

# MCW Dermatology Newsletter: Fall 2023

October 2023

## A Message from the Chairman



When I first walked into the offices of Medical College of Wisconsin Department of Dermatology as Chair, I was anticipating an adventure in academic medicine that would allow me to contribute, even in a small way, to the growth and development of the department and the careers of the faculty and trainees. Now, seven years later, I can look back and say that my colleagues in the department, be they faculty, trainees, or staff, who have persevered through some unprecedented societal challenges and yet have contributed so much to all the missions of MCW, have made a much greater impact on me than I could ever have on them. I want to take a moment and admire what those who work every day to make healthcare better have accomplished in our department.

One of my first observations when joining the department was the culture of camaraderie and caring that permeated throughout the group. Not only did the department want to do great things, the group wanted to do them together. I think the best example might be the growth of the community engagement mission for the department. Shola Vaughn, MD has led the expansion of our efforts to promote skin health in the underserved in Milwaukee. Between our skin screening efforts in underserved communities starting with our project in collaboration with Gee's Clippers to the expansion of our supervision of the student led free care clinic, the department now has an extensive program to help those in greatest need. The only way these projects can succeed is for so many of our faculty and trainees to make continued effort and take joy in their success. While a ton of credit needs to go to Dr. Vaughn for her extraordinary accomplishments, the growth has been a team effort with many contributing.

From the clinical perspective, the growth of our department has led to specialization and, I believe, a higher level of care in our specialty areas than is available elsewhere in the state. An accounting of our specialty clinics tells the story well with faculty in the department having identified specialties with associated clinics in more than 12 areas and continues to expand with the new onco-dermatology specialty area led by Cassandra Holzem, MD. Few academic or non-academic practices in the Midwest let alone the country can provide that level of specific expertise to patients. MCW residents get intensive learning time with all these experts. Thus, not only do our specialty clinics give outstanding care to our patients, but they also help improve dermatology care for the future.

Research in the department has also thrived and evolved in my time here. There is a greater breadth of research in the department than ever before. Karolyn Wanat, MD has identified a new granulomatous disease related to persistent rubella virus that continues to be funded by the CDC. New clinical trials in pediatric inflammatory disease are being run by Kristi Holland, MD. Melanie Clark, MD and Shola Vaughn, MD are working to better understand the predictors of outcomes in our experience with high-risk squamous cell carcinoma while Julia Kasprzak, MD is collaborating with our colleagues in other

departments to learn about the role of anti-tumor immunity in these patients. Yvonne Chiu, MD is looking into developing outcome measures in pediatric morphea. In conjunction with the PEDRA organization, Leah Lalor, MD is leading an effort to develop a new curriculum for teaching a basic competency in pediatric dermatology to pediatrics residents. We have just been joined by Dr. Shanthi Narla who will take the lead in our clinical trials program for adult dermatology. Research in MCW dermatology is going strong and continues to grow.

In education, our programs have continued to excel. Our residency program, led by program director Karolyn Wanat, MD and associate program director Stephen Humphrey, MD continues to be one of the most respected in the country. While Doximity rankings are, shall we say, imperfect, they are the only real measure of where we stand and we have been ranked in the top 25 in the country for the last 3 years. Our matches in the last few years have been incredibly competitive and our residents continue to be outstanding. Gretchen Roth, MD has taken our undergraduate medical education program to another level. She has developed numerous programs to not only fit into but lead the new curriculum format at MCW that should lead to even better training for physicians now and in the future. All these efforts have made learning dermatology at MCW at the resident or the student level an outstanding experience.

On a final note, when one reads a retrospective like this, it generally means change is coming. For personal reasons, I've decided to step down as the Chair of the Department. I will plan on staying on as chair until my replacement is found through the ongoing national chair search and I am hoping to stay in the department as long as I'm welcome. The journey of the past seven years has been all the adventure I anticipated when I started. I so much want to thank everyone who has helped me thrive and grow as chair but there isn't enough room on the page. A special thanks to the two incredible vice-chairs in the department, Karolyn Wanat, MD over adult dermatology and Yvonne Chiu, MD over pediatric dermatology. The primary goal of any chair is to have leaders in the department so the chair is pretty extraneous. I am lucky enough for that to be the case. To all of you who have been so supportive of MCW dermatology during my time here, I want to send my unending thanks and health and good fortune in the future.



## Residency Corner

### A Letter from the Program Director

Another year has come, and just like that, another year has gone – no one warned me about the ups/downs of being program director – the bittersweet feeling to see residents graduate, followed by the excitement to welcome the next class (all within 24 hours!). I remain inspired by our residents and their resilience. Every residency year has a different feel, mantra, and vibe – and our most recent graduates were compassionate, humble, and laid back – as well as fun. I remain so incredibly proud of what they have accomplished, and we enjoyed many fun times prior to their graduation.



Just as excited we were to celebrate their successes, we are equally ecstatic to welcome a wonderful new class of five residents. Many are familiar faces with 1 of our own medical students and 3 away rotators joining us this year! Seeing the first years immediately blend in with the rest of our residents while seeing the senior residents assume a leadership role is just phenomenal.

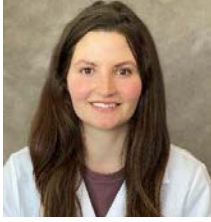
This year, our fantastic crew has come up with some creative ideas to keep us going: exciting Grand Rounds, fantastic retreat and Academic Half Day speakers, retreat with Whirly ball and boat rides, our own Dermato-olympics with activity in the month of September (including welcomed alums!), an ethnic potluck celebrating everyone's background, holiday parties, reunions, and more – stay connected in touch to learn about these highlights!

Stay healthy, happy, and please stay connected. We love hearing from all of you!

With many warm wishes

*Karolyn Wanat*

## Congratulations and Best Wishes to Our Graduates!



### Zoe Brown-Joel, MD

Dr. Brown-Joel was one of our phenomenal chief residents. She is pursuing her love of dermatopathology, using her strong background, as she starts fellowship at University of Massachusetts. We are so excited to see her future unfold.



### Dharmik Patel, MD

Dr. Patel has incorporated his passion for cosmetic dermatology with medical dermatology and joined Associates in Dermatology in Cleveland, OH. We know he will accomplish great things!



### Sabrina Popatia, MD

Dr. Popatia served as our other amazing chief resident. We also are so proud of Sabrina as she joins Innovative Dermatology in Chicago, IL for this upcoming year.



### Vivek Singam, MD

Dr. Singam will be combining both medical and procedural dermatology in his practice. He recently joined Dermio Dermatology, a private practice office in northwest Indiana, and will be starting at their Munster, IN location this fall.



### Leonardo Tjahjono, MD

Dr. Tjahjono is taking a year to see patients as a medical dermatologist at Pinnacle Dermatology in the DC area prior to pursuing his love of dermatopathology in doing his fellowship at University of Florida in a year.



### Hsi Kevin Yen, MD MPH

We are so lucky to have trained an amazing fellow this past year. Dr. Yen shined as a fellow with his impeccable professionalism, inquisitive mind, and dedication to patients. He contributed to several manuscripts and chapters in his short time here. We are sad to see Dr. Yen leave, but we wish him the best as he joins the faculty at the University of Southern California and Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

## Meet Our New Residents!



### **Philip Berce, MD**

**Hometown:** Racine, WI

**Medical School:** Medical College of Wisconsin

**Internship:** Aurora Health Care/St. Luke's Medical Center

**Why I Chose MCW:** As a proud MCW alumnus, I observed the dermatology faculty practice with empathy, innovation, and evidence-based medicine. I chose Milwaukee's program as I hope to emulate these qualities as a future dermatologist. Offering experiences in pediatrics, pathology and surgery makes their well-rounded programming an excellent place to learn and grow. I am excited to continue serving in this diverse community that I call home!

### **Shanelle Briggs, MD**

**Hometown:** Olympia, WA

**Medical School:** University of Washington School of Medicine

**Internship:** Aurora Health Care/St. Luke's Medical Center

**Why I Chose MCW:** I came to MCW for an away rotation in medical school and felt the program perfectly balanced fun and academic rigor. Coming here alone from a long distance, the warmth I felt from residents and attendings was a great sign that I would be comfortable and happy here. The program also fits my interests in global health, telemedicine, and dermatology in skin of color. MCW strives to meet the needs of underserved patients in communities here and abroad, which aligns with my goals in residency. Milwaukee is also such a lively city with many fun events and tons of outdoor beauty. I've loved living here for my intern year and am so glad I get to stay and keep enjoying Milwaukee!



### **Fiore Casale, MD**

**Hometown:** Los Lunas, NM

**Medical School:** University of New Mexico School of Medicine

**Internship:** Ascension St. Vincent Hospital Indianapolis

**Why I Chose MCW:** I chose MCW dermatology because I enjoyed the collegial and exciting learning environment when I rotated as a fourth year medical student. The faculty, residents, and staff are all very supportive and friendly, and I could tell the residents were very happy to be at MCW. Plus, I knew I would be getting a well-rounded experience in all aspects of dermatology with diverse patient populations, at a program where I felt encouraged to search for my own personal niche in dermatology.

### **Cristina Foschi, MD**

**Hometown:** Wilmette, IL

**Medical School:** Rush Medical College of Rush University Medical School

**Internship:** Medical College of Wisconsin

**Why I Chose MCW:** While my initial draw to MCW Dermatology was the diverse clinical training alongside having the opportunity to learn from impeccable leaders in the field, I primarily chose this program for the immediate feeling of home I felt during my away rotation. I feel honored to be at a program that provides excellent training while simultaneously learning from fantastic faculty, co-residents, and staff all while being in the beautiful city of Milwaukee. I cannot wait to become a well-



rounded dermatologist with the support of my MCW Dermatology family!



**Jenna Ruggiero, MD**

**Hometown:** Eden Prairie, MN

**Medical School:** University of Minnesota Medical School

**Internship:** Aurora Health Care/St. Luke's Medical Center

**Why I Chose MCW:** I chose MCW because it seemed like an extremely supportive program. I was drawn to the positive culture and after meeting the residents/faculty on interview day felt I would fit in well.



## Notable Alumni

Our alumni do amazing things! This year, we are highlighting some of our alumni who have joined practice together! Check out what these dynamic duos are doing below!



Dr. Maria Carroll and Dr. Brittany Lister are both graduates from Medical College of Wisconsin and work together at Northwestern Michigan Dermatology, PC in Traverse City, MI where they are regional leaders in the treatment of skin, hair, and nail disorders. Both are Traverse City natives, and Dr. Carroll finished residency at MCW in 2001. Dr. Lister completed residency in 2018, at which time she joined this practice and has the privilege of working with her mom, Dr. Susan Noble! Both

Dr. Carroll and Dr. Lister enjoy spending time outdoors with their beautiful families and taking care of the patients in the area!

Dr. David Allen and Dr. Adam Taintor both work together at Allen-Taintor Dermatology in Ogden, UT and are both past residents at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Allen was raised in Ogden, Utah and has been practicing in Ogden since finishing residency in 2003 where he has been practicing complex medical and surgical dermatology. He has



served as the President of the Ogden Medical Surgical Society and currently serves as a Director on the Board of Directors of the American Board of Dermatology. For the last seven years he has also served on the Editorial Board of the JAAD. Dr. Taintor is also from Utah and finished his residency in 2011. He relocated his practice from Sandy, Utah to their current practice in 2016. He also practices general medical and surgical dermatology, specializing in contact dermatitis. He is active in organized medicine, having served as president of the Salt Lake County Medical Society, on the Weber County Medical Society Board and currently serves on the Utah Medical Association Board of Directors. They have both served as President of the Utah Dermatology Society. Dr. Allen is married to Janine and has 5 children. Dr. Taintor is married to Danielle and has 6 children. Both enjoy spending time with their families, enjoying the outdoors, and being active in their communities.

## Working Hard and Playing Hard



Calzone-Making for the Peds Derm Retreat



Annual Department Holiday Party



Dr. Yemi Sokumbi was our May Academic Half Day speaker





MCW Faculty and Residents, Past and Present, at the Dermatology Foundation Clinical Symposium



Faculty, APPs, and Staff Enjoying WhirlyBall during the Annual Department Retreat





*Follow MCW Dermatology on Instagram!*

*@mcw\_dermatology*

## Dermatology Research

The Department of Dermatology has steadily grown its research portfolio over the last year with the addition of several new clinical trials in the areas of inflammatory skin conditions, granulomatous skin disease, and skin cancers. Our Dermatology research team also welcomed two new research fellows in June and July: Mariah Estill (pre-doctoral fellow, Georgetown University) and Nicole Boswell (post-doctoral fellow, Marshall University). We look forward to the continued ability to develop translational research projects and clinical studies to provide our patients with new and exciting opportunities for management and treatment of a wide range of skin conditions.

### High-risk squamous cell carcinoma staging and management.

Dr. Melanie Clark and Dr. Shola Vaughn are leading a study at Froedtert and the Milwaukee VA Medical Center with the goal to identify all high-risk cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma skin cancers (T2-T4, AJCC 8th ed) treated at MCW and Zablocki VA Medical Center from 1/1/2007 to present and report the rates of local recurrence, nodal metastasis, distant metastasis, and disease specific death. They hope to identify possible predictors associated with poor outcomes in this cohort (immunosuppression, tumor factors, time of treatment, etc). Additionally, they will evaluate the outcomes of hrSCC treated with only Mohs micrographic surgery compared to those treated with other modalities, including combination treatments (surgery and radiation, surgery and chemotherapy, radiation, and chemotherapy, etc.). They seek to clarify the evidence behind the common practices of diagnostic imaging, SLNB, and adjuvant therapy in the diagnosis and management of hr-cSCCs. Given the current limitations in the literature to support these practices, the intention is to develop evidence-based guidelines within a diagnostic and treatment algorithm for hr-cSCCs. This algorithm will serve as a guide for these practices that can be used across disciplines.

### Atopic Dermatitis: An Assessment of Lesional Morphology by Race/Ethnicity

Dr. Yvonne Chiu with the help of our research fellows has been collaborating with other clinical researchers through the Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance (PeDRA) to better characterize atopic dermatitis in patients with various racial/ethnic backgrounds. Few researchers have studied the varied morphology of atopic dermatitis in people of different racial/ethnic backgrounds. The main objectives are to delineate and compare the frequency of pediatric AD morphologic subtypes across racial/ethnic groups and to provide a mechanism to store detailed morphological data on pediatric patients with AD to support the conduct of future research investigating unique clinical and biological phenotypes of AD. This study of morphologic variation across racial/ethnic groups may lay the groundwork for more inclusive clinical trial design and will ultimately improve therapeutic approaches.

## Ongoing Studies Involving Departmental Faculty Include the Following:

### Pediatric Dermatology

- Multicenter Phenotype-Genotype Analysis of Vascular Anomalies and Related Syndromes (Kristen Holland, MD / Valerie Carlberg, MD)
- Prospective, observational, longitudinal study in pediatric patients with moderate to severe atopic dermatitis whose disease is not adequately controlled with topical prescription therapies or when those therapies are not medically advisable (Kristen Holland, MD)
- A Phase 3, Double-Blind, Randomized, Vehicle-Controlled, Efficacy and Safety Study of Ruxolitinib Cream Followed by a Long-Term Safety Extension Period in Children (Ages  $\geq 2$  Years to  $< 12$  Years) With Atopic Dermatitis (Kristen Holland, MD)
- A Phase 3 Multi-Center, Long-Term Extension Study Investigating the Efficacy and Safety of Abrocitinib, With or Without Topical Medications, Administered to Subjects Aged 12 Years and Older with Moderate-To-Severe Atopic Dermatitis (Kristen Holland, MD)
- OptIMMize-1: A Randomized, Active-Controlled, Efficacy Assessor-Blinded Study to Evaluate Pharmacokinetics, Safety, and Efficacy of Risankizumab in Patients from 6 to Less than 18 Years of Age with Moderate to Severe Plaque Psoriasis (Kristen Holland, MD)
- A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Phase 3 Study to Assess the Efficacy, Safety and Pharmacokinetics of Lebrikizumab Compared to Placebo in Participants 6 Months to  $< 18$  Years of Age with Moderate-to-Severe Atopic Dermatitis (Kristen Holland, MD)
- Retrospective Review of Patients with Down syndrome in Dermatology and Safety of Biologic Therapy (Kristen Holland, MD)
- Acne Recurrence Rates after Isotretinoin Therapy: A Retrospective Study (Stephen Humphrey, MD)
- Longitudinal Characterization of Pediatric Onset Morphea (Yvonne Chiu, MD)
- Morphea Activity Measure: Testing Responsiveness to Change (Yvonne Chiu, MD)
- Atopic Dermatitis: An Assessment of Lesional Morphology by Race/Ethnicity (Yvonne Chiu, MD)
- Clinical and Genetic Characterization of Recurrent Reactive Infections Mucocutaneous Eruption (Yvonne Chiu, MD)
- Characterization of the Presenting Cutaneous Manifestations of Juvenile Dermatomyositis (Yvonne Chiu, MD)
- Clinical and Genetic Analysis of Genetic Skin Disorders (Yvonne Chiu, MD)
- Excimer Laser: The Children's Wisconsin Experience (Yvonne Chiu, MD / Gabrielle Karthausser, PA-C)
- Evaluating Outcomes from Informal Consults from the Pediatric Emergency Department (Yvonne Chiu, MD)
- Patient Satisfaction in Dermatology (Yvonne Chiu, MD / Karolyn Wanat, MD)
- Isotretinoin Initiation for Acne Vulgaris based on Primary Language (Leah Lalor, MD)
- Isotretinoin Use for Acne in Obese and Overweight Adolescents: A Retrospective Study (Leah Lalor, MD)
- Agminated eruptive nevi in patients with a history of Langerhans cell histiocytosis (Leah Lalor, MD)

## Adult Dermatology

- Impact of Histopathological and Immunohistochemistry Findings on Sebaceous Gland Carcinoma Patient Outcomes (Shola Vaughn, MD)
- Misdiagnosis of Vulvar Lichen Sclerosus in Black Women (Shola Vaughn, MD)
- What is the utility of biopsy in the updated syphilis diagnostic algorithm? (Shola Vaughn, MD)
- Comparing Artificial Intelligence with Teledermatology in the Diagnosis of Pigmented Lesions in the Community (Kara Young, MD)
- Quality of Life in melanoma patients (Kara Young, MD)
- A Prospective Observational Study of Adult Patients Receiving Dupixent for Atopic Dermatitis (Keri Chaney, MD)
- Diagnostic And Treatment Options for Patients with High-Risk Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma (Hr-cSCC) of the Head and Neck: Evaluating the Role of Imaging, Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy, And Adjuvant Therapy in The Management and Outcomes of Patients with Hr-cSCC (Melanie Clark, MD / Shola Vaughn, MD)
- Topical treatment of SCC or SCCis and the impact of positive histologic margins at the time of diagnosis (Melanie Clark, MD)
- Utilization Rates of Dermatology-Screening Certification Services in Nail Technicians within the Wauwatosa Area (Melanie Clark, MD)
- Use of Teledermatology in resource-limited settings within Wisconsin (Karolyn Wanat, MD)
- Cutaneous Crohn Disease: Retrospective Review of Clinical Features, Disease Course, Treatment, and Outcomes (Karolyn Wanat, MD)
- Impact of Histopathological and Immunohistochemistry Findings on Sebaceous Gland Carcinoma Patient Outcomes (Karolyn Wanat, MD)
- The Clinical and Histopathology Characteristics of Urticarial Dermatitis (Karolyn Wanat, MD)
- Retrospective Review of Invasive Cutaneous Infections (Karolyn Wanat, MD)
- Post-operative pyoderma gangrenosum: A retrospective review (Karolyn Wanat, MD)
- Natural History Study of Rubella-Associated Granulomatous Lesions in Aged Individuals (Karolyn Wanat, MD)
- The Most Common Dermatology Diagnoses on The Eyelids, Breasts, Vulva, and Axillae (Karolyn Wanat, MD)
- Improving Dermatology Specialty Outreach Services in Remote Areas of Tanzania Using Teledermatology and Teledermatopathology (Karolyn Wanat, MD)
- Prospective Validation of a Gene Expression Assay to Predict the Risk of Recurrence Disease in cSCC (Julia Kasprzak, MD)
- A Retrospective Study of Clinical Outcomes of Patients with Non-melanoma Skin Cancer (Julia Kasprzak, MD)
- Evaluation of serum IL-19 levels in patients with hidradenitis suppurativa (Gretchen Roth, MD)
- Hidradenitis Suppurativa Prospective Observational Registry and Biospecimen Repository (Gretchen Roth, MD / Kristen Holland, MD)

## Meet the new faces!



**Mario Saab Chalhoub, MD**

Dr. Saab Chalhoub joined the department as an Assistant Professor of Pathology and Dermatology. He graduated from medical school at the American University of Beirut (2013), before doing his resident in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at Vanderbilt University (2020), then fellowships in Cytopathology (2021) and Dermatopathology (2022). Mario moved to Brookfield with his wife, Karen, and two little boys, William (3) and Elliott (1.5), who occupy most of his spare time.



**Daniel Knabel, MD**

Dr. Knabel returned to MCW where he graduated from medical school in 2015. His dermatology residency (2019) and dermatopathology fellowship (2020) were completed at Cleveland Clinic Foundation, and he then went on to complete a second fellowship in Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology at the University of Minnesota (2021). He was on faculty at the University of Minnesota before joining MCW in September 2023 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Knabel's interests include resident education and immunohistochemistry in Mohs surgery, including Mohs for melanoma. Danny, his wife, and five children are excited to be back in the Milwaukee area!



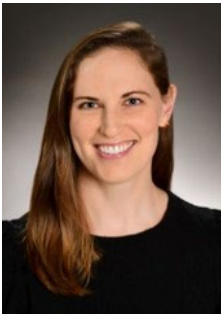
**Kassandra Holzem, MD**

Dr. Holzem was already a familiar face in the department, having served as a volunteer faculty member staffing VA continuity clinic for several years. However, she joined the department as an Assistant Professor in September 2023. Dr. Holzem obtained her MD (2014) and completed her dermatology residency (2018) at Northwestern University. She was in private practice in the Milwaukee area for several years before joining MCW.



**Amanda Ziegeweid, PA-C**

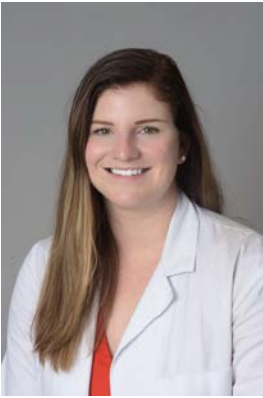
Amanda graduated with a Master of Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Iowa in 2006. After completing a post-graduate PA fellowship in Dermatology, she worked at the North Texas VA Medical Center and University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. We were lucky to attract Amanda to MCW and Froedtert Dermatology. Amanda enjoys allergic contact dermatitis and transplant dermatology. In her free time, she likes hiking, bowling, and hanging out with her two school-aged children, Aaron (10) and Audrey (8).



### Eliza Kasian, PA-C

Eliza Kasian, PA-C graduated from The Tufts University School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program in 2015. She then worked in pediatric dermatology at Rady Children's Hospital for several years before moving to Milwaukee to be closer to family. We were fortunate to recruit Eliza in May 2023, and she joins the pediatric dermatology practice at Children's Wisconsin. Eliza and her husband, Johnny, have two young children and a dog. When not spending time with family, Eliza can usually be found reading a book or on her yoga mat.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Nicole Boswell, MD is joining us as the postdoctoral research fellow and just recently finished her preliminary year in internal medicine after graduating from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville. She is aspiring to be a dermatologist with inflammatory skin disease being her focus. She is also passionate about community service and has been involved in projects that brings awareness to the stigma surrounding skin disease. If you can't find her enrolling patients for clinical trials or being involved in other research projects, you can find her on the volleyball court or at a local coffee shop or brewery with her dog. She enjoys being active with her husband and dog and enjoying all that Milwaukee has to offer.

Mariah Estill is a medical student who just finished her third year at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. She is visiting MCW for the year as a predoctoral research fellow in the Department of Dermatology. She is interested in photography, studying French and learning more about dermatology during her year at MCW.





## BABY CORNER

Vera Elizabeth Boza (Clark)



Charlotte Yen



Phoebe Rose Lalor



Peter Cameron Funk



Luke William Young



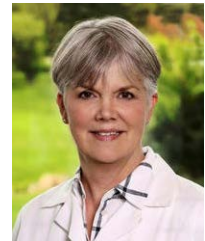
## SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT!

The Department is still fundraising for the Master Dermatologist Endowed Fund. Through this fund, we can celebrate and honor the leadership and inspiration Drs. Thomas J. Russell, James L. Troy, and Barbara D. Wilson have provided to generations of dermatology residents and medical students at MCW. This Fund will help ensure their outstanding tradition endures and resources will remain available to help the Department maintain its excellence. The fund will help support our education mission, including textbooks for residents, meeting attendance for trainees, trainee research projects, and other worthwhile endeavors.

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## UNTIL NEXT TIME!

