2021

Research Award Recipients

March 20, 2021
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Charles and Daneen Stiefel Scholar Award in Skin Cancer

Brian C. Capell, M.D., Ph.D. – Year 3
University of Pennsylvania
*Restoring Epigenomic Histone Methylation Dynamics for the Treatment of Keratinocyte Carcinomas*

Iwei Yeh, M.D., Ph.D. – Year 2
University of California, San Francisco
*Novel Therapies for KIT Mutant Melanoma*

Sun Pharma Research Award

Elizabeth A. Grice, Ph.D. – Year 3
University of Pennsylvania
*Harnessing the Commensal Skin Microbiota to Modulate Inflammation and Barrier Function*

Johann E. Gudjonsson, M.D., Ph.D. – Year 2
University of Michigan
*Mechanisms of B-cell Activation and Autoantibody Formation in SLE*

Tiffany C. Scharschmidt, M.D.
University of California, San Francisco
*Contributions of Early Life Bacterial-barrier-immune Interactions in the Path to Atopy*

Career Development Awards

Public Health Career Development Award

Aileen Chang, M.D.
University of California, San Francisco
*Hospital Utilization for Skin Diseases in Persons Experiencing Homelessness*

Joy Wan, M.D., M.S.C.E. – Year 2
University of Pennsylvania
*Neurocognitive Functioning of Children with Atopic Dermatitis*

Adewole S. Adamson, M.D. – Year 3
University of Texas, Austin
*Optimizing Care Delivery and Health Equity in Patients with Melanoma*
Clinical Career Development Award in Dermatologic Surgery

Kenneth Yu, M.D., Ph.D.
Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Identifying Molecular Determinants of Prognosis in Advanced Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Wesley Y. Yu, M.D.
Oregon Health & Sciences University
Preventing Metastasis of High-Risk Melanoma

Physician Scientist Career Development Award

Christoph T. Ellebrecht, M.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Development of Targeted Immunotherapy for and Transcriptional Profiling of γδ T Cell Diseases

Chen Wang, M.D., Ph.D.
Stanford University
Identification of Disease Driving T-Cells and Antigens in Alopecia Areata

Lee E. Wheless, M.D., Ph.D. – Year 2
Vanderbilt University
Using Machine Learning to Stratify Skin Cancer Risk in Organ Transplant Recipients

Matthew D. Vesely, M.D., Ph.D. – Year 3
Yale University
Stimulating Immune Inhibitory Receptors for the Treatment of Cutaneous Lupus

Sarah Whitley, M.D., Ph.D. – Year 3
University of Pittsburgh
IL-23 Regulates Cutaneous Resident Memory T Cell Development and Maintenance

Science of Human Appearance Career Development Award

Aayushi Uberoi, Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Skin Microbiome-Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor Crosstalk at Skin Interface Regulates Barrier Function

Donna M. Brennan-Crispi, Ph.D. – Year 3
University of Pennsylvania
Roles and Modulation of WNT-FZD Signaling in Hair
Medical Dermatology Career Development Award

Tina Bhutani, M.D.
University of California, San Francisco
*Evaluating the Impact of Sleep on Psoriasis and Associated Comorbidities*

Steven T. Chen, M.D., M.P.H.
Massachusetts General Hospital
*Investigation of Dermatologic Toxicity from Immune Checkpoint Blockade in Advanced Malignancies*

Galen T. Foulke, M.D.
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
*Closing Practice Gaps in Dermatomyositis Malignancy Screening*

Crystal U. Aguh, M.D. – Year 2
Johns Hopkins University
*Exploring Gene Expression Patterns and Biomarkers of Disease Severity in CCCA*

Albert Chiou, M.D. – Year 3
Stanford University
*Evaluating Collagen VII Corrected Skin Grafts for Recessive Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa*

Shawn G. Kwatra, M.D. – Year 3
Johns Hopkins University
*Racial Differences in Biomarkers and Therapeutic Targets for Chronic Itch*

Women's Health Career Development Award

Jarish Cohen, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
*Elucidating the Role of Regulatory T Cell in Protecting Cutaneous Epithelial Stem Cell Niches*

Allison C. Billi, M.D., Ph.D. – Year 2
University of Michigan
*VGLL3 Regulation in Female-Biased Autoimmune Diseases*

Alicia Little, M.D., Ph.D. – Year 3
Yale University
*Role of T Follicular Helper Cells (Tfh) in Chronic Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus*
Research Career Development Award

Indermeet Kohli, Ph.D.
Henry Ford Medical Center
Optimizing Phototesting and Investigating Photobiology of Visible Light

Matthew T. Patrick, Ph.D.
University of Michigan
Identification of Shared Genetic and Modifiable Risk Factors for Psoriasis and Multiple Sclerosis

Satish Sati, Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Investigating Neuroimmune Interactions to Promote Scarless Skin Regeneration

Juan-Manuel Leyva-Castillo, Ph.D. – Year 3
Harvard University
Role of PAX5 in Skin-derived Dendritic Cells During the Development of Allergic Skin Inflammation

Dermatopathology Research Career Development Award

Paul L. Haun, M.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Biomarker Analysis of Transcriptome Signatures in Mycosis Fungoides Across Clinicopathologic Stages

Joel C. Sunshine, M.D., Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Loss of Effective Antigen Presentation in Melanoma and Treatment Failure

Randie Hee Kim, M.D., Ph.D. – Year 3
New York University
Using Artificial Intelligence to Improve Prognosis of Intermediate Thickness Melanomas

Ursula E. Lang, M.D., Ph.D. – Year 3
University of California, San Francisco
Investigating the Role of Primary Cilia in Melanocytes and Melanomagenesis

Pediatric Dermatology Career Development Award

Carrie Coughlin, M.D.
Washington University
Choice Help: Optimizing Outcomes by Supporting Encounters for kids with Congenital Melanocytic Nevi
Pediatric Dermatology Career Development Award, Cont.

Dawn Z. Eichenfield, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Diego
Characterizing the Genetics and Epigenetics of Linear Morphea

Lisa M. Arkin, M.D. – Year 2
University of Wisconsin
Towards a Precision-Based Treatment for Port Wine Birthmarks

JiaDe Yu, M.D. – Year 3
Massachusetts General Hospital
Prospective North American Pediatric Allergic Contact Dermatitis Registry

Fellowships

Dermatologist Investigator Research Fellowship

Noah Hornick, M.D., Ph.D.
Yale University
Distinguishing the Mechanisms of Tumoral Immune Response and Cutaneous Adverse Events

Anna Kersh, MD., Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Elucidating Genes Involved in the Pathogenesis of Lichen Planus and Lichenoid Dermatoses

Benjamin A. Nanes, M.D., Ph.D.
Southwestern Med. School University of Texas
Modulation of Epidermal Plasticity by Keratin Intermediate Filaments

Amy R. Vandiver, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, Los Angeles
Assessing the Functional Consequences of Mitochondrial Genomic Alterations in Cutaneous Aging

Grants

Patient Directed Investigation Grant

Charlene Lam, M.D.
Pennsylvania State University
Cell Signaling Changes Induced by Surgical Debulk May Improve Response to Smoothened Inhibitor Therapy
Research Grant

Stephanie R. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Columbia University
*Investigating the Role of Ctsk in CD200-stimulated Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma Metastasis*

Matthew L. Hedberg, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania
*Immunediting in Cutaneous Squamous Carcinogenesis*

Naiem T. Issa, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Miami
*Computational Drug Discovery of Novel Small Molecule Inhibitor Chemotypes of GNAQ (Gq) Signaling*

Nan Ring, M.D.
Yale University
*Characterizing the Role of the Cutaneous Microbiota in Darier Disease*

Mariana Silva, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women’s Hospital
*Cell Type-dependent PD-1 Inhibitor Affinity and Its Significance in Melanoma Immunotherapy*

Takeshi Yamauchi, Ph.D.
University of Colorado, Denver
*The Role of Ethanol and Acetaldehyde in Melanocytes*

Women’s Health Research Grant

Melissa Mauskar M.D.
Southwestern Med. School University of Texas
*Characterizing the Microbiome in Postmenopausal Women with Vulvar Lichen Sclerosus*

Diversity Research Supplement Awards

Katrina E. Abuabara, M.D.
University of California, San Francisco
*Skin Barrier Function and Post-arthroplasty Infection Rates in Older Adults*

Katrina E. Abuabara, M.D.
University of California, San Francisco
*Atopic Dermatitis in Childhood and Risk of Early Cardiovascular Disease*
Diversity Research Supplement Awards, Cont.

Katrina E. Abuabara, M.D.
University of California, San Francisco
*DNA Methylation Age Acceleration and Atopic Dermatitis Disease Course*

Zelma C. Chiesa-Fuxench, M.D.
University of Pennsylvania
*Risk of Infection in Adult Patients with Atopic Dermatitis Exposed to Janus Kinase Inhibitors (JAKi)*

Masaoki Kawasumi, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Washington
*Targeting Epigenetic Abnormalities to Inhibit Skin Cancer*

Megan H. Noe, M.D., M.P.H.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
*Vaccination Behaviors in Adults with Chronic Inflammatory Skin Diseases*

Bethany E. Perez-White, Ph.D.
Northwestern University
*Reversal of Tight Junction Dysfunction in Atopic Dermatitis by Engaging EPHA2 Signaling*

Jillian M. Richmond, Ph.D.
University of Massachusetts
*Cutaneous T-cell Lymphoma and Canine Epitheliotropic Lymphoma: A Comparative Analysis*

Junko Takeshita, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania
*Evaluating Racial/Ethnic Differences in the Quality-of-Life Impact of Acne*

Junko Takeshita, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania
*Understanding Health Care Seeking Behaviors for Pediatric Atopic Dermatitis*

Iwei Yeh, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
*The Role of NF1 and SPRED1 in KIT Mutant Melanoma*