to the community. I traveled to lovely small towns that were welcoming and generous hosts for us to provide testing for their residents. During the course of those six weeks, I screened nearly a thousand patients, including countless first responders, corrections officers, and health care workers. I witnessed some of our first positive cases in Arkansas recover and come back to UAMS to donate their plasma to help others. UAMS went from testing results taking over five days to return, to a less than 24-hour turnaround time with remarkably sensitive in-house testing. While the pandemic is nowhere close to being behind us, I am confident UAMS is well equipped to serve our patients with the help of everyone working together.

Edita Newton, M.D., Ph.D.  
PGY-3  
UAMS Dermatology



# BRIGHT FUTURES



Kayla Mohr, M.D.



Tara Oetken, M.D.



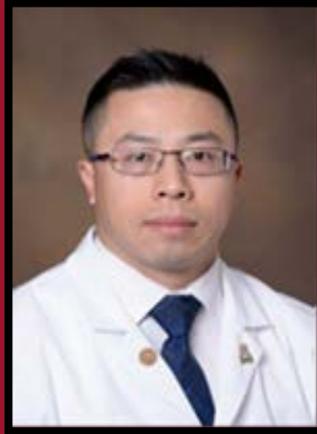
Logan Rush, M.D.

Graduating residents Kayla Mohr, Tara Oetken, and Logan Rush are beginning the next chapters of their careers in dermatology. In addition to serving as an Assistant Professor in our department, Dr. Mohr accepted a position at Pinnacle Dermatology here in Little Rock. Dr. Oetken will continue her career in dermatology in Seattle, Washington. Dr. Rush will begin a Mohs fellowship at Saint Louis University before joining the staff of Rush Health Systems in Mississippi. Congratulations to all of our graduating residents!

# WELCOME TO OUR NEW INTERNS!



Patrick Phelan  
Washington University  
in St. Louis School of  
Medicine



Khiem Tran  
University of Arizona  
College of Medicine



Mavina Guram  
Medical University of  
South Carolina College  
of Medicine

**AS WE SAY GOODBYE TO OLD FRIENDS, WE  
ARE EXCITED TO WELCOME NEW ONES!**

**WE ARE PROUD TO INTRODUCE YOU TO OUR  
2020 INTERNS: DR. PATRICK PHELAN,  
DR. KHIEM TRAN, AND DR. MAVINA GURAM.**