



THE TEXAS Dermatologist

A Newsletter for members of the Texas Dermatological Society www.texasdermatology.org Winter 2021



**TDS 2022
Spring Annual
Meeting**
April 29-30, 2022
**The Westin Galleria
Dallas**

Hotel Room Rate: \$169/night

To Make Your Reservation:
(972) 934-9494

Program Host: Travis
Vandergriff, MD and UTSW

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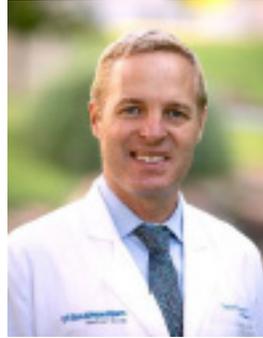
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2021 President's Message

Travis Vandergriff, MD



Dear Friends and Colleagues

As the year end approaches, we have a lot to look forward to. The holiday season sets the stage for gatherings with friends and family while also inviting us to reflect on the year past and look ahead to the year to come. It's also a time when our practices can feel quite busy as we try to attend to requests from patients who are eager to be treated before the end of the year. I hope that you will find that perfect balance of patient care and time away to enjoy with loved ones.

Reflecting on 2021, I look back on the year as one of both challenges and successes. Many of the challenges relate to the pandemic, but so do the successes. I continue to be utterly impressed by the endurance of our professional society and the individual members that make up our group. Some of the highlights this year for the Texas Derm Society include: partnering with the ASDS to promote a sun safety art contest among local elementary schools and high schools; securing funding to build a shade structure at a Dallas-area high school; engaging members to participate in legislative conferences at the state and national levels; and promoting scholarly activities among dermatology trainees in Texas.

Some of my favorite professional experiences of the year are always the semiannual meetings of the TDS. I enjoy the stellar scientific programs, the conversations with colleagues, and the opportunity to hear about interesting cases and upcoming research from residents in dermatology. Mark your calendars for April 29-30, 2022; we are planning to meet in person at the Westin Galleria in Dallas and will have an outstanding event.

As we wind down 2021 and look ahead to 2022, I'm excited about what the future holds for the TDS. Your engagement with the society makes us a vital and dynamic professional group.

Wishing you all the best for a happy holiday season and a happy, healthy new year.

Travis Vandergriff, MD

Keep us posted! Send news of your recent appointments, accomplishments, announcements, etc. We are unable to reprint abstracts or published articles; however, we will list the citation of any articles that were published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Send information to Laura.Madole@texmed.org for inclusion in the next newsletter.

by Eric Woomeer

2021 was a marathon year for the Texas Legislature and advocacy community with Governor Greg Abbott calling three consecutive special sessions since July. The First Called Special Session ended only with work done on the Senate side, as Senators passed all the Governor's agenda items listed on the first call: bail reform, election integrity, border security, social media censorship, funding for the Texas Legislature and legislative support agencies, family violence prevention, transgender youth sports, a "thirteenth check" for teacher retirement system, Critical Race Theory, and appropriations. However, House Democrats broke quorum and fled to Washington DC to seek federal intervention on controversial elections legislation, meaning all the bills died for the session. But immediately after the session ended, Gov. Abbott called the Legislature back for a second round, adding five new items to the Second Called Special Session: limiting abortion reducing drugs, primary elections, radioactive waste, employment mandates, and state legislature quorum requirements.

With tensions high and patience running thin in both chambers, a handful of House Democrats returned to Texas on August 19th to resume business. On August 25th, Gov. Abbott added additional items to the Second Call related to vaccine mandates. Except for the vaccine mandates and legislation related to transgender student athletes, the other priority items passed. The Governor's Third Called Special Session started on September 20th, with a focus on redistricting, appropriating the \$16 billion in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and issues related to transgender student athletes. Two days later, Gov. Abbott added two additional items related to additional property tax relief and a constitutional amendment giving magistrates the discretion to deny bail under some circumstances to people accused of certain violent, sexual, or trafficking offenses. On September 30th, one additional item was added to the call, asking lawmakers to pass legislation increasing the penalties for illegal voting that were reduced in Senate Bill No. 1, which passed

In 2022, all statewide elected officials as well as House and Senate members are up for re-election in November, 2022. The filing deadline is December of this year for candidates. The House and Senate have had several members announce their intention to retire and/or to not seek re-election. Some of the key Senate announcements include Senate Finance Chair Jane Nelson; longstanding members from the Valley (Sen. Eddie Lucio) and the Panhandle (Sen. Kel Seliger), and most recently, Chair of Senate Education, Sen. Larry Taylor. On the House side, 24 members have declared they will not be returning. Among these announcements are a veteran lawmaker of 30 years, Rep. Garnet Coleman from Houston, and House State Affairs Chair, Rep. Chris Paddie, who oversaw the legislation

that addressed Winter Storm Uri. Other members are seeking higher offices at the congressional level as well as statewide offices, and still other members are paired together in the same district, meaning only one will return. All told, there could be as many as seven new senators and 30+ new Representatives.

With the primaries just a few months away, there have been some interesting changes for the Texas House, beginning with two special elections that occurred recently. In House District 10, Brian Harrison (R-Midlothian), a former Trump Administration Health and Human Services staffer, won the run-off to fill the unexpired term of former Rep. Jake Ellzey (R-Midlothian) who was elected to Congress. Harrison defeated former Rep. John Wray (R-Waxahachie) who held the seat prior to Ellzey.

Then on November 2nd, House District 118 in San Antonio flipped parties, with former Republican State Rep. John Lujan defeating Democrat Frank Ramirez, former City of San Antonio Zoning and Planning Director. The seat had previously been held by Democrat Rep. Leo Pacheco, who vacated the open seat earlier in the year. Rep. Lujan will assume the seat for the remainder of the current term, which ends in January 2023. Lastly, Rep. Ryan Guillen, who represents the South Texas area, switched from the Democrats to the Republican party, partly because the new map of his district was drawn to favor GOP candidates. The margin in the House is now 86 Republicans and 64 Democrats.

Voters also approved eight constitutional amendments on the November, 2021 ballot ranging from charitable raffles for professional rodeo activities to residential homestead exemptions for surviving spouses of a member of the military killed during the line of duty.

The 88th Texas Legislature will convene in January 2023, and while interim activities in the House and Senate were slowed by the special sessions, House Speaker Dade Phelan recently called on the House Committee Chairs to submit interim charge recommendations. We anticipate the Senate to put out a similar call after the Texas primaries. We are actively working with TDS leadership to begin formulating our interim priorities as well as the Society's potential legislative agenda for 2023. We will continue to keep TDS members updated as we see interim activities begin to take shape as well as on any decisions heading into the next regular session.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at Eric@EricWoomeer.com if you have any questions or concerns. As always, thank you for allowing me and my team to represent you at the Texas Capitol!

Hey Residents!

We can't wait to see you at the spring 2022 conference in Dallas, Texas. There will be a Resident Round Table lunch held on Friday, April 29th from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Westin Galleria. Join your fellow residents, along with some of our TDS member experts to have an open discussion, along with Q&A, on 'what I wish I would have known upon graduation!' Please encourage all of your fellow residents to join the TDS – it's FREE! Feel free to reach out to your TDS Resident Board Members – Paige Hoyer, MD (pehoyer@utmb.edu) and Parth Patel, MD (phpatel2292@gmail.com) if you have any questions or needs!



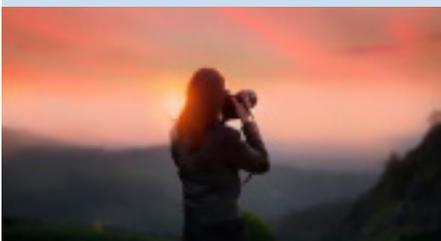
TDS has funded two shade structures since 2019. Above is the TDS funded AAD 2019 Shade Structure at Veterans Memorial Elementary School in Roma, Texas.

Adopt-A-Shade 2021

The TDS joined forces with the AAD and Neutrogena this year to support the AAD Adopt-A-Shade program! The school the TDS selected to receive the shade is the 'W.T. White High School' in Dallas, TX. W.T. White High School and the TDS are in the process of having the shade installed. Once installed our TDS President will attend the ribbon cutting event and we will share pictures of the shade structure with the membership of the TDS!



Fall 2022 Meeting
September 22-23, 2022
Hyatt Lost Pines Resort & Spa
Bastrop, TX



Annual TDS Member Art Show

The TDS will host another annual member art show at the spring 2022 meeting. Are you a photographer? Painter? Sculptor? We would love to see your work and share with all TDS colleagues and attendees in Dallas!

All art submitted should be flat pieces if possible. Members can bring the art piece, as well as a description and we will display them throughout the meeting in the exhibit hall. Feel free to place your art in the area for viewing anytime during meeting hours, we can't wait to see what you bring!

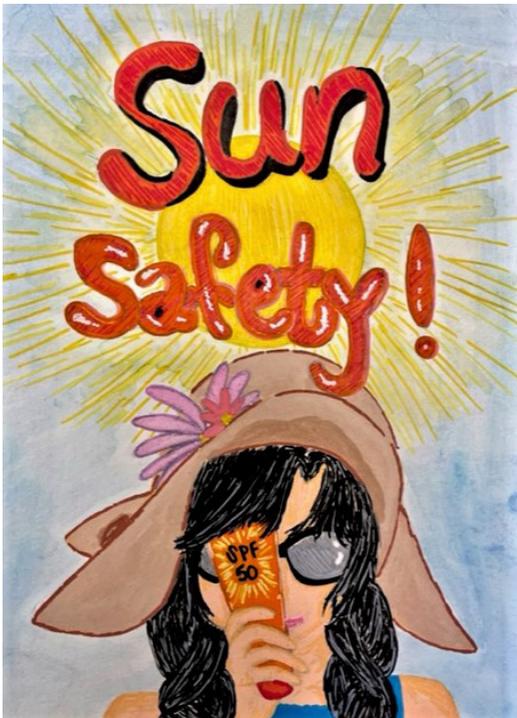
Be sure to mark on the registration form your interest in the art show, and please include a brief description of the piece(s) you'll be bringing to display!

1st Annual TDS Sun Safety Art Contest

The ASDSA and the TDS teamed up this fall to hold the first ever TDS Sun Safety Art Contest for students in Dallas ISD. Winners, based on grade levels, were selected from the art contest committee. Students were encouraged to create a unique piece of artwork that includes the topic of Sun Safety. They had to also include a write-up of what they intended to do with the prize money, should they win. Prizes are being awarded to students as well as the schools they attend.

Below are the first place art pieces from the Elementary School category and High School Category.

Congratulations to these winners and to their respective schools! We're so excited to continue partnering with the ASDSA to promote Sun Safety to Texas children in the future through this contest!



1ST PLACE HIGH SCHOOL

Sandy Nguyen

Grade 11

North Dallas High School



1ST PLACE ELEMENTARY

Charlette Suitor

Grade 5

TL Marsalis Elementary School

Thank You to Our 2021 Annual Fall Meeting Supporters

TDS SPONSORS

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TDS FUTURE PARTNER SUPPORTERS

Thank you to the following members who contributed to the "Future Partner" program

Kirstin Altman, MD

Alma Berlingeri-Ramos, MD

John Browning, MD

David F. Butler, MD

Turner Caldwell, III, MD

Conner Chan, MD

Heidi Dearborn, DO

Avered Dotson, MD

Jennie Ann Ozog Duffy, MD

Taylor Duke, MD

Katherine Fiala, MD

Emily Fridlington, MD

Julie Fridlington, MD

Bernard Gibson, MD

Ronald Grimwood, MD

Catherine Harrell, MD

Laura Haygood, MD

Beverly Held, MD

Jay Hendrix, MD

Kathleen Kroger, MD

Keagan Lee, MD

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Rachel Limmer, MD

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Kehinde Ogunmakin, MD

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Robin Roberts, MD

Kim Ross, MD

Lindy Ross, MD

Russell Rowe, MD

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William Tausend, MD



The Physicians Benevolent Fund Giving Physicians Help and Hope

For 60 years, PBF has provided physicians with financial assistance during times of personal hardship, for treatment of impairing conditions, and when natural disaster strikes.



The Physicians Benevolent Fund
Physicians Caring for Texans

texmed.org/PBF

Click "Donate" to support Texas physicians in need.

Welcome Our New TDS Members!

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Katie E. Homan, MD, Belton
Mary Janine Oswald Hopkins, MD, Southlake
Lauren Michelle Sadowsky, MD, San Antonio
Erica Ilena Stevens, MD, Austin
Mackenzie Rachel Wehner, MD, Houston

ALLIED HEALTH MEMBERS

Gabriella Rachelle Rabago, PA-C, Boerne
Heather Rottjakob, PharmD, Liberty

RESIDENT MEMBERS

Pavela G. Bambekova, MD, San Antonio
Julie Boisen, MD, Temple
Olivia Chukwuma, MD, Galveston
Allison L. Limmer, MD, Dallas
Julianna L. Martel, MD, Houston
Austinn C. Miller, MD, Houston
Talia Jayne Noorily, MD, Houston
Emily M. Powell, MD, Houston
Alissa L. Redko, MD, Galveston
Cecil Jordan Staples, MD, Austin
Lindsey B. West, MD, Dallas
Emily Ann Williams, Resident, Galveston
Yi Yang, MD, Irving
Anna Marie Zanot, MD, Austin
Sophia Zhang, MD, Dallas

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Members in the News

Seemal R. Desai, MD, was reappointed to serve another four-year term as a member of the FDA's Pharmacy Compounding Advisory Committee (PCAC). As the only dermatologist on this committee, he will serve in this role until September 2025. This group provides the FDA with guidance related to scientific, technical and medical issues concerning drug compounding under sections 503A and 503B of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. Congratulations to Dr. Desai on this achievement and for representing our specialty at the federal level!

Ryan Hick, MD was recently elected to be a Director on the American Board of Dermatology. Dr. Hick will be a Director-Elect for CY2022 and his first three-year term will begin as a Director in 2023.

Desai SR. The Impact of Acne, Atopic Dermatitis, Skin Toxicities and Scars on Quality of Life and the Importance of a Holistic Treatment Approach. *Clin Cosmet Investig Dermatol*. 2021 Jun 14;14:623-632. doi: 10.2147/CCID.S315846. PMID: 34163201; PMCID: PMC8213955.

Freeman EE, McMahan DE, **Desai SR**, Fox LP. Response to: "Comment on 'The spectrum of COVID-19-associated dermatologic manifestations: An international registry of 716 patients from 31 countries'". *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2021;84(6):e293-e294. doi:10.1016/j.jaad.2021.02.056

Desai SR, Khanna R, Glass D, et al. Embracing diversity in dermatology: Creation of a culture of equity and inclusion in dermatology. *Int J Womens Dermatol*. 2021;7(4):378-382. Published 2021 Aug 5. doi:10.1016/j.ijwd.2021.08.002

[The novel AKT inhibitor afuresertib suppresses human Merkel cell carcinoma MKL-1 cell growth.](#)

Wu JH, Limmer AL, Narayanan D, Doan HQ, Simonette RA, Rady PL, Tying SK. *Clin Exp Dermatol*. 2021 Dec;46(8):1551-1554. doi: 10.1111/ced.14798. Epub 2021 Aug 26. PMID: 34115902

[Antibiotic resistance in dermatology: The scope of the problem and strategies to address it.](#)

Shah RA, Hsu JI, Patel RR, Mui UN, Tying SK. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2021 Sep 20;S0190-9622(21)02502-0. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2021.09.024. Online ahead of print. PMID: 34555484

Phage Therapy Moore SA and Moore AY: [IN: Overcoming Antimicrobial Resistance of the Skin](#) (eds: Stephen K Tying, Stephen A Moore, Angela Yen Moore and Omar Lupi) Springer, Basel pp 195-202; 2021

The Role of Biofilms and the Microbiome Moore SA and Moore AY: [IN: Overcoming Antimicrobial Resistance of the Skin](#) (eds: Stephen K Tying, Stephen A Moore, Angela Yen Moore and Omar Lupi) Springer, Basel pp 203-214; 2021

New Classes of Broad-Spectrum Antibiotics and New Mechanisms of Delivery Moore SA, Tying SK and Moore AY [IN: Overcoming Antimicrobial Resistance of the Skin](#) (eds: Stephen K Tying, Stephen A Moore, Angela Yen Moore and Omar Lupi) Springer, Basel pp 215-224; 2021

Mechanisms of Nonretroviral Resistance George S and Swali R [IN: Overcoming Antimicrobial Resistance of the Skin](#) (eds: Stephen K Tying, Stephen A Moore, Angela Yen Moore and Omar Lupi) Springer, Basel pp 57-74; 2021

[Efficacy and safety of proactive treatment with twice-weekly topical Cal/BD foam in patients with plaque psoriasis undergoing HPA-axis testing: a PSO-LONG subgroup analysis.](#)

Papp K, Adamski Z, Guenther L, Liljedahl M, Miasik-Pogodzinska A, Szponar-Bojda A, Lynde C, Nutt T, Mørch MH, Tying S, Werschler W, Reich A, Sadick N, Turchin I, Lacour JP. *J Dermatolog Treat*. 2021 Aug 9:1-8. doi: 10.1080/09546634.2021.1959501. Online ahead of print. PMID: 34365872

[Reactivation of Chagas disease in organ transplant recipients: Panniculitis as the only skin manifestation in a three case series.](#)

Souza BCE, Ang PL, Cerulli FG, Ponce JJ, Tying SK, Oliveira W. *Australas J Dermatol*. 2021 May;62(2):231-232. doi: 10.1111/ajd.13478. Epub 2020 Sep 27. PMID: 32981047

[Long-Term Safety and Efficacy of Risankizumab in Patients with Moderate-to-Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis: Results from a Phase 2 Open-Label Extension Trial.](#)

Papp KA, de Vente S, Zeng J, Flack M, Padilla B, Tying SK. *Dermatol Ther (Heidelb)*. 2021 Apr;11(2):487-497. doi: 10.1007/s13555-021-00490-3. Epub 2021 Jan 29. PMID: 33512666

Congratulations to the Winners of the 2021 Annual Fall Meeting Resident Podium and Poster Competitions

PODIUM WINNERS

1st Place

Lindsey West, MD – UTSW Dallas

[Pediatric Nail Matrix Nevi: Clinical and Histopathologic Challenges](#)

Lindsey West, M.D., Gina Rainwater, M.D.
University of Texas Southwestern, Dallas, Texas, 75235
ProPath, 1355 River Bend Drive, Dallas, Texas, 75247

A six-year-old male presented to clinic for evaluation of a new dark brown linear band on his left fifth fingernail, with linear streaked pigmentation distally extending from the hyponychium over distal digit. After 6 six months of clinically monitoring, the band rapidly grew to involve over 75% of the nail plate. Histologic examination of nail matrix demonstrated a broad proliferation of dendritic melanocytes arranged in singles along the basal layer with few discrete nests without cytologic atypia or significant pagetoid scatter. Overall, these findings were favored to represent a nail melanocytic nevus (NMN). Pediatric NMN often present as a clinical dilemma as they are associated with rapid growth, large size, and histologic atypia when compared to adult NMNs. Distal hyponychial Hutchinson's sign is considered a clue to subungual melanoma in adults, however in children, has recently been reported as a reassuring sign in pediatric NMN and termed longitudinal brush hyperpigmentation. These clinical and histopathologic differences are important to highlight when caring for pediatric patients with NMN to spare morbidity of aggressive treatments. It is also important to consult with dermatopathologists trained in nail cases for histopathologic examination.

Lee JH, Lim Y, Park JH, Lee JH, Jang KT, Kwon EJ, Lee DY. Clinicopathologic features of 28 cases of nail matrix nevi (NMNs) in Asians: Comparison between children and adults. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2018 Mar;78(3):479-489.

2nd Place

Paige Hoyer, MD – UTMB Galveston

[Comfort in Performing Cosmetic and Surgical Procedures for Skin of Color Patients: a national survey among U.S. dermatology residents](#)

Paige Hoyer, MD; Gregory Ugoh, BS; Lindy Ross, MD
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston,
Department of Dermatology

Disparities between patients with Skin-of-Color (SOC) and dermatology providers with SOC remain prominent.¹ Graduating U.S. dermatology residents should be comfortable caring for this underserved population. We aimed to evaluate U.S. dermatology residents' comfort in performing cosmetic and surgical procedures in their patients with SOC. 143 dermatology residency programs identified using the AMA-FREIDA online database. A survey link was sent to the program directors and chief residents to forward to all current residents. 57 responses were gathered with roughly equal representation from each PGY year. Surprisingly, 12% of residents reported they do not see SOC patients daily. Half of respondents did not feel comfortable assessing SOC patients for cosmetic consultations or performing filler augmentation. Roughly only a quarter of residents felt comfortable counseling and performing laser procedures on SOC patients. A majority of residents felt comfortable performing surgical procedures. There is a need for educational equality in cosmetic consultation, cosmetic procedures, and surgical procedures. Our survey suggests that comfort levels for lasers can be improved with attending lectures and conferences dedicated to SOC patient care. Increasing educational exposure and comfort level may translate into better patient care and improved patient comfort.

(Continued on next page)

3rd Place

Matthew Arffa, MD – UT Austin Dell Medical School

Video Based Coaching for Dermatology Resident Surgical Education

Authors: Arffa ML¹, Leszczynska MA¹, Fox MC¹, Hollmig ST¹

Institution: ¹University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Dermatology

Location: Austin, Texas

Introduction: Video-based coaching (VBC) is an up-and-coming form of medical education. VBC is where a surgeon records a procedure and then reviews that recording with a surgical coach, much like how professional athletes review video footage of their performance with a coach. VBC has become a staple for professional athletes, but it is a new concept in medicine—especially dermatology. Despite the growing interest in video-based training in medicine, especially the surgical subspecialties, there is no research in the dermatology literature on VBC. In our residency program, we performed a pilot study to demonstrate the feasibility and potential value of VBC in the surgical training of dermatology residents.

Methods: 4 first-year dermatology residents recorded themselves performing a wide local excision on a patient. The residents then viewed the recording on their own and scored themselves using a standardized rubric. The residents then had a one-on-one coaching session with a dermatologic surgeon. The coaches also scored residents' performance using the same standardized rubric. To mitigate risks during the COVID19 pandemic, the coaching sessions were performed virtually via Zoom. The residents also performed pre- and post-study surveys.

Results: On average, residents spent 31.5 minutes reviewing their surgeries on their own and scoring themselves. Coaches spent 13.8 minutes reviewing the surgeries and scoring the residents. The post-study survey demonstrated that all residents found VBC to be helpful in their education, that it required minimal extra time, and that VBC should be used as a regular component of their training.

Conclusion: VBC is an under-utilized form of surgical training that can aid in assessing a resident's performance, offers a socially distant form of education, and can potentially enhance their education. Residency programs should consider instituting VBC as part of their curriculum.

POSTER WINNERS

1st Place

Julianna Martel, MD – UT Houston

Molecular evidence for selinexor as treatment for Merkel cell carcinoma

Julianna Martel¹, Brooke R. Bartley¹, Stephen A. Moore¹, Rebecca A. Simonette¹, Peter L. Rady¹, Hung Q. Doan², and Stephen K Tyring¹

¹ Department of Dermatology, The University of Texas McGovern Medical School, Houston, TX

²Department of Dermatology, Division of Internal Medicine, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX

Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC) is a rare neuroendocrine carcinoma of the skin associated with high metastatic potential and lethality. Despite rising incidence rates, current treatments fall short of effectively treating patients affected by MCC. The limited efficacy of existing treatments demonstrates the need to evaluate alternative MCC treatments. Our laboratory previously showed that treatment of Merkel cell polyomavirus (MCPyV) – positive Merkel cell carcinoma (MCCP) cell lines with the nuclear export inhibitor, selinexor, resulted in the downregulation of the large T (LTA) and small T (sTA) antigens, which are major viral oncoproteins that modulate MCC carcinogenesis. Our current study explores selinexor's impact on MCC tumor biomarkers and demonstrates that it may be a clinically significant treatment modality for MCC. After treating two MCCP cell lines, MKL-1 and MS-1, with increasing doses of selinexor in vitro for 72 hours, results showed that increasing selinexor concentrations resulted in a downregulation in the protein expression of all tested MCC biomarkers in both cell lines. Notably, the biomarkers HMGB1, ATOH1, and survivin demonstrated biologically significant reductions in protein expression. This reduction in tumor-specific biomarkers, corresponding to increasing doses of selinexor, indicates the clinical viability of selinexor as a MCCP treatment.

2nd Place

Allison Good, MD – UTMB Galveston

A Rare Case of Aggressive Cytotoxic T-Cell Lymphoma in a Patient on Dupilumab

Allison Good, MD1 ; Renat Ahatov, BSA2 ; Shelby Tipton, MD3 ; Brandon Goodwin, MD1,4; Brent Kelly, MD1,4 1Department of Dermatology; 2School of Medicine; 3Department of Internal Medicine; 4Department of Dermatopathology The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, TX

Cutaneous T-cell Lymphomas (CTCL) are a heterogeneous group of neoplasms with monoclonal T-cell proliferation involving the skin. Primary cutaneous gamma delta T-cell lymphoma (PCGD-TCL) is a rare variant of CTCL that makes up only 1% of CTCL. PCGD-TCL is aggressive, with a 5-year survival rate of <5%. The clinical presentation of PCGD-TCL is variable, but typically shows large, indurated plaques or nodules with superimposed ulceration, erosions, and necrosis. Of note, there have been several

recent reports of CTCL exacerbation in the setting of dupilumab use. CTCL may clinically resemble atopic dermatitis, and histopathologic examination does not always readily reveal CTCL. Herein, we present a case of a 62-year-old female who was on dupilumab for a presumed diagnosis of atopic dermatitis who presented with a generalized rash with widespread polycyclic erosions and ulcers. The results of the biopsy showed a dense mixed hematolymphoid dermal and subcutaneous infiltrate with perivascular medium to large atypical CD45+/CD3+/CD4-/CD8-/CD5-/CD7-/CD30-/CD56-/Granzyme-B+/Perforin+/TIA-1-lymphocytes with cerebriform nuclear contour and hyperchromatic nuclei. Overall, the histopathological features, immunophenotype, molecular studies, and presentation were consistent with an aggressive cytotoxic T-cell lymphoma diagnosis, and PCGD-TCL was the most favored. This case adds to the growing literature about worsening CTCL following treatment with dupilumab.



APEX, a high performance collaborative, is a **physician-owned** entity comprised of independent specialists working to improve care and efficiency outcomes through the strength of real-time care delivery data.

Information is the physicians' strength and is attractive to payors. APEX will compete with national PPO networks as a physician-owned real-time outcomes network of physicians and high-performance suppliers.

APEX was born in Dallas and spread to Houston, then New Orleans and is now in twenty markets from the East coast to the West coast, and was the brainchild of Dr. John Moore (Otolaryngology) and Mr. Rick Grizzle, formerly of Cigna. Whenever we go into a new market and explain the concepts to a physician specialist, they are ready to jump on board. The concept is unique, and it works in any payor system.

As the Dallas Market Leader and Chairman of the Dallas Board, I have found that physicians with strength share three concepts: 1) they deliver more value, 2) make more money and 3) with less cost and hassle. Plus, I feel like it making the practice of medicine fun again.

So much has happened just in the last two years. We are growing like wildfire across the nation. Physician specialists are ready for change. The time is now! I am excited for our profession and the value we can bring, not just in our own independent offices but on the broad geopolitical front. No one, anywhere is doing anything like this, and it all began right here in Texas.

We have constructed our own independent insurance plan with our own specialists. The Stewardship Plan is not only for physicians to join as independent employers, but we are gathering real-time data to use for value-based care. It's an incredible concept, and employers across the country want to be access this new concept in healthcare. We are, simply put, revolutionizing healthcare.

If you are an independent provider and are interested in joining APEX, contact Dr. Ellen Turner at eturner@dermlaserdallas.com or Mr. Brad Stiles at bstiles@revelationmd.com for more information.

3rd Place

Jordan Buckley, MD – UT Houston

Selinexor Downregulates DNA Repair and Synthesis Genes in Merkel Cell Carcinoma Cell Lines

Jordan Buckley¹, Stephen Moore¹, Deepika Narayanan¹, Brooke Bartley¹, Rebecca Simonette¹, Hung Q. Doan², Peter L. Rady¹, Stephen K. Tyring¹

¹ Department of Dermatology, The University of Texas McGovern Medical School, Houston, TX

² Department of Dermatology, Division of Internal Medicine, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX.

Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC) is a rare but aggressive neuroendocrine skin cancer that affects elderly, immunocompromised patients in sun-exposed areas and has mortality rates of 55- 84%. In the U.S., Merkel cell polyomavirus (MCPyV) initiates MCC carcinogenesis in >80% of cases through virally encoding tumor-antigens, small T (sT) and large T (LT), which induce the host's tumor-suppressing pathways. Recently, MCC-targeted therapy has focused on

MCPyV LT and sT mRNAs, which require an exportin transporter to relocate to the human cytoplasm for translation. Selinexor, a selective exportin 1 (XPO1) inhibitor, has been FDA approved for multiple myeloma treatment. In this study, we explore whether selinexor's effects on MCPyV may impact MCC cell lines through downregulation of DNA repair and DNA synthesis genes following the inhibition of LT and sT antigen expression. Human MCC cell lines, MKL-1 and MS-1, which contain integrated MCPyV, were treated with increasing doses of selinexor or vehicle control for 72 hours, followed by sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and immunoblotting utilizing antibodies against DNA repair and DNA synthesis proteins (ATM, ATR, RAD51, MLH1, Topoisomerase II, and Ligase I). Treatment of MCPyV infected cell lines with selinexor resulted in a significant dose-dependent downregulation of DNA repair and synthesis proteins and suggests that selinexor may inhibit MCC via its effect on MCPyV oncogene expression.



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for the latest news!**



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Angela Yen Moore, M.D.

As you may have seen in emails from our AAD, below are a few items that the AAD has been addressing:

FDA Approves iPLEDGE Program Modifications:

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has announced important changes to the iPLEDGE Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) program for health care providers, patients, and pharmacies. Most notably, the patient risk categories were reduced from three options to two: patients who can get pregnant and patients who cannot get pregnant. These changes will go into effect on December 13, 2021. Unfortunately, the iPLEDGE REMS program plans to unveil a new platform for physicians, patients, and pharmacies. The rollout could cause significant issues in workflow for dermatologists, creating undue burden and difficulties prescribing isotretinoin.

- All new materials can be downloaded or ordered by visiting ipledgeprogram.com beginning December 13, 2021.
- For complete information on the new iPLEDGE REMS requirements and to learn more about the new QR code for patients, please visit the [iPLEDGE REMS website](#) or contact the iPLEDGE REMS Contact Center at 866-495-0654.

Advocacy in Opposition of Medicare Cuts

247 members of the House of Representatives joined a letter led by Reps. Ami Bera, MD (D-CA) and Larry Bucshon, MD (R-IN) to Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) urging them to work with Congress to avert the nearly 10% Medicare cuts expected to go into effect on January 1, 2022. The letter calls on House Leadership to provide financial stability to physicians and other health care providers as it relates to the 2% sequester cut, 4% pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) cut resulting from the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act, and the 3.75% cut related to the implementation of CMS' policy changes to Evaluation and Management codes. The letter also calls on congressional leadership to work with stakeholders on long-term reform to provide stability to the Medicare physician payment system. AADA members' participation in the 2021 AADA Virtual Legislative Conference directly contributed to this support.

AMA Scope of Practice

The AADA works closely with the AMA to oppose scope of practice expansion efforts nationwide. The AADA has been a Steering Committee member of the AMA Scope of Practice Partnership (SOPP) since its inception in 2006. The AMA SOPP has awarded more than \$2 million dollars to state medical and national special societies to retain physician-led team-based care. Most recent grants will support 2020 legislative campaigns in Indiana, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota.

Please email me at acderm@acderm.com if you have any issues or concerns that you feel need to be addressed at the AAD level, and I can assist in developing and presenting a resolution to the Advisory Board.

Praying for you and your loved ones during these challenging times!

Have a blessed holiday season!

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INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE TDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

Please email laura.madole@texmed.org if you're interested in becoming more involved with the TDS! New leadership is nominated in the spring and voted in by membership at each spring meeting!