MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Women’s Dermatologic Society (WDS) was founded to help dermatologists reach their fullest potential. We are driven by our mission to be the premier organization cultivating personal and professional development of dermatologists dedicated to excellence in patient care, mentorship, volunteerism, and leadership. Our award programs help give members the opportunities to achieve their goals and learn from their mentors. In 2016 our four award programs helped 46 members achieve what they otherwise wouldn’t have been able to. Thank you to all the sponsors and mentors that made these programs possible. We couldn’t do it without you.

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2016 AWARDS RECAP

46 Awardees had projects funded in the following areas of dermatology:
- Medical Dermatology
- Mohs and Dermatologic Surgery
- Pediatric Dermatology
- Cosmetic and Procedural Dermatology

30 Mentors

4 Award Programs

13 States

10 Countries

4 Continents

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS
ACADEMIC RESEARCH AWARD

The WDS Academic Research Award Program provides funding for residents, post-residency fellows, junior faculty and early-career dermatologists performing basic science or clinical research relevant to the field of dermatology. Awards in the amount of up to $10,000 are awarded on a competitive basis, and awardees have 18 months to complete their project.

2016 RECIPIENTS

Shehla Adamani, MD  
University of California, San Diego  
Mentor: Bethanee Schlosser, MD  
Title of Research Project: Spironolactone use in acne: Implications for vulvovaginal health and sexual functions

Ellen “Nikki” Pritchett, MD  
Henry Ford Dermatology  
Mentor: Henry Lim, MD  
Title of Research Project: Skin cancer in skin of color organ transplant patients

Zelma C. Chiesa Fuxench, MD  
University of Pennsylvania  
Mentor: Joel M. Elfand, MD, MSCE  
Title of Research Project: The risk of cancer in patients with eczema: A prospective, population based cohort study

Rachel Kornik, MD  
University of California, San Francisco  
Mentor: Mary-Margaret Chren, MD  
Title of Research Project: Effects of Inflammatory vulvovaginal disease on quality of life affected women

Tiffany Shih, MD  
University of Minnesota  
Mentor: Daniel Miller, MD  
Title of Research Project: Allogeneic skin grafting in the treatment of chronic cutaneous graft-vs-host disease: A pilot study
This partnership between WDS and the AVON Skincare Institute was established to help promote the concept of mentorship, while gaining exposure and an understanding of the cosmetic dermatology business. Two members, a mentor and a mentee, from WDS are selected to travel to the Avon R&D facility in New York and Avon Corporate headquarters for a three day intensive program.

**EXPERIENCE**

Dr. Heath and I are honored to have been recipients of the 2016 WDS/Avon Mentorship Award. The time spent at Avon was intellectually stimulating, fast moving, and packed with activities, discussions, and lectures. Dr. John Lyga and Lisa DiNatale, our hostesses throughout the visit, made our experience seamless and they were outstanding.

The program was a resounding success as we both unequivocally: 1) gained insights regarding the cosmetic dermatology business from an R&D and corporate perspective; 2) better understood the consumer and how she has become the center of how beauty products are holistically designed; 3) got a look at the science behind the development of aesthetically-pleasing, yet functional cosmetic products, and 4) learned about state of the art techniques and best practices for clinical testing and developing consumer-relevant and compelling product claims.

Dr. Heath and I traveled to and from the Avon Global Innovation Center in Suffern, New York together. We were also able to spend time after dinner on 12/14/16 and during breakfast on 12/15/16. This allowed us time to debrief, discuss the experience and it provided time for mentoring.

We sincerely thank both the WDS and Avon for an extraordinarily enriching experience.

– Susan C. Taylor, MD and Candrice Heath, MD

2016 RECIPIENTS

Candrice Heath, MD & Susan Taylor, MD
The Women’s Dermatologic Society and the American Academy of Dermatology provide travel awards of up to $2,500 USD for Board Certified (or Board Eligible) dermatologists from outside the United States to attend the WDS Annual Meeting Luncheon and the American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting.

**2016 RECIPIENTS**

Amanjot Kaur  
India  

Iwona Chlebicka  
Poland  

Elena Esionova  
Uzbekistan  

Elvira Lazic Mosler  
Croatia  

Patricia Oreta  
Philippines  

Usha Khemani  
India  

Naa Larleley Quarcoo  
Ghana
The WDS Mentorship Award Program was created to help promote the concept of mentorship within the WDS by establishing long-term relationships between Mentors and Mentees.

The Purpose of the award is to develop mentoring relationships that might not otherwise be possible due to distance or funding availability. The program helps develop leadership potential in candidates who have shown early promise through exceptional activities, which will enhance their contributions to dermatology and medicine.

Andrea Maderal, MD
Coral Gables, FL
Mentor: Jeffrey Callen, MD
Focus: Skin Signs of Systemic Diseases, Lupus Erythematosus, Dermatomyositis, Pyoderma Gangrenosum, Psoriasis, Systemic Therapies for Management of Skin Disease.

During my rotation, I had the opportunity to attend clinic daily with Dr. Callen. During this clinic, he would treat several patients with complex medical dermatologic conditions, including several with immunobullous diseases and autoimmune connective tissue diseases. I was able to learn aspects of his approach to these patients, including his personal approach to immunosuppressants for these patients. I also learned a lot about patient counseling and monitoring while on these medications, as he provided really thorough and great education to his patients. While in Louisville, there were also several opportunities for learning outside of clinic, including two different visiting professor visits and several management conferences.

Another important experience during my rotation was the opportunity to attend the Rheumatologic Dermatology Society Annual Meeting and American College of Rheumatology (ACR) meeting with Dr. Callen. He introduced me to several other physicians who are prominent in the field of rheumatologic dermatology, and we attended an ACR poster session, where I was able to get his input on several emerging topics in the field.

I learned a tremendous amount of medical knowledge during my rotation, but also important tips on how to be a great physician for these complex patients.
MENTORSHIP AWARD

Ashley O’Toole, MD, MHSc
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Mentor: Ruth-Ann Vleugels, MD
Focus: Connective tissue disease and dermatology.
In April 2016, I had the distinct pleasure of joining Dr. Ruth-Ann Vleugels at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston Mass. for an elective in Rheumatology-Dermatology. During my mentorship experience, I was exposed to many complex cases in both paediatrics and adult-based clinics across the city. Patients came from all across the North Eastern United States to be seen by Dr. Vleugels and her unique team of specialists. I enjoyed working with the other residents and fellows on the team and learned many important clinical and therapeutic pearls that I will carry with me the rest of my career. I look forward to continuing my mentorship relationship with Dr. Vleugels as I finish up my residency and start my career in Ontario, Canada. I am grateful to the Women’s Dermatology Society for their mentorship award and encourage all interested residents to explore opportunities in their chosen fields.

Azeen Sadeghian, MD
New Orleans, LA
Mentor: Emma Guttman-Yassky, MD
Focus: Atopic Dermatitis
I am waiting to finish my current commitments with my residency program (i.e. this is my chief residency year, completing previous presentations, board preparation) before seeking any additional projects. I hope to initiate a project soon after these tasks are completed though. I have research ideas involving atopic dermatitis that I’d like to seek Dr. Guttman’s input with and potentially even coordinate with her lab. One project that I am interested in involves the use of an herbal supplement as an adjunct to atopic dermatitis. It is already over the counter, but it would be a novel use. It would also be interesting to view the cytokine differences between other less discussed presentations of atopic dermatitis (i.e. head and neck dermatitis) or atopic dermatitis vs CTCL.
I hope to continue communications with my mentor and potentially seek out a shared research opportunity with her. My state is currently under served and does not have a regional expert in atopic dermatitis, so I hope to become more knowledgeable in this field.
I would also like to seek her input about how to become active in basic sciences research and clinical pharmacologic development. I have seen my mentor speak at different conferences and hope I can spend time with her in future settings similar to this.

“My mentorship experience with Dr. Guttman was truly career defining. It solidified my interest in atopic dermatitis and helped me to see how ground breaking research is performed. I’m so grateful for the opportunity to work with a strong career and family oriented female role model. Thank you, WDS!”

– Azeen Sadeghian, MD
MENTORSHIP AWARD

Bridget McIlwee, DO
Fort Worth, TX
Mentor: Tina Alster, MD

Dr. Alster and I have discussed several opportunities for publications that we can co-author. All of these publications would center on topics that she and I identified during my mentorship award rotation in her clinic. One of these topics is the amelioration of tattoo discoloration from permanent cosmetics and/or makeup utilizing CO2 laser resurfacing. Another of these exciting opportunities is my coauthoring of a chapter of the Fitzpatrick dermatology textbook with Dr. Alster. I have enthusiastically taken on this challenge. I am looking forward to continuing to work with Dr. Alster on these written projects, and I will be looking for additional mechanisms by which she and I can collaborate in the future. She has been incredibly encouraging of my interest in publication.

Not only was my mentorship experience meaningful from the standpoint of learning important skills in laser surgery and cosmetic dermatology, but also (and perhaps even more importantly?) I gained the perspective of a strong, intelligent, dynamic female leader and educator who has paved the way for her own success and excellence in her field. I do not have mentors or role models like this in my own residency program. Dr. Alster has been extremely encouraging to me regarding my own professional development, including membership in professional societies, education in business and financial aspects, and work/personal life balance. I am so incredibly grateful for her guidance and support.

Brienne Cressey, MD, MBA
New York, NY
Mentor: Murad Alam, MD
Focus: Research involving FDA approval process and error reporting of medical devices. Clinical experience in Mohs surgery.

During my mentorship experience I observed Dr. Alam’s surgical practice and learned more about Mohs surgery and reconstruction techniques. I also observed numerous cosmetic procedures and lasers I otherwise do not get exposure to during residency. Dr. Alam’s mentorship and guidance for fellowship applications, fellowship and my future career has been extremely helpful. During my time at Northwestern we continued research evaluating strengths and weaknesses of the medical device approval process as well as a study on medical device error reporting. We have been continuing work on both of these studies. The WDS mentorship program was a great experience and I foresee Dr. Alam continuing to be a mentor to me throughout residency, fellowship and my career.

"The WDS Mentorship Award is a wonderful program. My experience at Northwestern with Dr. Alam was excellent! I would encourage all residents to apply for the WDS mentorship program."

– Brienne Cressey, MD, MBA
MENTORSHIP AWARD

Christina Gamba, MD
Redwood City, CA
Mentor: Toby Maurer, MD
Focus: HIV dermatology Cutaneous infectious diseases
Underserved patient care.
I will be presenting on my experiences with Dr. Maurer at SFGH and San Mateo County Hospital at an upcoming Stanford Grand Rounds. While we are in close proximity to San Francisco, at Stanford we generally lack significant exposure to HIV dermatology. I plan to provide an overview of clinical considerations when caring for this population, and discuss the resources available. I was fortunate enough to attend one of Dr. Maurer’s Global Health presentations as well, so I furthermore hope to present an update on treatment approaches to Kaposi’s sarcoma in areas that have few to no resources. Ultimately, I did not plan a particular research project with Dr. Maurer, but instead hope to continue pursuing clinical experiences with her, possibly in an abroad setting next.
Dr. Maurer and I had several discussions regarding the outreach and dermatology training programs that exist in both South America and Africa. I hope to join her for a rotation at one of these sites in the near future. While on this recent rotation, I also had my first exposure to teledermatology. The way in which Dr. Maurer has implemented teledermatology at SFGH and for the surrounding clinics is astounding, creating an environment that is efficient and collaborative for both dermatology and primary care physicians alike. If future teledermatology opportunities become available with Dr. Maurer to support underserved communities, I would be thrilled to join in these efforts.

Elaine DuPuis, MD
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Mentor: Jeff Dover, MD
Focus: laser and photomedicine.
During my time at SkinCare Physicians, I had the opportunity to work under the direction of several internationally recognized dermatologists. Each day incorporated clinics and surgery. As a result, I learned new skills extending across the medical, surgical and cosmetic dermatology fields. In particular, I gained a better understanding about the theory and clinical application of lasers and light-related devices. I found this to be a valuable experience. This has increased my awareness about the possibilities within our specialty and the treatment options available for a variety of dermatologic conditions.
MENTORSHIP AWARD

Emily de Golian, MD
Upland, CA
Mentor: Siegrid Yu, MD
Focus: Mohs micrographic surgery and surgical reconstruction for skin cancer; laser surgery; cosmetic dermatology.

During my mentorship, I learned a lot about the ongoing areas of interest for the faculty at UCSF, so in the event that my fellowship match is with USCF’s program, I can develop my research interests with the considerable resources available at their institution. In particular, the dedicated high risk skin cancer clinic is an area of research focus within the program, particularly genetic and viral risk factors for oncogenesis, and the Department of Dermatology’s relationships with other departments and researchers provides extensive opportunity for involvement in research.

I am currently applying for the Mohs and Procedural Dermatology fellowship with Dr. Yu at UCSF, which would be an exceptional opportunity to continue working with Dr. Yu and learning from her considerable surgical and procedural talents. Given the strength of the mentorship experience in terms of procedural education, as well as a very positive working experience with Dr. Yu and her colleagues, UCSF will be very highly ranked on my list. It was apparent that with as much as I learned while rotating through the Mohs and cosmetic clinics, I’ve only scratched the surface in terms of opportunity for educational, professional, and personal development.

“The time I spent working with Dr. Siegrid Yu and her colleagues at UCSF was invaluable to my surgical and procedural education. In my own clinic, I still regularly utilize the surgical techniques and adjunctive management options that I learned, and I’m grateful to the WDS for providing me with the opportunity to broaden my procedural training.”

– Emily de Golian, MD

Farhaad Riyaz, MD
Royal Oak, MI
Mentor: Maggie Oliviero, MD
Focus: Confocal Microscopy

Since my mentorship, Dr. Oliviero and I have already written a case together of a melanoacanthoma falsely being detected as melanoma through confocal microscopy, that we plan to publish. Dermoscopy can usually distinguish seborrheic keratoses, melanoacanthomas (heavily pigmented seborrheic keratoses), and melanoma. This past year there was an article in JAMA dermatology about the dermoscopic findings of 10 melanoacanthomas. Our case dermoscopically was more consistent with a melanoma than melanoacanthoma. Using confocal microscopy, our lesion also was more consistent with melanoma than seborrheic keratosis due to the findings of dendritic cells in the upper epidermis suggestive of pagetoid spread. The biopsy showed a melanoacanthoma, so now we know that this is a potential false positive for melanoma.

We are planning to start a longer study where we evaluate different forms of hair loss through confocal microscopy. Scalp biopsies cause significant amount of distress to patients and are time-consuming. Confocal microscopy has the potential to delineate different types of hair loss without the need to take a piece of skin out of the patient’s scalp. One potential limitation may be the thickness of the scalp and the poor resolution of confocal microscopy at depths greater than 200 Åµm. Even then, some forms of hair loss that involve analysis of the epidermis (scarring alopecia, ones with miniaturization of hairs and ones with lichenoid inflammation) can probably be evaluated with confocal microscopy.

“Dermatologic Society provided me with a unique and career-shaping opportunity when they sponsored my week learning confocal microscopy with Margaret Oliviero. I was able to link up and learn from an international expert in a field which is underrepresented at my home institution. Thanks, WDS!”

– Farhaad Riyaz, MD
MENTORSHIP AWARD

Jillian Millsop, MD, MS  
Sacramento, CA

Mentor: Miki Shirakawa Garcia, MD
Focus: The approach and management of Asian skin.

During my rotation with Dr. Miki Shirakawa Garcia, I learned about how to treat Asian skin. In particular, I learned about different cosmetic techniques and how to prevent post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation which is always a concern when treating ethnic skin. I learned about different topical cosmetic products, sunscreen brands, and lasers, as well as techniques for injecting fillers and botulinum toxin. The experience was also very valuable as I learned how a private practice works. With regards to medical dermatology, I also gained exposure identifying skin cancers in patients with darker skin tone.

“I am very appreciative of the Women’s Dermatologic Society for giving me the opportunity to work with a respected dermatologist and, because of this opportunity, I have gained a lifelong mentor. Through this experience, I learned the ins and outs of private practice and gained experience in treating Asian skin.”

– Jillian Millsop, MD, MS

Joanna Hooten, MD  
Chapel Hill, NC

Mentor: Tina Alster, MD
Focus: Application of laser therapy.

I spent two weeks with Dr. Alster at the Washington Institute of Dermatologic Laser Surgery in May 2016. This was a wonderful experience for me as it exposed me to numerous laser devices used to treat diverse skin conditions, which I would not have had exposure to during residency. Additionally, I am grateful to have Dr. Alster as a mentor—she gave me invaluable career advice and is a true champion for women in dermatology. My experience through this elective will make me a better dermatologist and I hope to participate in the WDS mentorship program myself in my future career.

“I would highly recommend this experience to anyone wanting to diversify their training experience as mentorship is critical to making us better, more connected, dermatologists.”

– Joanna Hooten, MD
John Trinidad, MD, MPH  
West Hollywood, CA  
Mentor: Toby Maurer, MD  
Focus: Inpatient and Outpatient HIV Dermatology.  
I am a current 3rd year resident at The Ohio State University and will be starting on faculty this July after I graduate. I am very interested in HIV/LGBT Health, teledermatology, infectious disease and care for the urban underserved. I’ve committed to starting specialty clinics with my university as I transition to being an attending.  
I feel very lucky to have connected with Dr. Toby Maurer for my mentorship experience. As a medical student she was a faculty advisor for me and inspired me to really consider dermatology as a career. Now as I move on toward faculty, she continues to motivate me to pursue endeavors that I am passionate about, and to serve the special communities in HIV dermatology and in the county hospital medical system. During my time at UCSF and San Francisco General Hospital, I was able to rotate on the in-patient consult service, HIV Dermatology clinic, pediatric dermatology clinic and teledermatology clinic. In addition to working with Dr. Maurer, I was also instantly connected with other excellent WDS mentors such as Dr. Erin Amerson and Dr. Erin Mathes! Through this scholarship I was able to experience firsthand how specialty care and teledermatology was implemented within the county system.

Josef Symon Concha, MD  
Manila, Philippines  
Mentor: Victoria P. Werth, MD  
Focus: Rheumatology – Dermatology; Complex Medical Dermatology, Autoimmune skin diseases.  
Dr. Werth involved me in a number of projects during my stay. I participated in several meetings about the standardization of the classification of dermatomyositis together with other experts in the field of rheumatologic dermatology. I also wrote a paper with her on mechanics hands, a less recognized yet specific cutaneous eruption of dermatomyositis and also a marker of pulmonary involvement in this setting. This mentorship also introduced me to the conduct of clinical trials of neglected diseases like cutaneous lupus and blistering disorders. I was able to observe many research visits, attend site initiation meetings, and collaborate with research coordinators and monitors.  

“I am thankful to have been mentored by no less than the pioneer of Rheumatologic Dermatology, Dr. Victoria Werth. She reinforced in me what a medical dermatologist should be, that is, a clinician who sees beyond what is cutaneous and who is a proactive partner in a multidisciplinary team handling complex patients with skin issues. Indeed, it was a memorable and enriching experience for me!”  
– Josef Symon Concha, MD
MENTORSHIP AWARD

Joy Wan, MD
Philadelphia, PA
Mentor: Dawn Siegel, MD
Focus: Genetic skin diseases, Vascular anomalies, and Pediatric dermatology research.

My mentorship experience with Dr. Dawn Siegel at the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin has been a valuable experience. I have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Siegel on a research project and to complete a rotation with her in Milwaukee. As Dr. Siegel leads the PHACE Syndrome International Clinical Registry and I am interested in epidemiology research, we designed a project to examine prenatal risk factors for PHACE syndrome using the registry. We began the preliminary data analysis before my arrival in Milwaukee, and during my rotation, I was able to perform additional chart reviews and meet face-to-face with Dr. Siegel to discuss our analyses. During my time in Milwaukee, I also rotated in clinic with Dr. Siegel and the other pediatric dermatology faculty members at CHW. It was great to gain exposure to different treatment approaches to various pediatric skin conditions. I also attended the unique multidisciplinary Vascular Anomalies Clinic and Neurofibromatosis Clinic at CHW, through which I learned about the management of more complex vascular anomalies and genetic syndromes. Since the end of my rotation in Milwaukee, Dr. Siegel and I are continuing to work on our study of prenatal risk factors for PHACE syndrome and we look forward to future research collaborations as well. Dr. Siegel has been successful in combining a career in research and clinical care as a pediatric dermatologist, and my mentorship experience with her has affirmed my desire to pursue a career in investigative pediatric dermatology.

The WDS mentorship award provided a wonderful opportunity for me to work with Dawn Siegel, MD a leading pediatric dermatology researcher and clinician at the Children’s Hospital of Milwaukee. During my mentorship experience, I spent time in clinic with Dr. Siegel and the pediatric dermatology group, gaining exposure to their unique Vascular Anomalies clinic. I also worked with Dr. Siegel on a clinical study examining prenatal risk factors for PHACE syndrome. The experience not only reaffirmed my desire for a career in investigative pediatric dermatology but also fostered a mentoring relationship that I hope will continue for many years to come.

– Joy Wan, MD

Karina Vivar, MD
Tampa, FL
Mentor: Annette Wagner, MD & Amy Paller, MD
Focus: Pediatric dermatology.

My WDS mentorship afforded me the opportunity to work with and learn from Dr. Annette Wagner and Dr. Amy Paller at Lurie Children’s Hospital. I gained valuable experience in both general pediatric dermatology and specialized facets of pediatric dermatology. With Dr. Wagner, I learned about procedural dermatology, pre- and post-operative considerations in infants and children, and techniques for soothing patients and caregivers. I was also fortunate to get hands-on experience in surgery, lasers, and injections. With Dr. Paller, I participated in her busy clinic, seeing both common pediatric dermatology diagnoses and rare genodermatoses. In this clinic, I observed how Dr. Paller incorporates active clinical and translational research into direct patient care, and I saw how these studies touch patients’ and caregivers’ lives. Additionally, I was able to attend the vascular anomalies conference at Lurie Children’s, learning how multiple disciplines collaborate to diagnose and manage babies and children with complex vascular anomalies.

The WDS Mentorship Award enriched my residency experience in numerous ways. Not only did I gain exposure to pediatric dermatology, which was not available to me at my home institution, but it also allowed me to do so with respected experts. It was inspiring to work with such leaders and role models, and I hope to maintain these mentorship relationships throughout my career.

– Karina Vivar, MD
Lauren Bonati, MD  
New York, NY  
Mentor: Sabrina Fabi, MD  
Focus: Advanced procedures in cosmetic dermatology such as microfocused ultrasound, radiofrequency, and body contouring.  
My week-long WDS mentorship program with Dr. Sabrina Fabi was extremely rewarding. The entire practice was welcoming and all physicians generous with their teaching. I observed Dr. Fabi perform numerous invasive and non-invasive cosmetic procedures I had never seen before and only read about in journals. The range of devices available and the ability to combine multiple treatment modalities for a more comprehensive outcome was noteworthy and impressive. Dr. Fabi demonstrated an impeccable bedside manner in all situations and had a warm rapport with patients that I hope to emulate one day. Throughout the week I was able to talk with the current cosmetic fellows, who described the practice’s prolific research efforts, how to run a clinical trial, and life as a fellow in general. Dr. Fabi and I now have a paper in submission and hope to work on collaborations going forward.  

The WDS mentorship award allowed me to spend an incredible week of learning with Dr. Sabrina Fabi. I was able to see procedures I had only read about in journals and gained countless pearls on technique, patient interaction, and on the daily operations of a busy private practice. Dr. Fabi’s expertise and mentorship left a lasting impression that I hope to emulate one day.  

– Lauren Meshkov Bonati, MD
MENTORSHIP AWARD

Marion Tamesis, MD  
New York, NY  
Mentor: Annette Wagner, MD  
Focus: Pediatric Procedural Dermatology  
I had the honor of working directly with Dr. Wagner as a WDS Mentorship awardee. This month-long elective on pediatric procedural dermatology was one of the most exciting and fruitful rotations of my entire residency training. The volume of patients whom I saw and on whom I did procedures was large and the range of complexity was wide. Under my mentor’s patient and astute guidance, I have demonstrably refined my skills in surgical and laser treatments and have learned new and practical surgical pearls.  
I regard this experience as just the beginning of a “lifelong” mentorship. I plan to maintain my professional relationship with Dr. Wagner and take full advantage of the expertise that she can provide.

“Receiving this mentorship award was life changing for me. I consider the opportunity to closely work with an expert in my chosen field as one of the highlights of my dermatology training. I strongly recommend every resident to consider participating in this mentorship program.”  
– Marion Tamesis, MD

Melissa Shive, MD, MPH  
Los Angeles, CA  
Mentor: Catherine Smith, PhD  
Focus: Clinical dermatology and clinical guideline development.  
During my WDS Mentorship Award, I was able to combine my interests in dermatology, health policy, and clinical guideline development. I rotated at St. John’s Institute of Dermatology, which serves as the tertiary referral center for England. While there, I was able to learn about clinical guideline development in the UK through meetings with my mentor Dr. Catherine Smith and other leaders at the British Association of Dermatologists (BAD) and the National Clinical Guideline Centre (NCGC). I also rotated with Dr. Smith in her complex medical dermatology clinics, attended inpatient rounds, and saw patients with a broad range of common and rare pathology. I learned about the practice of dermatology in England and saw first-hand what it was like to work within the National Health Service system. It was an incredibly enriching, educational, and valuable experience.

“The WDS Mentorship Award allowed me the unique opportunity to work with Dr. Catherine Smith at St. John’s Institute of Dermatology. I have interests in clinical guideline development and health policy that do not fit neatly into other clinical or research-oriented scholarships, and I am incredibly grateful that the WDS had the faith and vision to support my goals and understand the value an experience like this could have on my career development. I am now using what I have learned through the mentorship program in my new role as a resident member of the AAD Clinical Guidelines Committee and hope to maintain and foster a lifelong mentorship with Dr. Smith.”  
– Melissa Shive, MD, MPH
MENTORSHIP AWARD

Natalie Spaccarelli, MD
Philadelphia, PA
Mentor: Youn Kim, MD
Focus: Cutaneous Lymphoma
Stanford’s cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL) program led by Dr. Youn Kim is the largest of its kind in the United States and observing it for a prolonged period of time was an incredible learning experience. Seeing how their staff operated the CTCL clinics, their close interplay with the radiation oncology and hematology/oncology departments, and how they integrated and managed clinical trials was extremely educational. Dr. Kim is a remarkable leader in the field of dermatology. She is committed not only to the care of her patients, but to conducting quality research in order to better our diagnosis and treatment of a challenging disease. Inspired by Dr. Kim’s approach to basic and clinical research on CTCL, several Penn CTCL attending dermatologists and I have submitted an multi-faceted IRB protocol hoping to create a local prospective database for CTCL, to contribute to an international prospective database for patients with advanced-stage CTCL, and to establish a local blood and tissue biobank for primary cutaneous lymphomas.

Nicole Harter, MD
Pasadena, CA
Mentor: Ilona Frieden, MD
Focus: Pediatric Dermatology, Vascular Anomalies, Pediatric Procedural Dermatology.
I plan to take some of the knowledge from my experience working with Dr. Frieden and her team, to draft new patient information hand-outs for distribution in our pediatric dermatology clinics, including more information on pathogenesis of atopic dermatitis, natural history of warts/molluscum, and general information on oral propranolol and pulse-dye laser therapy to provide information and education to patients and families. The amount of education reinforced with patients and families that I witnessed working with Dr. Frieden was highly impactful and something I am looking forward to carrying forward into my future practice.

“The WDS Mentorship Award allowed me to spend time learning from leaders in my field of interest, and helped broaden my perspective on all the different aspects my chosen specialty. It was an integral part of understanding how I see my future career developing, and a truly amazing opportunity to learn from a dedicated teachers and role models. Thank you so much for sponsoring this unforgettable experience.”

Nicole Harter
Sandeep Saluja, MD  
Salt Lake City, UT  
Mentor: Rebecca Kazin, MD  
Focus: Cosmetic Dermatology - Laser Surgery  

My main goal of the mentorship experience was to learn as much as possible from Dr. Kazin and her colleagues at the renowned Washington Institute of Dermatologic Laser Surgery (WIDLS), and improve my understanding of cosmetic and laser dermatology. I want to thank the WDS Mentorship Award Program and Valeant for providing me such an invaluable learning experience. I was able to see the brand new lasers and light-based devices in action, in addition to refining and optimizing my injectable techniques. More importantly, the teaching I received from Dr. Kazin was exceptional – all my queries were answered in a timely manner. Dr. Kazin taught me numerous clinical pearls that will stay with me for the rest of my career and will benefit my patients.

My WDS preceptorship with Dr. Kazin and her colleagues at Washington Institute of Dermatologic Laser Surgery was amazing – everyone was so nice, and the amount of clinical pearls I learned regarding injectable and lasers was remarkable. This preceptorship will be critical to my development as an aspirational leader in the field of cosmetic/laser dermatology.

– Sandeep Saluja, MD

Sara Faleri, MD  
Rivodutri, Rieti, Italy  
Mentor: Antonella Tosti, MD  
Focus: Hair dermoscopy  

I’m greatly pleased and honored that WDS sponsored my 2016 Mentorship Award especially knowing the great reputation and the high profile of this society. Since the last years of my residency in Dermatology, my interest on Trichology has grown progressively. WDS gave me the opportunity to work with one of the worldwide recognized experts on this field, Dr. Antonella Tosti, at the Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous Surgery of the Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine in Miami.

I had the privilege to stay with Dr. Tosti during her daily activities. She proved to be an excellent teacher, mentor and motivator. It was honestly the best academic experience I have ever had. During the month I spent there, I was able to see a variety of dermatologic diseases mostly affecting hair, scalp and nails. With Dr. Tosti, I have improved my knowledge about clinical and dermoscopic diagnosis, treatment, and management of different hair disorders including, but not limited to, lichen planopilaris, central centrifugal cicatricial alopecia, frontal fibrosing alopecia, androgenetic alopecia, alopecia areata. She provided an exceptional level of diagnosis and focused treatments for patients with hair loss.

Additionally, during my stay there I worked with other two colleagues on a paper about nail disorders resulting in a publication. I also attended some lectures and meetings, Grand Rounds, cases presentation and discussions.

I had the wonderful opportunity, pleasure, and honor to meet Dr. Tosti. I am very grateful to WDS that supported this exceptionally rewarding experience.
Mentorship Award

Stephanie Gallitano, MD
New York, NY
Mentor: Daniela Kroshinsky, MD
Focus: Inpatient dermatology (pediatric and adult)
Since my first few days as a dermatology resident, I knew that the excitement of inpatient dermatology was my calling. Early on in my residency, I sought out career advice from Dr. Kroshinsky, one of today’s leading advocates for hospital dermatologists. I began to attend the Society for Dermatology Hospitalists meetings and was lucky enough to receive the WDS Mentorship Award to spend time with Dr. Kroshinsky in practice. My main goals were to learn how to organize a successful inpatient dermatology service and to gain more experience addressing complex clinical cases. During my month, Dr. Kroshinsky and the residents I worked with taught me so much more. Clinically, I gained experience working with a different population and different skin types, broadening my knowledge base. Dr. Kroshinsky encourages everyone to focus on the basics of the physical exam to produce a comprehensive differential diagnosis. Focusing on the details of exams really helped me hone my clinical skills.

Even more impressive than the clinical knowledge I acquired was experience in successful execution of a hospitalist service. She took immense pride in fostering relationships with all the staff members including nurses, medical teams, other attending physicians and social workers to name a few. This resulted in collaboration between the dermatology service and all other services, garnering great respect for the insight and management changes that dermatology had to offer.

Tiffany Shih, MD
Minneapolis, MN
Mentor: Ed Cowen, MD
Focus: GVHD
I was very fortunate for the opportunity to spend four weeks at the National Institute of Health Dermatology Branch under the tutelage of Dr. Edward Cowen. The NIH is one of the few purely academic institutions where clinical practice is focused on learning about rare or difficult diseases and providing the resources for patients to receive the best care possible. I have a special interest in graft-versus-host disease, and the NIH has a multi-specialty approach to evaluate and treat the whole patient. Also, I have a much better understanding of evaluation and treatment of acute and chronic GVHD. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to see rare primary immunodeficiencies and genodermatoses, which most dermatologists only see in textbooks. Dr. Cowen is an excellent clinician and committed to teaching, and I highly recommend this to other residents.
MENTORSHIP AWARD

Cuong Nguyen, MD
St. Louis Park, MN
Mentor: Veronica Werth, MD
Focus: Rheum-Derm, Complex Medical Derm.
I would like to thank the Women’s Dermatologic Society for enabling me to rotate with Dr. Victoria Werth at the University of Pennsylvania from April 3 – April 21, 2017. I am looking forward to learn from Dr. Werth’s expertise in Rheum Derm. During my time with Dr. Werth, I hope to learn useful tips to be able to help me differentiate connective tissue diseases such as systemic lupus and dermatomyositis, which may often have overlapping features. I am looking forward to seeing what diagnostic tools and treatment regimens Dr. Werth utilizes in managing these often complex patients. I plan to practice inpatient consultative dermatology in the future, and seeing how different institutions run their service will be highly valuable. As such, I also hope to rotate on the inpatient consult service to further gain expertise on how to manage a busy consultative team and to balance complex inpatient care with my outpatient responsibilities.

Joy Makdisi, MD
Irvine, CA
Mentor: Arisa Ortiz, MD, FAAD
Focus: Non-surgical treatment options of NMSC.
March 24 –26, 2017
I am looking forward to working with Dr. Ortiz in her laser and surgical clinics. She has developed novel uses for laser surgery in medical dermatology which I am excited to learn about and observe in action. She also has expertise in multiple noninvasive treatment modalities. Finally, I also look forward to participating in UCSD’s grand rounds which brings together medical, surgical, and laser dermatology specialists to discuss difficult and exciting cases.

Kimberly Jerdan, MD
Chicago, IL
Mentor: Sabrina Fabi, MD
Focus: Non-invasive skin-tightening and contouring, cosmetic laser surgery, acne and scar treatment, Photodynamic therapy (PDT), Sclerotherapy, endovenous ablation of varicose veins, fat transfer, and medical dermatology – including acne.

Meagan Barrett
Manhattan Beach, CA
Mentor: Larry Eichenfield, MD
Focus: Complex Pediatric Dermatology, Academic Career.

Sarah Whitley
Pittsburgh, PA
Mentor: Emma Guttman-Yassky, MD
Focus: Atopic dermatitis and contact dermatitis.
Summer 2017
I think that establishing a mentorship relationship with Dr. Guttman would provide me with valuable insights into the process of becoming a successful investigative dermatologist. She is one of relatively few thriving translational researchers within the field of dermatology, and I expect that she could serve as an excellent role model for navigating the complex process of establishing one’s niche within science and related clinical activities.