

# Happy Holidays!

If you've been with us for a while, you know this annual letter is our chance to highlight our extraordinary people and celebrate the accomplishments of the past year. Remarkably, this is the 10th year of this tradition—a constant we've come to appreciate. Yet, if there has been one prevailing theme in 2025, it has been **change with intention**.

For one, I am not **Dr. Sancy Leachman**—our author for all prior letters. It would be impossible to reflect on this year without beginning with that change. After 12 years of leading our department, Sancy stepped down from her role as Chair and transitioned to an adjunct faculty role. Her tenure was marked by visionary leadership, during which she helped lift our department to new heights. We often say we stand on the shoulders of giants at OHSU Dermatology, and Sancy is among them—alongside **Drs. Alfons Krol, Neil Swanson, Frank Parker, Walter Lobitz, and Thomas Fitzpatrick**.



*Unveiling of Dr. Leachman's Chair's Portrait*

This January, I was honored to transition into the role of Interim Chair and entrusted with stewarding this department forward—one deeply shaped by the leaders who came before us.

While our departmental leadership shifted, larger changes were unfolding around us. We witnessed a federal transition with wide-ranging impacts on research funding. Academic medical centers nationwide faced unprecedented financial pressures. Here at OHSU, we saw major structural and leadership changes with the arrival of President **Dr. Shereef Elnahal**, Chief People Officer **Angela Sklenka**, and most recently our new CEO, **Tarek Salaway**.

These changes converged at a challenging moment, yet I have been deeply proud of how our department responded—confronting reality with resilience, staying grounded in purpose, and adapting without losing sight of who we are.

There's a quote I've reflected on often this year: "**Change your leaves, keep intact your roots.**" Our roots run nearly a century deep, beginning when **Dr. Lyle Kingery** was appointed head of what was then the dermatology division—a volunteer role with a big vision. Those roots remain firmly in place today in our mission:

***To advance the science and practice of dermatology through excellence and innovation in patient care, education, and discovery.***

Amid change, that mission has remained our anchor.

Thank you for being part of this department—through its seasons of constancy and transformation. It is your dedication, talent, and steadfast commitment that make our progress possible.

Alex Ortega Loayza, M.D., M.C.R.

***P.S. If you are willing and able to give this holiday season, please scan the QR code or visit [donate.ohsufoundation.org/derm](https://donate.ohsufoundation.org/derm). All gifts will support professional and educational development opportunities that are no longer included in our operating budget***



## CLINICAL CARE:

This year our faculty completed 56,554 patient visits, marking our most productive clinical year per FTE in department history! This reflects how our teams continually step up to meet challenges and underscores the collective efforts of our clinical leadership and operations committees, patient access specialists, medical support teams, and collections colleagues.

Our dermatopathology laboratory reached its highest-ever case volume while reducing the average turnaround time to only 1.2 days and pioneering Digital Whole Slide Imaging (WSI) integration into Epic.

We welcomed **Natoya Carruthers, P.A.-C.**, **Spandana Daryani, M.D.**, and **Jesse Liu, M.D.**, to our clinical faculty. **Melanie Miller, M.D.**, will join pediatric dermatology in March 2026, and **Aaron Peach, M.D., M.P.H.**, will join medical dermatology in August 2026.



*New faculty: Natoya Carruthers, Spandana Daryani, Jesse Liu*

## EDUCATION:

Our education program has continued to thrive under Program Director **Julie Dhossche, M.D.**, Associate Director **Jesse Keller, M.D., M.C.R.**, and Education Manager **Sarah Wilkinson**. Of note, this team is excited to now offer a pediatric dermatology-focused residency track, and has had over 100 applicants for this 1 spot!

We graduated five fantastic residents in 2025: **Yomna Amer, M.D.** (private practice, NM), **Milie Fang, D.O.** (peds derm fellowship, WA), **Erika Koh, M.D.** (dermpath fellowship, NY), **Spandana Daryani, M.D.** (OHSU Faculty, OR), and **Jennifer Strunck, M.D.** (Mohs fellowship, Utah). **Jeffery Hu, M.D.** (dermpath), **Hannah Porter, M.D.** (cutaneous oncology), and **Michael Shaughnessy, M.D.** (Mohs), completed their fellowship programs.

We welcomed the residency Class of 2028: **Gina Bash, M.D., Ph.D.**, **Ghida EL Banna, M.D., M.P.P.**, **Erin McClure, M.D.**, **Sarah Mullen, M.D.**, and **Sue Qin, M.D., Ph.D.** Our Mohs fellowship welcomed **Deyson Lorenzo Rio, M.D.**, and we also added **Amanda Arreola, M.D.**, as a cutaneous oncology fellow.



*New trainees (left to right): Gina Bash, Ghida EL Banna, Erin McClure, Sarah Mullen, Sue Qin, Deyson Lorenzo Rio, Amanda Arreola, Dalton Moller*

The Dermatology Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Fellowship Program, led by **Kim Sanders, P.A.-C.**, **Heather Onoday, F.N.P.**, and **Lara Clayton, P.A.-C.**, graduated their first APP Fellow **Colton Hafeman, D.N.P.**, and welcomed their second fellow **Dalton Moller, P.A.-C.** This program is one of only a handful in the US.

We also launched the first dermatology education series of the Oregon ECHO program, a statewide virtual education platform targeted to Oregon primary care providers. Led by the faculty team of **Jesse Keller, M.D., M.C.R.**, **Angela Jiang, M.D.**, and **Jordan Praytor, P.A.-C.**, the modules aim to equip Oregon primary care providers with the tools to better diagnose and manage common and complex skin conditions in their practice, thus lowering barriers to dermatology care (especially in rural areas).

## RESEARCH:

Our clinical trials unit has continued to diversify their trials portfolio, highlighted by an expansion of pediatric trials under **Tracy Funk, M.D.**, and oncological trials led by **Wesley Yu, M.D.** Our trials team supported 9 faculty

PI's in the management of an average of 26 active trials. **Eric Simpson, M.D., M.C.R.**, continues to serve as one of the world's top eczema expert, delivering 17 international and national lectures and publishing 30 papers. He finished and published the NIH-sponsored CASCADE trial, which enrolled over 1,000 babies from 4 states in collaboration with primary care rural practice-based research networks. The study found that applying full-body moisturizer to a child every day starting before 9 weeks of age can lower the chance of developing eczema by 16-24% by age two. I (**Dr. Alex Ortega**) also continue an active research focus on pyoderma gangrenosum, including conducting the NIH-sponsored DISTL-PG study and several clinical trials in the past year. Research Administrator **David Schlichting** joined OHSU's Clinical Research Advisory Committee, becoming the first representative from an individual department and giving us a voice in shaping future research initiatives.

The War on Melanoma project, under **Dr. Sancy Leachman**, began publishing data outcomes for their public health and education campaigns for melanoma, featuring a list of OHSU and department collaborators too long to list—but you know who you are! Of note **Tracy Petrie, Ph.D.**, published over seven years of curated images, over 35,000, collected with the MoleMapper app and reported it in Nature Scientific Data. This is the largest dataset of user-collected smartphone images of skin lesions currently available. In total, our faculty had **187 research publications** and presented **110 national and international presentations**—including 26 talks at the American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting.

### LEADERSHIP AND SPECIALIZATION:

Our pediatric dermatology team continues to position OHSU at the forefront of the specialty. **Tracy Funk, M.D.**, and **Alison Small, M.D.**, co-chaired the 2025 Society for Pediatric Dermatology Annual Meeting, which was attended by 15 OHSU faculty/alumni pediatric dermatologists! Continuing her leadership for advanced practice providers in dermatology, **Kim Sanders, P.A.-C.**, joined the Society of Dermatology Physician Associates board of directors as a director-at-large. **Tracy Funk, M.D.**, is the current chair for OHSU's Physician Advisory Committee. **Noah Hornick, M.D., Ph.D.**, served as president of the Oregon Dermatology Society, a role that **Dr. Alison Small** will take over in 2026.



OHSU at 2025 SPD Meeting

Our faculty collaborates across OHSU specialties to provide multidisciplinary patient care. We remain active in the Knight Cancer Institute's Melanoma Program, featuring our melanoma multidisciplinary clinic led by **Elizabeth Berry, M.D.**, melanoma clinical research by **Wesley Yu, M.D.**, and basic-science research lab work from **Drs. Noah Hornick, Rajan Kulkarni and Olivia Lucero**. Medical students **Jaelyn Roland-McGowan** and **Jordan Gillespie** led several melanoma outreach efforts, including mobile skin cancer education and screenings across the state, as well as providing our skin cancer curriculum to Oregon high schools. **Team Truck Melanoma** continues on its journey of providing skin cancer awareness and screening to the motor sports community.



Outreach (left to right): Elizabeth Berry delivers a sun safety presentation to OHSU construction workers; Knight mobile outreach team collaborating with Amy Snow for the Pendleton Dress Up Parade; Team Truck Melanoma providing sun safety education and screenings at Portland International Raceway

**Erin Foster, M.D., Ph.D.**, brings dermatological expertise to the Center for Vulvar Health, a multidisciplinary team that provides comprehensive care for women with complex vulvovaginal conditions across the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Our **CLEAR Eczema Center** collaborates with OHSU Allergy and Immunology to provide an eczema multidisciplinary clinic, create educational resources for patients, and host its 5th annual community symposium and 2nd annual awareness walk. Additionally, allergy and immunology faculty **Shyam Joshi, M.D.**, and **Karen Anstey, M.D.**, teamed with **Teri Greiling, M.D., Ph.D.**, to successfully advocate for Oregon Medicaid coverage for skin prick testing (for patients with allergic rhinitis) and for patch testing coverage (for eczema and contact dermatitis).

Our department remains a leader in virtual care at OHSU. Along with completing over 10,000 virtual visits, dermatology is the most utilized eConsult specialty at OHSU. Telemedicine Team Leader **Dr. Teri Greiling** has joined the AAD's Health Information Technology Committee. Our Director of Clinical Operations, **Melissa Swartz, M.B.A.**, presented our department's successes with telemedicine at University of Utah's Frontiers Symposium.

### ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Faculty Promotions: **Drs. Alex Ortega, Kevin White, Rajan Kulkarni** to Professor; **Drs. Julie Dhossche and Erin Foster** to Associate Professor; **Melissa Adair, D.N.P.**, to Assistant Professor
- Departures: **Sancy Leachman, M.D., Ph.D.**, **Benjamin Vazquez, M.D.**, **Ravi Samatham, Ph.D.**
- Joint faculty **Joshua Moreau, Ph.D.**, received a \$600,000 LEO Foundation Serendipity Grant for "Investigating the role of immune-olfactory signaling in inflammatory skin disease"
- Resident **Riyad Seervai, M.D., Ph.D.**, was selected as a "2025 Rising Derm Star" given to one of 20 top rising talents in dermatology to attend and present at the 2025 Fall Clinical meeting. He also was awarded the AAD's Resident Quality Improvement Award
- Resident **Victoria Orfaly, M.D.**, won first place for her resident presentation at the 2025 Oregon Dermatology Society Annual Meeting
- We hosted the 72nd Annual **Montagna Symposium on the Biology of Skin**, which featured over 175 attendees from across the globe for a weekend of world-class scientific talks
- **Erin Foster, M.D., Ph.D.**, was awarded a K12 grant called Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) for projects related to mucosal disease. She also published international consensus core outcomes for lichen sclerosis
- **Olivia Lucero, M.D.**, was awarded a career development award by the VA Portland Health Care/Veteran Affairs
- We hosted the **2025 Storrs Lectureship** titled "Private Equity and the Corporatization of Dermatology – Who wins? Who loses?". The lecture featured local and national experts and a robust discussion on the costs and benefits of privatization of medicine in the dermatology field
- Joint faculty **Melissa Wong, Ph.D.**, was awarded 3 new grant awards (Kuni Foundation, ACS, KCI-pilot) plus 2 grant awards to trainees, a collaborative research donor gift, 7 basic science publications and graduated 3 students
- 26 out of 40 of Portland Monthly Magazine's "Top Dermatology Medical Providers" were current faculty or residency program alumni (65%)



1949 - 2025

**NEIL A. SWANSON  
M.D.**

OHSU DEPARTMENT OF DERMATOLOGY CHAIR  
1984 - 2010

We mourn the loss of **Dr. Neil Swanson**, former Chair of OHSU Dermatology. Dr. Swanson helped shape the department and University that we are today, serving many key leadership roles across OHSU. In Dermatology, he recruited and mentored many faculty to who continue to form the core of our department. He expanded our clinical programs, and established a robust basic science research focus in skin cancer.

Clinically, he was an expert in Mohs surgery in reconstruction, where he published over 130 journal articles and served in leadership roles for national organizations. He enjoyed tremendously the training of dermatology residents and fellows – he trained more than 30 Mohs surgical fellows.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Dr. Swanson cherished life outside of medicine, especially his love of horses and the ranch life. We extend our condolences to Dr. Swanson's family, friends and colleagues during this time of loss. His vision and legacy will continue to inspire our work for years to come.

## 2025 YEARBOOK



2025 Resident Holiday Card  
"Shrek the Halls"



2025 Storrs Lecture  
Committee and Speakers



2025 Montagna Symposium  
Group Photo



2025 Resident Graduates



### NEW BABIES IN DERM!

Clara (Ge) (Sue Qin)

Leah Aurella (Jake Nelson)

Valeria Azielia (Emilia Cauich)

Maren Mariko (Lauren Ayala)



Harlow (Stephanie Bracken &  
Alisson Toruno)

Aiden Jacobi (Amanda Arreola)

Ella Zarina (Gina Bash)

Kennedy Mae (Ashley Hoff)