

(SK) INTEREST

AN OHSU DERMATOLOGY
RESIDENCY PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

A SEASON'S CHANGE

Commencement &
Other Upcoming
Events

Match Day Results

New Chief Residents

Resident & Faculty
Pearls

*Adventures in
Education and
Wellness*

Maui Derm to AAD

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A word from the PD

Happy spring and summer from our education team! We've had a busy winter with interviewing medical students, and are very pleased to announce the results of our Match, including into our new pediatric dermatology track



Our residents keep making us proud with their commitment to learning, patient care, and teamwork. They have done a great job representing OHSU at conferences and contributing to the literature, as you can see in the pages that follow. As a side note, several of them have grown their families this year and we are so delighted for them!

The two alumni we highlight in this feature, Dr. Nathan Rojek and Dr. Smriti Prasad, shared some of their favorite memories from residency, which focused on the bonding experiences in their residency groups and positive interactions with faculty. This has been a common thread from our alumni! From making differentials in our weekly morphology conferences to picking Resident of the Month to attending ODS and AAD together, OHSU Dermatology Residency remains a special group.

As a final note, if you can, please attend our first OHSU Dermatology Research Day! It will be the morning of Wednesday June 10th at the Rood Pavilion from 8-12:45 PM: this will be a chance for our trainees to showcase the research they have done in the past year. Come see all they have accomplished!

Warmly,

- Julie Dhossche, M.D.



Follow along!

@ohsuderatology



Upcoming Event

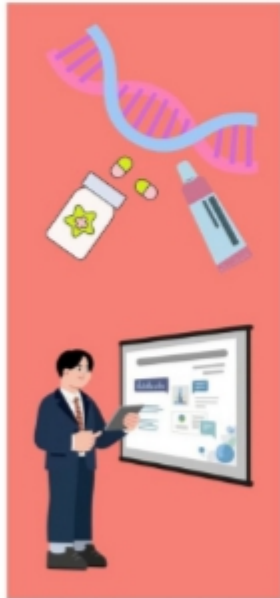
1st Annual OHSU Derm Research Day 6/10/26

Sharing and celebrating the final research projects by our graduating seniors, as well as posters and presentations by our trainees on research done/presented in the past academic year



OHSU DERMATOLOGY **RESEARCH DAY**

**POSTER VIEWING
RESIDENT RESEARCH
RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**



**JUNE
10
8A -
12:45P**

ROOD FAMILY PAVILION

Everyone is invited! Community Dermatologist, families, OHSU Faculty, medical students, etc.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SARAH WILKINSON WILKISAR@OHSU.EDU



Upcoming Event

Dermatology Commencement Ceremony 6/12/26

Congratulations to these highly accomplished individuals! We'll be celebrating the profound impact they've made at OHSU on June 12, at the Foundry in Lake Oswego, OR.



RESIDENTS

Nathan Egge, M.D., Ph.D.

Adeeb Haroon, M.D.

Ashley Hoff, M.D.

Victoria Orfaly, M.D.

Riyad Seervai, M.D., Ph.D.



Dalton Moller, PA-C

(Advanced Practice Provider Fellow)



Deyson Lorenzo Rios, M.D.

(Mohs Micrographic Surgery Fellow)



Upcoming Event

Walter C. Lobitz, M.D. Lectureship 6/19/26

Join us for the 2026 Lobitz Lecture featuring Dr. Victoria Werth (UPenn), an internationally renowned autoimmune skin diseases expert, as she discusses advances in dermatomyositis. Keynote lecture at 2 p.m. (reception to follow): [RSVP](#).



Walter C. Lobitz Jr., M.D. Lecture and Visiting Professorship

FROM CLINIC TO REGISTRY TO LAB AND BACK TO CLINIC



19 JUNE
2026



2 PM
(RECEPTION TO FOLLOW)



KNIGHT
CANCER
RESEARCH
BUILDING,
SOUTH
WATERFRONT
PORTLAND, OR

FEATURING



Victoria P. Werth, MS, MD

Professor of Dermatology, U Penn
Chief, Philadelphia VA Hospital

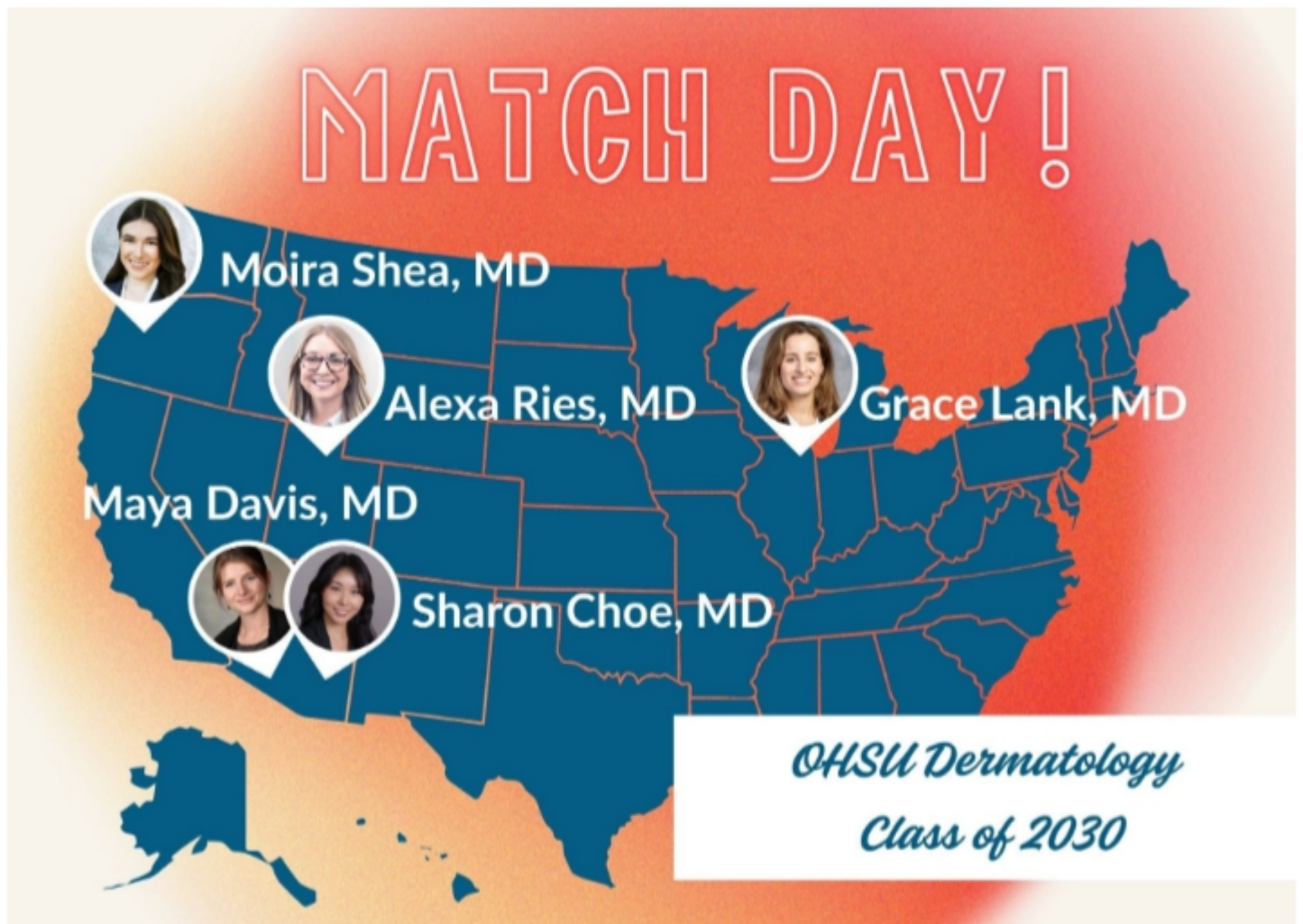
Dermatomyositis is a disease of increasing frequency. With over 650 dermatomyositis patients in my registry at Penn there is an opportunity to study many clinical aspects of the disease. Advancing therapies requires validated outcome measures accepted by the FDA and these studies will be reviewed. Advances in understanding biologic drivers of the disease have led to new therapies that are now being tested and will hopefully advance approved available drugs beyond IVIG, the one approved medication for dermatomyositis. These advances will be discussed.



Announcements

Match Day Results (Class of 2030)!

We're delighted to share the results of our match! The below group will be joining us in July of 2027!



Moira Shea, M.D. – OHSU School of Medicine, Portland

Maya Davis, M.D. – Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine, Phoenix

Alexa Ries, M.D. (Peds Derm Track) – University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake

Sharon Choe, M.D. – Creighton University School of Medicine, Phoenix

Grace Lank, M.D. – Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago

Chief Residents Transition

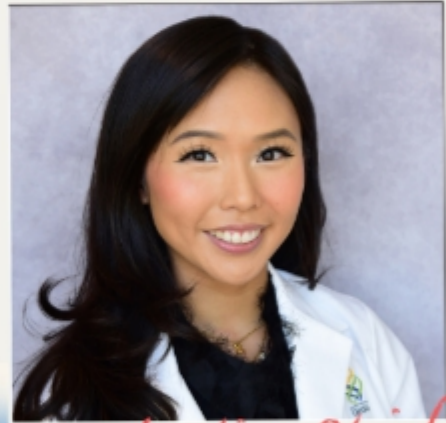
We want to thank Drs. Haroon, Egge, and Seervai for the professionalism, organization and leadership they provided as Chief Residents. Introducing our new chiefs for the next year:

- **Scheduling chief:** Shannon Throckmorton, M.D.
- **Didactics chief:** Claudia Lee, M.D.
- **Medical student and wellness chief:** Jake Smith, M.D.



Scheduling Chief

Shannon Throckmorton, M.D.



Didactics Chief

Claudia Lee, M.D.



Wellness & Med Student Chief

Jake Smith, M.D.



Education Adventures

MAUI DERM: Drs. Haroon, Orfaly, Bar, and Keffer take in a sunset cruise (right). Dr. Keffer delivers an interview (below)



AAD ANNUAL MEETING: Our residents had a great time learning, competing, exploring, and networking at the 2026 AAD Annual Meeting in Denver, CO!





Education Adventures (cont.)





Research Corner

Our residents are busy bees—here are some of their more recent publications.

Sinha A, **Seervai RNH**, Vlastelica KM, Fisher Thomas M, Hornick NI. When Checkpoint Inhibitors Break Barriers: Mechanisms and Challenges of irAEs of the Skin, Gastrointestinal Tract, and Lung. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2026;32(5):835-849. doi:10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-25-3352

Gonzalez CA, Wiggins CJ, Nguyen M, Carrigg AB, Bohlke AK, **Seervai RNH** (corresponding). Smooth Symmetric Plaques on the Face, Trunk, and Extremities. *Cutis.* 2025;116(4):E10-E13. doi:10.12788/cutis.1294

Seervai RNH, Cho WC, Curry JL, Molecular biomarkers applied to treatment of melanoma patients, book chapter in: Preito VG and Torres-Caballa ., eds. *Precision Molecular Pathology of Melanocytic Lesions* (in press).

Seervai RNH, Hidradenitis Suppurativa in Patients with Skin of Color: Emerging Therapies and Strategies for Effective Management. *Next Steps In Derm* January 2026.

Seervai RNH, Expanding the Treatment Landscape for Atopic Dermatitis, Hidradenitis Suppurativa, and Chronic Hand Eczema. *Next Steps in Derm* March 2026.

Seervai RNH, Tips for Attending Your First AAD Meeting. *Next Steps in Derm* March 2026.

Edge N, **Seervai RNH**, Berry EG, Jiang AJ, Keller JJ, Intertriginous lichenoid dermatitis following recombinant IL-2 and tumor-infiltrating lymphocyte therapy, presentation in the Gross & Microscopic session at the American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting (Denver, CO), March 2025

Braun, Natalie, Natalie Baker, Bryan L. Peacker, **Ghida El Banna**, Lauren Guggina, Kerry L. Reynolds, Kevin Sheng-Kai Ma, and Steven T. Chen. "Vitamin D deficiency is associated with lower overall survival in patients receiving immune checkpoint inhibitors for cancer: A population-based cohort study using the TriNetX database." *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology* 94, no. 2 (2026): 663-666.

Peacker, Bryan L., Beatrix B. Thompson, Sara Behbahani, Sydney Corey, Natalie Braun, Natalie M. Baker, **Ghida El-Banna** et al. "Disparities in immunotherapy treatment for mycosis fungoides and Sézary syndrome in the National Cancer Database." *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology* (2025).



Research Corner (cont.)

Braun N, Peacker BL, Baker N, **El Banna G**, Reynolds KL, Ma KS, Chen ST. "Effect of pre-existing atopic dermatitis on clinical outcomes of immune checkpoint therapy." J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol (2026) [online ahead of print]

Miller JR 3rd, **Nelson J**, Leachman SA, Yu W, Kashani-Sabet M. Applying patient-centered methodology to melanoma patients from the National Cancer Database to predict more accurately their sentinel lymph node biopsy outcome. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2026 Apr;94(4):1267-1269. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2025.12.029. PMID: 41386353.

Abstracts

El Banna G: Oral presentation at the Society of Investigative Dermatology 2026 Annual Meeting. Title "Risk of Skin and Subcutaneous Diseases In Pediatric HIV-Exposed Uninfected Individuals in the United States"

Additional Research News

Dr. Riyad Seervai placed third in the 2025 Fall Clinical Rising Derm Starts competition for residents and will be invited back to attend the 2026 Fall Clinical meeting this October.

Dr. Riyad Seervai received a travel scholarship from the Oregon Dermatology Society (ODS) to complete a two-week international dermatology rotation at the Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital (Bombay, India) this January.

Ghida El Banna was selected to attend the Society for Investigative Dermatology (SID) Future Leaders Retreat – May, 2026



➤ Wellness

Our program aims to create a supportive environment for our residents with attention to preventing burn-out and promoting well-being, in the years of physician training, which can be some of the more stressful and challenging times.

White elephant gift exchange/Adeeb birthday



Selfie and living room photos from our annual phone-a-thon to alumni!





Nathan Rojek, M.D. (Class of 2018)

Photo from my wedding last year with three of my co-residents and our Program Director (pictured from left to right: Dr. Jessica Smith, Dr. Megan Arthur, me and my wife Eleanor, Dr. Mariah Johnson, and Dr. Nicole Fett)



Where are you now?

I have been a faculty member in the Department of Dermatology at UC Irvine (UCI) ever since finishing residency. I am an Associate Professor and serve as the Director of Inpatient Dermatology. I specialize in inpatient consultative dermatology and complex medical dermatology. I have a passion for medical education and previously served as the Associate Director of the UCI Dermatology Residency Program for over 5 years, and I currently serve on the Admissions Committee and as a Dean's Scholar in the UCI School of Medicine. I was honored to receive the UCI School of Medicine Excellence in Teaching Award in 2019 and the Rising Star award in 2020. I have authored numerous research articles and textbook chapters, and have presented at many regional and national dermatology conferences. I am a past President of the Orange County Dermatologic Society, the current Secretary-Treasurer of the Pacific Dermatologic Association, and now serve on leadership committees for CalDerm, the Society of Dermatology Hospitalists, and the Medical Dermatology Society.

Favorite memories from OHSU?

Dr. Parker throwing individually wrapped Rice Krispie Treats to us at the end of clinic; Dr. Fett giving me a birthday gift bag while I was working in one of her busy Friday afternoon clinics; Dr. Bar teaching me how to wakeboard on the Willamette River; these are just a few examples demonstrating why my favorite thing from residency was the people...and a part of me will always be in Oregon because of it.



Smriti Prasad, M.D. (Class of 2024)

Where are you now?

After graduation, I pursued a 1 year fellowship in Mohs surgery at a private practice in Toledo. It was a high-volume Mohs practice where I also learned a lot about practice management, surgical cosmetics, and complex facial reconstruction. After finishing, I moved back to my hometown in west Texas, where I started my own dermatology, Mohs, and cosmetics practice.

It has been an incredible journey, full of challenges, surprises, and so many inspiring moments. We've been lucky to receive such a warm welcome back home and are steadily building the business, getting busier by the day. I'm sharing a photo from our recent open house, which happened last month.

Favorite memories from OHSU?

It's hard to honestly pick a favorite memory, there are so many! I'd say the two that stick out are all the conferences with the co-residents (especially AAD in New Orleans), which were great bonding experiences, and when my co-resident organized a baby shower for me in second year!



Ribbon cutting ceremony for my new clinic!

"Things I Learned"

The residents were asked to submit a pearl from a recent conference, didactics session, morphology, or clinic. Here's what they report!

- **Shannon Throckmorton:** For patients who are receiving rituximab, their family members CAN still receive live vaccines with the exception of the smallpox vaccine. The reason is the smallpox vaccine contains a live, replication-competent virus that can accidentally spread to the patient
- **Gina Bash:** Both topical Jak inhibitors and low-dose naltrexone have been shown to improve resistant nail lichen planus
- **Sarah Keffer:** External beam radiation with 5 Gy one time for Merkel cell carcinoma (regardless of staging, everyone in the RCT got it) is currently being investigated. They found this regimen had no side effects and equal efficacy compared to the current radiation protocol of over 50 Gy across 20-30 treatments.
- **Ashley Hoff :** A recently published retrospective cohort study showed that patients with CTCL treated with low-dose acitretin (≤ 50 mg weekly) demonstrated a significantly higher overall response rate with superior tolerability compared to patients treated with low-dose bexarotene.
- **Riyad Seervai:** From clinic with Dr. Hornick: A sharp curette is most effective in quick, painless, and bloodless paring of corns (vs an 11-blade). (It is notable that even Dr. Simpson, ever the skeptic, reported he is now a believer after seeing this in action!)

"Clinical Pearl"

In this section we want to highlight one pearl from a faculty member! Thank you, **Dr. Fett** for these words of wisdom:

Clinical Pearl: In an analytic review of prior publications assessing treatment response of mucous membrane pemphigoid to rituximab, the rituximab lymphoma protocol (375 mg/m² weekly for 4 weeks) statistically significantly outperformed the rheumatoid arthritis protocol (1000 mg on day 0 and day 14)

-Dr. Nicole Fett





Upcoming Talks

Mark your calendars! We have some excellent events lined up in our didactics curriculum

If you're interested in attending (in-person or virtual) email Sarah Wilkinson at wilkisar@ohsu.edu.

June 10

Resident Research Day

Location: OHSU Rood Pavilion

Time: 8:00 AM–12:45 PM

June 12

Resident & Fellow Graduation

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: The Foundry, Lake Oswego

June 19

Walter C. Lobitz, M.D., Lectureship with Victoria Werth, M.S., M.D.

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Knight Cancer Research Building, South Waterfront

Registration & information: [Lobitz Lecture](#)

September 18–20

Annual ODS Meeting

Location: The Ritz-Carlton, Portland

Registration: [2026 ODS Annual Meeting](#)





The (SK)INTEREST is a biannual residency program newsletter for the OHSU Department of Dermatology. We hope to provide updates and a view into residency life for department friends, family, alumni and staff.

If you have any questions, topic ideas, or would be interested in being a featured alumni, please contact Julie Dhosshe at dhossche@ohsu.edu.

GIVING

Our residency program relies on philanthropy to support the holistic education of the next generation of dermatologists.

All gifts will enrich and support our vital resident experiences including attending educational conferences, purchasing technology, and promoting scholarly projects.

[Make a Gift](#)

Donations are tax-deductable to the fullest extent allowed by law (Federal ID Number 23-7083114).

Acknowledgements:

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