Melissa Willis joined the faculty at Iowa in August 2016. She completed her medical degree and Internal Medicine internship at the University of Iowa. She then remained at the University of Iowa to complete her Dermatology residency. Her clinical and academic interests include general dermatology and pediatric dermatology. Her hobbies include spending time with her family and friends and reading.

Katie Mercy, is the 2016-2017 Procedural Dermatology Fellow specializing in Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology. Katie grew up in Downers Grove, Illinois. She received her undergraduate degree at the University of Notre Dame and attended medical school at Georgetown University. She completed residencies in both pediatrics and dermatology at McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University. She enjoys spending time with family, Crossfit and warrior workouts, and cheering on the Chicago Cubs.

Faculty Promotions. In July, Vincent Liu was promoted to Clinical Professor of Dermatology and Kelly Messingham was promoted to Research Associate Professor of Dermatology. Congratulations!
Meet our new residents!

Adam Aronson was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. He studied biology at the University of Southern California, then spent two years doing research at the Salk Institute, UCLA, and Ranomafana National Park, Madagascar, before starting medical school at Washington University in St. Louis. He completed internship in Milwaukee, WI. In his free time, Adam enjoys practicing martial arts, bass guitar, and memorizing poetry. He is also a licensed falconer, and has been volunteering at the Macbride Raptor Project as a trainer since moving to Iowa.

Jina Chung was born in Bethlehem, PA, and raised in Gwangju, South Korea. She returned to the U.S. to attend Phillips Exeter Academy, and then majored in Biology at Yale University. She attended medical school at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, and completed her intern year in New York before moving to Iowa. She enjoys reading classical literature, sleeping, and traveling back to Korea to see her family.

Marthe Dika was born and raised in Mbanga, a small town in Cameroon (Africa). She moved to Chicago in 2002 where she attended a local community college before obtaining her Bachelors of Science in Nursing at the University of Illinois. She later earned her MD at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She enjoys cooking and spending time with her husband and 3-year old son.

Melia Hernandez Holt was born and raised in Sarasota, FL. She attended the University of Florida where she majored in Biological Engineering and met her husband Nate. She attended the University of Central Florida for medical school and completed her internship at Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare. She enjoys spending time with family, volleyball, soccer, golf, and Gator football.

Uchenna Okereke was born in Boston, MA, and raised in nearby Randolph, MA. She attended George Washington University where she earned dual degrees in Biology and International Affairs with a concentration in Economics. Uchenna worked in the pharmaceutical industry for 3 years before matriculating to Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN. Uchenna completed her internship at New York Presbyterian Cornell – Queens, and a research fellowship and Masters at New York University. She is the eldest of five children, and enjoys spending time with family and friends, fashion, and travel.

Departing Residents

Grant Ghahramani moved to Topeka, Kansas to work in private practice as a general Dermatologist. He will be living in Lawrence, KS which is a 30 minute commute. They are happy to live near family again!

Reid Masters moved back to the Seattle area, where he spent most of his time in the Navy. He has joined a small private practice just outside of the city and will focus on medical dermatology.

Krishna Mutgi is currently pursuing a fellowship in pediatric dermatology at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

Nahid Vidal is at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota (joining a couple of Iowa alumni) for a one year fellowship in Mohs micrographic surgery and cutaneous oncology. Thereafter, her plans are not set!

Melissa Willis joined the UIHC Quad Cities Dermatology.
Iowa Dermatologic Society. The IDS Fall Meeting was held September 16, 2016. The Nomland-Carney Memorial Lectures, given by Hensin Tsao, MD/PhD of Mass General Hospital, were focused on hereditary melanoma and therapeutic targeting of cancer genes. The John Strauss Memorial lectures, given by James Treat, MD, of Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, were focused on severe atopic dermatitis, vascular anomalies and hemangomias.

Outreach: Courage Ride, Kalona, IA. In August, residents and faculty performed skin cancer screening and discussed sun protection with attendees of the Courage Ride in Kalona, Iowa, which benefits the University of Iowa Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center Sarcoma Research Program. Pictured L to R: Drs Dika, Pierce, Ferguson and Stone.

Resident Recognition: Uchenna Okereke was recently featured in the Spring issue of Aspire, which chronicled her nontraditional path to dermatology and the positive influence AAD mentors have had on her career. Dermatology Research technicians, Ryan Lee and Sam Connell, won a silver medal in the CCOM Science Thursday Olympics for their impromptu chalk drawing of a skin section.

Dermatology Residents at Fall IDS Meeting. Pictured L to R: Nick Bontumasi, Josh Hammel, Tyler Quest, Anthony Little, Adam Aronson, Jina Chung, Matt Landherr, Marte Dika, Pooja Chitgopeker, Lulit Price, Allison Pierce, Carole McClanahan, Uchenna Okereke, Gretchen Roth, Melia Holt.

UIHC Chief of Staff. Marta Van Beek MD, MPH, was appointed to a 3-year term as the UIHC Chief of Staff in early 2016. Among other responsibilities the Chief of Staff serves as the Vice Chair of the University Hospital Advisory Committee and Chair of the Professional Practice and Well-being Subcommittee. In addition, the Chief of Staff serves as ombudsman for the clinical staff and provides a liaison between the clinical staff and the deans of the Colleges of Medicine and Dentistry.
Safety Day is a fun, day-long event full of bonding and great learning opportunities. Faculty and senior residents taught junior residents the fundamentals of procedural dermatology, while all honed their safety and leadership skills.

Annual Resident Retreat. The retreat is morale-boosting event where residents take off work at noon on a Friday and head to the Iowa Challenge Course at the UI Recreational Fields. Residents must work together to complete numerous outdoor obstacles that emphasize teamwork with problem solving. It is a great ice-breaker for incoming residents!
Recent Publications From UIHC Dermatology


Dore E, Swick BL, Ghahramani GK, Link BK, Liu V. Follicular lymphomatoid papulosis with follicular mucinosis: a clinicopathologic study of three cases with literature review and conceptual reappraisal. Accepted, J Cut Pathol 2016.


Swick BL, Clark AH. Chronic lymphedema with recurrent blistering and ulceration arising in a leishmaniasis scar. Indian Dermatol Online J. 2016 May-Jun;7(3):210-1