

## Letter from the Department Interim Chair/Program Director

What a year! Growth like this doesn't grow on trees ladies and gentlemen. Our program is expanding by leaps and bounds in every facet of academic life. We have nearly doubled our faculty compliment, expanded our clinical services and research program with a range of cutting edge studies (for some we are even the first international site), and continue to be the go-to source for resident education on the national stage. Our residents' engagement with both the local and the national dermatology communities through board review programming, poster/oral presentations, awards, and publications continues to bring broad attention to the GW residency brand. Make sure to check our website when you can for all the updates and educational opportunities for our department and alumni.



Adam Friedman, MD  
Professor and Interim Chair  
Residency Program Director  
Director of Translational Research  
Director of the Supportive Oncodermatology Clinic

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## New Faculty

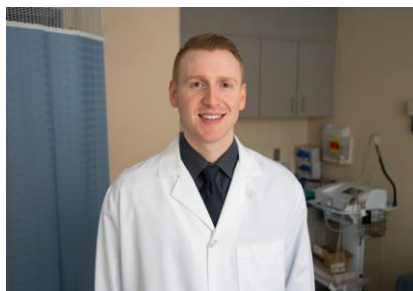
The GW Department of Dermatology is excited to announce the addition of three new faculty members this academic year: Sonya Burton, MD, Jonathan Silverberg, MD, PhD, MPH, and Joseph Zahn, MD. [Dr. Burton](#), who joined the department in October 2019, is seeing general medical dermatology patients at the Bethesda location. [Dr. Silverberg](#), who also joined the team in October 2019, is seeing patients at the DC location. He specializes in atopic dermatitis, contact dermatitis, and chronic inflammatory skin diseases. Dr. Silverberg serves as both the Director of Patch Testing and the Director of Clinical Research. [Dr. Zahn](#), the latest addition (January 2020) is Board Certified in both Dermatology and Dermatopathology. He will be contributing to the resident Dermatopathology curriculum in addition to assisting with reading pathology and seeing patients at the DC location. Please join us in welcoming them to the team!



Dr. Sonya Burton



Dr. Jonathan Silverberg



Dr. Joseph Zahn

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## GW at AAD

The GW Department of Dermatology and the GW medical community are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation. Based on current information and public health guidance, GW SMHS has decided to take precautions and limit domestic and international travel for our clinical practitioners and health care providers.

**We are canceling the GW Department of Dermatology Reception at the Hard Rock Cafe during the American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 21.**

Our priority is the safety of our GW health care community and the public we serve. Thank you for your understanding, and we look forward to connecting with our GW dermatology community in the future. *More information can be found under the Learning Corner section.*

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## Research Roundup

### Clinical

Under the leadership of our new Director of Clinical Research, Dr. Jonathan Silverberg, the clinical trials program has grown significantly. There are multiple trials currently enrolling or about to begin enrolling for novel topical, oral and/or biologic treatments in atopic dermatitis, prurigo nodularis, alopecia areata, hyperhidrosis, vitiligo, chronic hand eczema, etc, as well as novel diagnostic and treatment approaches for skin cancer (under the leadership of our director of cutaneous oncology, Dr. Vishal Patel). If you have any patients that are interested in participating in clinical trials, please contact our research coordinator Nikolai Tolstoy at [ntolstoy@mfa.gwu.edu](mailto:ntolstoy@mfa.gwu.edu).

Since joining GW only four months ago, Dr. Silverberg has been very active in many research projects and already published over 40 peer-reviewed manuscripts. He has led a number of epidemiology and health services research projects in atopic dermatitis, contact dermatitis, psoriasis, alopecia areata, autoimmune blistering disease, hidradenitis, Stevens-Johnson Syndrome and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis, herpes zoster, angioedema, and hemangioma. In particular, Dr. Silverberg has made major contributions in our understanding of the burden of atopic dermatitis and other chronic inflammatory skin diseases, including psychosocial stress, depression and anxiety, serious cutaneous and extra-cutaneous infections, pathological fractures, and quality of life impact. Dr. Silverberg has recently developed a suite of new patient-reported outcomes to assess chronic itch as part of the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) platform. Dr. Silverberg is currently building a department-wide clinical research registry and expanding interdisciplinary research across the gamut of inflammatory skin diseases.

Dr. Vishal Patel was recently awarded the Todd Nagel Memorial Award from The Skin Cancer Foundation for his research project, "Delphi Consensus Determination of a Tumor Stage Based Approach to High-Risk Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma (CSCC)." Dr. Patel's work aims to help clarify and standardize treatment algorithms for complex skin cancers that require multiple different specialists and often results in variable and siloed care. With the help of Cate McCullum, the Cutaneous Oncology Research Fellow, he will lead an expert panel of 60 multi-disciplinary skin cancer experts to agree on a baseline treatment algorithm for high risk CSCC that can then be evaluated with clinical trials.

In January 2020, Dr. Patel and the Cutaneous Oncology Program at the George Washington University (GW) Cancer Center was also selected as the first global site for another clinical trial for patients with high- risk cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma. In June 2019, the GW Cancer Center was selected as the first global site for a related clinical trial on the effectiveness of Cemiplimab given after primary surgery and radiation therapy. This new study will focus on the impact of Cemiplimab on tumors prior to surgery, with the goal to help shrink the tumor and potentially prevent the cancer from returning or metastasizing.

### **Translational**

Capitalizing on the rich investigative community at GW, Dr. Adam Friedman has linked his ongoing work in nanodermatology with active researchers in the GW School of Engineering, SMHS, and MFA. In collaboration with [Dr. Tatiana Efimova](#), we have launched a yearly translational research fellowship and have welcomed GW student Chapman Wei. Together we are actively pursuing nanotechnology delivered RNA interference and small molecule based therapies to treat squamous cell carcinoma. In collaboration with [Dr. Bao-Ngoc Nguyen](#), we are evaluating nanotechnology delivered RNA interference and small molecule based therapies to accelerate wound healing in diabetics.

### **In the Media**

Please find below some examples of recent press coverage on research by GW Dermatology:

- GW Study Identifies Need for Disaster Preparedness Training for Dermatologists  
[https://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2020-01/gwu-gsi013020.php](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2020-01/gwu-gsi013020.php)
- Psoriasis Patients Turn to Alternative Medicine When Traditional Treatments Fail  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/06/190620104901.htm>
- Barriers to Fungal Infection Diagnosis  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/08/190808115058.htm>
- Treating the Side-Effects of Life-Saving Cancer Treatments  
<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/treating-the-side-effects-of-life-saving-cancer-treatments/2111661/>
- Deciding When to Perform Mohs: Q&A With Drs. Konda and Patel  
<https://www.the-dermatologist.com/article/deciding-when-perform-mohs-qa-drs-konda-and-patel>
- GW Cancer Center First Clinical Trial Site for High Risk Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma  
[https://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2019-08/gwu-gcc080219.php](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2019-08/gwu-gcc080219.php)
- Advances in Squamous Cell Carcinoma Management  
<https://www.dermatologytimes.com/oncology/advances-squamous-cell-carcinoma-management>
- Translating Evidence on AD Comorbidities Into Practice  
<https://www.the-dermatologist.com/article/translating-evidence-ad-comorbidities-practice>
- Use of Biologics, Systemic Corticosteroids to Treat Psoriasis, Psoriatic Arthritis Increases  
<https://www.healio.com/dermatology/psoriasis/news/online/%7B4e211a0d-9d05-4580-82f6-95c41ca7751b%7D/use-of-biologics-systemic-corticosteroids-to-treat-psoriasis-psoriatic-arthritis-increases>
- Addressing the Challenges of Managing Atopic Dermatitis  
<https://www.dermatologytimes.com/article/addressing-challenges-managing-atopic-dermatitis>

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## Specialty Clinic Spotlight: The Contact Dermatitis Program

“The Contact Dermatitis Program aims to establish GW as the leading academic center in the Washington DC area for the evaluation and management of allergic contact dermatitis, photoallergic contact dermatitis, irritant contact dermatitis, photosensitive dermatoses, and occupational dermatoses. GW offers expanded patch testing and photobiologic testing. The Contact Dermatitis Program will complement the atopic dermatitis and medical dermatology clinics in order to provide comprehensive assessment and management of patients with dermatitis.”

-Jonathan Silverberg, Director of the Contact Dermatitis Program



The GW Dermatology Residency Program continues to support and launch a variety of unique specialty clinics to provide both our trainees with an unparalleled training experience and our patients with targeted and multidisciplinary care. These include:

- Contact Dermatitis Program led by Dr. Jonathan Silverberg
- Cutaneous Oncology Program led by Dr. Vishal Patel
- Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma clinic led by Dr. Frank Glass
- Acute Dermatology Clinic led by Dr. Adam Friedman
- Supportive Oncodermatology clinic led by Dr. Adam Friedman

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## Resident Views and News

### Resident Quote

*“The best part of being a resident at GW is the sense of community and family that we have among the residents and faculty. Being a small program, we are incredibly close and our faculty help us thrive and find our way. Whether it's extra time at the scope, staying late to discuss differentials on our inpatient consults, or helping us develop the perfect surgical closure we continue to feel supported by our wonderful faculty and staff. This sense of family extends throughout the D.C. community with the other residents at the D.C. area programs. We attend conferences together, are constantly collaborating and learning from one another, and even make time for fun together. We continue to strive to embrace diversity and learn from one another and our patients, who are some of the most diverse in the country and we are privileged to not only treat but learn from them. Although we are sad to say goodbye to our chiefs (who thanks to hard work and great mentoring are off to take over the world!) we relish in the fact that our resident family is continuing to grow and that our connections will be lifelong.”*



-Dr. Blair Allais, first year Dermatology resident

## Awards/Announcements

- Congratulations to Research Fellow Dr. Kamaria Nelson, MD, MHS, on winning first place at the 2019 Fall Clinical Rising Derm Stars competition in Las Vegas, Nevada for her presentation on Photodynamic Therapy for Papulopustular Rosacea.
- Congratulations to Chief Resident Dr. Misty Eleryan on earning an honorable mention in the Top Advocate Program.
- Congratulations to Drs. Adam Friedman (Senior Editor), Vishal Patel (Associate Editor), Yasmine Kirkorian (Associate Editor) on the release of the now highly acclaimed next edition of Dermatology In-Review.
- Congratulations to Dr. Adam Friedman for being the highest-rated speaker at the 2020 Orlando Dermatology Aesthetic and Clinical Conference.
- Congratulations to Dr. Adam Friedman for receiving two named lectureships, The New York Academy of Medicine Annual Howard Fox Lectureship and The Fall Update Stuart Madden Memorial Lectureship.
- Congratulations to Dr. Adam Friedman for receiving a Folio honorable mention for his article in Practical Dermatology “Skin after Cancer.”
- Congratulations to Chief Resident Dr. Angelo Landriscina for his highly attended lecture at the 2020 Orlando Dermatology Aesthetic and Clinical Conference regarding approaches to LGBTQ+ patients.
- Congratulations to Dr. Vishal Patel for his appointment to the position of Director of Dermatologic Surgery.
- Congratulations to Dr. Tatiana Efimova for being selected to serve as an Abstract Reviewer and Mini-Symposium Moderator for the Dermatology’s 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, in addition to being selected to be a member on the SID Diversity and Inclusion Committee.
- Congratulations to Chief Resident Dr. Angelo Landriscina on a successful and productive elective rotation with ABC News in New York, NY. See the article he wrote about insomnia being linked to heart disease and stroke [here](#); his article on the new FDA-approved treatment for cystic fibrosis can be seen [here](#).
- Congratulations to Dr. Kaiane Habeshian for winning the very coveted Case of the Year at the Society for Pediatric Dermatology’s 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pre-AAD Meeting. Dr. Habeshian’s case is titled, *The Case of Missing Skin: Congenital Volkman Ischemic Contracture*.
- Congratulations to Dr. Vishal Patel on being awarded the Todd Nagel Memorial Award from The Skin Cancer Foundation for his research project, “Delphi Consensus Determination of a Tumor Stage Based Approach to High-Risk Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma.”
- Congratulations to Dr. Mary Maiberger on becoming an American Board of Dermatology General Dermatology Curriculum Committee member.



## Where Are They Now?

*“After completing my dermatopathology fellowship at Albert Einstein in New York, I moved to Phoenix, AZ where I am working at a private practice. My days are filled with a mixture of dermatopathology, medical and surgical dermatology. The well-rounded residency training at GW gave me exposure to all the different facets of dermatology and readied me for independent practice.”*

-Dr. Thomas Lee, Class of 2018

*“After graduation from GW, I moved to Puerto Rico with my husband and shortly thereafter, gave birth to a baby girl, Ellie. After maternity leave, I decided to start my own private dermatology practice in Dorado, PR and it has been quite the challenge and adventure. It has been incredibly rewarding starting my own small but growing practice especially because there is a huge need for dermatologists in PR. I primarily do house calls, which is a completely different experience than working in a big city office like at GW! I see a wide range of medical dermatology and I have a lot of kids in my practice so I am very grateful to the excellent and well-rounded training I received at GW Dermatology and Children’s National Medical Center.”*

-Dr. Julia Schwartz, Class of 2018



*“After graduating from residency at GW, I moved to Phoenix, AZ where I am currently practicing mostly medical dermatology for a private practice. The training I gained at GW really prepared me to care for patients of all ages and feel competent in a variety of clinical situations.”*

-Dr. Jennifer Aronica, Class of 2019

Dr. Liz Robinson (Class of 2019) is working at Colorado Dermatology Specialists in Denver, a private practice with four other dermatologists. She’s enjoying practice and feels so fortunate to have a network of mentors and colleagues back in DC to reach out to when complex patients walk in the door. She’s happy to be close to her family and doing her best to get in as many ski days as she can. She is pictured to the right with her two kids.



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## Making a Difference

Medical Assistant Courtney Clayton has begun conducting Webinars sharing practical pearls for ensuring successful patient access. With a wide spectrum of patients to doctors listening in, Courtney shares basic but much-needed steps on how to get medications approved and for keeping patient out-of-pocket costs to a minimum. Courtney enjoys enacting policy in healthcare with a commonsense viewpoint.



Congratulations to Clinical Professor Dr. Lawrence Green for being named president of the Montgomery County Medical Society. Dr. Green is pictured right giving cosmetic lectures at the Annual Conference of the Israel Society for Dermatologic Surgery.



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## Learning Corner

### *Krazy Kodachromes*

GW Dermatology hosts a quarterly kodachrome board review program called “Krazy Kodachromes,” which is streamed online on Derm-In-Review through a partnership with SanovaWorks. View the lectures [here](#).

## Grand Rounds and Translational Lecture Series

- GW Dermatology hold Grand Rounds with live patient viewing and case presentations by the residents. They are held at GW every other month on the third Thursday from 8:15 - 10:00 a.m.
- A [Translational Science Lecture Series](#) follows each Grand Rounds, focusing on cutting-edge advances in the diagnosis and management of skin disorders and cutaneous disease. Recent lecturers include Drs. Daniel Siegel, Jenny Kim, Sarah Arron and Ginette Okoye.

## District of Columbia Dermatology Resident Consortium – New!

Local Dermatology Residency Programs, including GW, Georgetown/Washington Hospital Center, and Howard University, have partnered to develop a new rotating didactics program. Each event provides a broad array of topics relating to the modern practicing resident. Recent topics have included diversity in the workplace, wellness, career development, and the diagnosis and management of common diseases.

## In-Service Scramble

In partnership with Derm In-Review, GW Dermatology continues to hold an annual live-streamed Board review session. This year's scramble speakers included Drs. Anna Yasmine Kirkorian, Misty Eleryan, Joseph Zahn, Adam Friedman, Lauren Payne, and Michael Cardis. The [2018](#) and [2019](#) videos are available for viewing online. An archived recording of the 2020 Scramble will be posted on the GW Dermatology website in addition to the Derm In-Review website on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.

## JDD Peer-to-Peer Case Studies

The GW Dermatology Chief Residents prepare Peer-to-Peer case studies that are published in the Journal of Drugs and Dermatology and Derm In-Review. These case studies are accessed by dermatologists and residents nationwide as board-prep material. The most recent Case Study can be viewed [here](#).

## Podcasts

Dr. Adam Friedman hosts an innovative podcast series about the latest clinical findings on the Journal of Drugs and Dermatology. Podcasts are available for streaming and download [here](#).

## Derm In-Review Case of the Month

The Dermatology residents and fellows prepare monthly case studies that are published via Derm In-Review. The case study questions are accessed by dermatologists and dermatology residents nationwide as board-prep material. View them [here](#).

## Cheat Sheets

Dosing and lab monitoring protocols for therapeutics can vary widely. The GW residents, via Next Steps in Derm, have begun creating a number of Cheat Sheets for reference. Trade names, mechanisms, off-label uses, dosing, side effects, and additional information on a number of therapeutics. View them [here](#).

## GW at AAD

All GW residents, Drs. Angelo Landriscina, Misty Eleryan, Aaron Fong, Angela Hou, Blair Allais, and Jessica Kalen were scheduled to present at the 2020 American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting. In light of the dynamic COVID-19 situation, the GW Dermatology Department will no longer be attending AAD. To view the previous list of faculty, resident, fellow, and student involvement, please view the list [here](#).

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## Future Educational Events

### April

- DC Dermatology Resident Consortium on April 16, 2020, from 8:00am-12:00pm (Marvin Center Room 309) *Likely to be a virtual event.*
- GW Dermatology Journal Club on April 21, 2020, from 12:00pm-1:00pm (2B Conference Room)
- Crazy Kodachromes on April 30, 2020, from 8:30am-11:30am (Marvin Center Room 309) with Drs. Adam Friedman, Frank Glass, and Ginette Okoye.

### May

- GW Dermatology Journal Club (Ethics Edition) on May 20, 2020, from 12:00pm-1:00pm (2B Conference Room)

## June

- GW Dermatology Journal Club on June 9, 2020, from 12:00pm-1:00pm (2B Conference Room)
- GW Grand Rounds on June 18, 2020, from 9:00am - 10:00am (Milken Institute School of Public Health Suite B100) (times not including patient viewing)
- Translational Science Lecture Series on June 18, 2020, from 10:00am - 11:00am (Milken Institute School of Public Health Suite B100) with guest speaker Dr. Steve Wang.

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## Make a Difference, Give Today!

Gifts to the GW Department of Dermatology [Merv Elgart Fund](#) enable us to provide support for faculty, resident, and student research and travel, graduate student fellowships, and academic enrichment activities including guest speakers, visiting faculty, and symposia.

To make a donation, please visit our website at: <https://smhs.gwu.edu/dermatology/giving>

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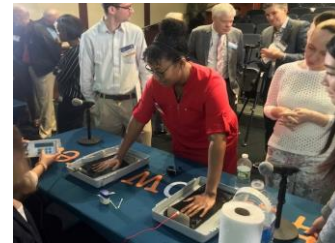
## Images from the Department



Residents and fellows at the April 2019 DC Derm Event hosted at GW.



Residents, faculty, and staff at the 2019 Resident Graduation (celebrating Drs. Robinson and Aronica)



Chief Resident Dr. Eleryan tests the iontophoresis device at the International Hyperhidrosis Society event hosted by GW last May.



Residents and PD during the annual GW Skin Cancer Screening Day



The scavenger hunt at this year's resident and faculty retreat got intense.



A team hug during the resident and faculty retreat.

School of Medicine  
& Health Sciences

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