2020 Diversity Research Supplement Award – Opportunity List

The following individuals are former Career Development Award recipients and current faculty members in dermatology departments or divisions. Each has provided an opportunity for a medical student to work on a 6-12-week research project sponsored by a DF Diversity Research Supplement Award (DRSA). Medical students may contact Beth Rankin at the DF for the email addresses for these individuals, to inquire further about a short-term research opportunity. Please note, eligible individuals may apply for the DRSA regardless of whether they provided an opportunity for this list.

Faculty Member/DF Awardee	Institution	Project Description
Katrina E. Abuabara, M.D. Assistant Professor	University of California, San Francisco	Our data lab focuses on two main areas: (1) genetic, environmental, and socio-cultural predictors of eczema/atopic dermatitis disease activity and comorbidities, and (2) the role of aging on epidermal barrier decline on systemic health. Specific opportunities can be tailored to prior experience and interests. Basic epidemiology and/or biostatistics coursework and experience using Stata or R are preferred.
Zelma C. Chiesa Fuxench, M.D. Assistant Professor	University of Pennsylvania	Atopic dermatitis (AD) is a chronic, episodic, inflammatory disease of complex etiology involving multiple genetic, immune and environmental mechanisms. While thought to be a disease primarily of children, there is increasing evidence to suggest that this is a highly prevalent disease in the adult population as well. Yet, many questions remain unanswered. The current focus of my work seeks to improve our understanding of AD in adults by expanding our knowledge on the epidemiology of this disease, disease burden and potential risk factors, including both environmental and genetic risk factors. For interested candidates, opportunities for research include use of a large population based-database as well as the potential to engage in more focused genetic studies and clinical trials in AD.
Tamia Harris-Tryon, M.D., Ph.D. Assistant Professor	UT Southwestern Medical Center	The Harris-Tryon Laboratory bridges the fields of Immunology, Microbiology, and Metabolism and focuses on the interface between the skin surface and the community of microbes that colonize this niche. Our broad research goals are to decipher mechanisms that the skin uses to protect the host from bacterial infection and develop novel therapeutic targets for inflammatory skin conditions such as atopic dermatitis and hidradenitis suppurativa.

2020 Diversity Research Supplement Award – Opportunity List (Cont.)

Faculty Member/DF Awardee	Institution	Project Description
Joslyn S. Kirby, M.D., M.S., M.Ed. Associate Professor	Penn State Hershey Medical Center	Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) is a chronic relapsing inflammatory skin condition that results in painful nodules, abscesses, and fistulas in intertriginous regions. HS is an important disease to investigate due to the large negative impact on quality of life and paucity of highly effective therapies. Our group has multiple ongoing clinical research projects related to HS that would benefit from collaboration with an interested student from any institution. Projects don't require a student to be on-site (because we use existing data or patient-reported surveys). Open HS projects include: social determinants of health in people with HS, how to assess HS flare, improving HS clinician assessments, and others.
Alina Markova, M.D. Assistant Attending	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	Patients with cancer develop multiple cutaneous reactions due to their underlying malignancy, its treatment, or independent of the cancer. Currently, case reports and series serve as the majority of available literature on treatment-related skin toxicities/adverse events in oncology patients. As a result, clinical features and laboratory findings of dermatologic adverse events are not well defined; and attribution of dermatologic adverse event to therapy in the hematology/oncology population is challenging. The project's objective is to retrospectively determine the incidence and characterize the dermatologic adverse events associated with systemic therapies for hematologic malignancies and graft-versus-host disease.
Bethany E. Perez White, Ph.D. Assistant Professor	Northwestern University	We conduct research in epidermal biology to impact medicine and advance our understanding of skin. We incorporate hypothesis-driven research with innovative disease models and discovery approaches. Specifically, we employ 3D models of human epidermis with proteomics and transcriptomics. We use primary keratinocytes to identify signals that drive the physiological state and how they may be hijacked to contribute to pathological states. Our research aims to define Eph receptor tyrosine kinase signal networks in epidermal homeostasis. A proteomics screen of EphA2 interactors led us to uncover a role for EphA2 in tight junctions, an indispensable component of the epidermal barrier. Perturbations in tight junctions are relevant to skin disorders such as cancer, atopic dermatitis, and psoriasis.

2020 Diversity Research Supplement Award – Opportunity List (Cont.)

Faculty Member/DF Awardee	Institution	Project Description
Junko Takeshita, M.D., Ph.D. Assistant Professor	University of Pennsylvania	My research program is focused on identifying, understanding, and eliminating health and healthcare disparities in dermatology. Ongoing research projects include quantitative studies using large databases to identify disparities in healthcare utilization for and treatment of chronic inflammatory skin diseases (e.g., psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, acne, etc.) and qualitative studies to understand patient and provider perspectives on the experience of and treatment of skin diseases, respectively. There are opportunities to work on any of these projects depending on a student's interests. Students with quantitative or qualitative research skills are preferred.