

Cooper Dermatology Newsletter

April 2025
Volume 4

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A word from the Program Director Dr. Lacy Sommer

Spring is here, and with that comes fresh starts and new beginnings. For senior medical students, this culminates on one fateful day in March: **Match Day**. I'm sure you all remember the myriad of emotions you experienced while waiting to open a letter (and now an email) to find out the next step in your career. Pure joy and elation to have matched at your #1 program? Trepidation to have matched but in a program across the country from your family or loved ones? Or utter heartbreak to have not matched at all. Given the continued competitiveness of our specialty, all of these emotions will be experienced on Match Day.

The 2025 Main Residency Match remained as competitive as ever. Each year is "record-breaking" and this year was no different. The largest Match in its 73-year history, 47,208 active applicants applied for 43,237 positions.¹ There were 148 Dermatology programs offering 524 PGY-2 positions, with only one position going unfilled. Over the last 5 years, the number of Dermatology PGY-2 positions has remained steady, with an increase just under 10%. Of the 524 available Dermatology PGY-2 positions, 80.9% went to U.S. MD Seniors (match rate of 62.7%), 6.9% to U.S. DO Seniors (match rate of 34.3%), 0.4% to U.S. International Medical Graduates (IMG) (match rate of 11.1%), and 1.9% to Non-U.S. IMG (match rate of 38.5%). The remaining 8.8% of positions went to MD Graduate applicants (i.e. graduated from medical school prior to the year of the Match, including reapplicants).²

You should be proud to know that the quality of applicants to our program is astounding. Program Signaling has been a welcomed addition to gauge for genuine interest in our program. Of the applicants we interviewed this year, we are thrilled to have matched **Christopher Farkouh** and **Carissa Walkosak** (see page 4). Both Chris and Carissa have impressive accomplishments already, and we are excited by their enthusiasm and potential to continue your legacy of Cooper Dermatology. We wish them congratulations on graduation and a successful

intern year before welcoming them in July 2026.



Dr. Heymann is Honored with the Prestigious Master Dermatologist Award



On Thursday, March 7, 2025, **Dr. Warren Heymann** was honored as the 2025 recipient of the [Master Dermatologist Award](#) at the annual American Academy of Dermatology meeting in Orlando, Florida. The award recognizes “an Academy member who, throughout the span of his or her career, has made significant contributions to the specialty of dermatology, as well as to the leadership and/or education programs of the American Academy of Dermatology.” We have all been so fortunate to have worked firsthand with Dr. Heymann and can attest to this well-deserved recognition. Please read Dr. Heymann’s acceptance [speech here](#).

Cooper Dermatology at the AAD meeting in Orlando

Dr. Lawrence created and directed the session “**Dermatology Review: Skin Cancer, Surgical, and Cosmetic**” including presenting “**Imagining for the dermatologist.**”

Dr. Tara Jennings presented “**Assessing functionality in cancer patients.**”

Dr. Heymann presented “**A Clinician’s Perspective: Commentaries From the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology**” and “**Red Flags and Emergencies in Dermatology.**”

Carlos Vieira (PGY-4) presented a case at the resident Gross and Micro Symposium titled, “**Lichen Planus Follicularis Tumidus: More Than An Earful.**”



2025 Johnson-Beerman and Stelwagon Competition Winners



The Philadelphia Dermatological Society with the Section on Dermatology of The College of Physicians of Philadelphia sponsors the annual Johnson-Beerman and Stelwagon awards competition. All dermatology residents and fellows are invited to submit a basic science research paper for the Johnson-Beerman Awards or a clinically-oriented study for the Stelwagon Award.

We are proud to recognize **Erika Tvedten** (PGY-3), **Luke Scherz** (Dermatologic Surgery Research Fellow), and **Ruchika Moturi** (CMSRU M3) as 2025 award winners!

Stelwagon Prize Winners:

- Third Prize: Assessing the efficacy of compression therapy on second-intention wound healing following dermatologic surgery: a randomized, controlled trial. **Erika Tvedten, DO**, Cooper Medical School, Rowan University.

Stelwagon Best Case Series/Case Report:

- Photo-distributed telangiectatic and purpuric patches in a patient on a Bruton's tyrosine kinase inhibitor. **Ruchika Moturi, MS**, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University.

Stelwagon Honorable Mention for Case Series and Case Report:

- Late-Onset Diffuse Melanosis Cutis (DMC) in Metastatic Melanoma after Treatment with Tumor Infiltrating Lymphocytes (TIL) Therapy: A Novel Case Report. **Luke A Scherz, BS**, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University.

2024-2025 Residency and Fellowship Match Results

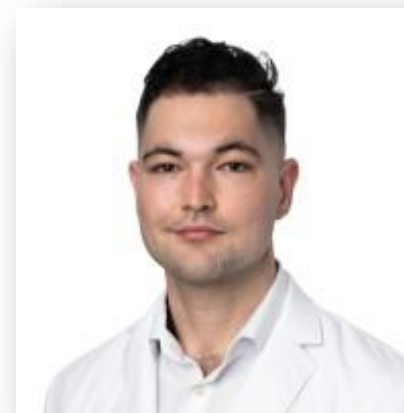
DERM RESIDENCY MATCH



We are excited to welcome **Christopher Farkouh** and **Carissa Walkosak** as our 2024-2025 residency matches for start in July 2026. Chris will be graduating from Rush Medical College of Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, IL before starting his Transitional Year at Broward Health Medical Center in Florida. Carissa was the Cooper Dermatologic Surgery Research Fellow last year and will be graduating from Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University before starting her Transitional Year at Crozer-Chester in Pennsylvania.

Welcome, Chris and Carissa!

MOHS FELLOWSHIP MATCH



Dr Lawrence is excited to welcome **Kyle Lauck, MD** as her 2025-2026 Mohs Fellow. Kyle is completing his dermatology residency at Baylor University before joining us in July 2025.

Welcome, Kyle!

Follow us on social media:



@cooperdermresidency
@hmgderm

Preston Chadwick, MD

Alumni Spotlight

Medical School: Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA

Current practice location: Valley View Dermatology in Wilsonville, Oregon and Salem, Oregon

Website:

- Valley View Dermatology
www.valleyviewdermatology.com
- Safe Skin Initiative
www.safeskininitiative.org



Clinical interests or scope of practice: General dermatology, Erythropoietic Protoporphyrria, International Dermatology

What is your fondest memory of Cooper Dermatology? I'm not sure I would pinpoint a single memory but more an aspect. That aspect by far is the people I was able to work with. My co-residents and attendings are amazing people. Whether it was Dr. Green using his young daughter's umbrella, Dr. Manders shaking his head 'no' when asking if somebody wanted a full skin exam or Dr. Heyman using a woman's walker chair to sit in while counseling her..There were always moments of laughter and fun.

Words of advice to current dermatology residents and recent graduates? When I joined my current practice, one of the founding partners told me "never forget to save time for the people you love." It applies to residency, the beginning of your career, the middle, and deciding when to retire.

Favorite clinical pearl: I'm not sure I have any clinical pearls. 😊 Not too long ago I had a patient come in for a pyogenic granuloma on the face and she was a young teenager. I was desperate to do anything except cut it out and cauterize. I found an article that discussed two weeks of table salt application, and gave it a try. Sure, enough the thing melted away.

Safe Skin Initiative: I recently formed the [Safe Skin Initiative](http://www.safeskininitiative.org), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to transforming skin health standards in Burundi. When we went to Burundi to adopt my son, we just so happened to have dinner with the Ambassador from the United States and founder of a nonprofit who runs health clinics in Burundi. They asked for help with dermatology consults as they didn't have any resources in the country - literally at the time they didn't have any Dermatologists. For several years, I did telehealth consults for a couple of organizations in Burundi. I was trying to find a way to formalize the consult services when I met a doctor at the AAD last year that had been trained in Rwanda and had gone through the Gloderm mentorship program. We had a long discussion and came up with a plan to begin a consultation service throughout Burundi and do clinics for albinism. Unfortunately, in Burundi people are killed who have albinism. There are some who still have superstitions and mythical beliefs about it in that area of the world. The first clinic we did for albinism had about 50 to 100 people. The last time they had any instruction on albinism had been 20 years previous when they were given Vaseline (seriously?!?!) to protect their skin. We had received a grant from CeraVe with sunscreen that we were able to provide. Education sessions were held while a couple of surgeons did excisions on skin cancers all day for 2 days. So far, we've been able to do the clinics in about half of the country but the initial grant money ran out. We founded the nonprofit to fund the work we have started and hopefully get donations for sustainable sun protection like clothing with UPF.



Faculty Spotlight



L. David Hall, MD

Hometown: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Medical School: Jefferson Medical College,
Philadelphia, PA

Residency: Dermatology, Geisinger Medical
System, Danville, PA

Fellowship: Dermatopathology, Ackerman
Academy of Dermatopathology SUNY
Downstate, New York, NY

When did you join Cooper Dermatology?

I started working at Dermpath Diagnostics in Newtown Square in 2014, and I started teaching the Cooper residents in 2015.

What is your favorite thing about Cooper Dermatology?

The residents! Cooper Dermatology always does a great job of selecting intelligent, enthusiastic, and caring residents year after year.

Words of advice to current dermatology residents?

When I began residency, I was told that learning dermatology felt like "trying to drink out of a fire hydrant." My advice to residents is not to get overwhelmed or feel discouraged. I guarantee you will learn everything you need for the boards by the end of your third year.

Words of advice to recent dermatology graduates?

No one expects you to know everything the day you graduate. Don't be afraid to ask questions or make mistakes. Also, it may take time to find your "perfect job." Finally, don't be afraid to talk with your dermatopathologist if something doesn't make sense. Particularly for inflammatory conditions, clinical photographs and additional history can prove invaluable for arriving at a correct diagnosis.

Favorite clinical pearl:

Always remember clinicopathologic correlation - what you see on the patient must correlate with the pathologic findings. Some of my favorite examples are: "string of pearls" of clear cell acanthoma correlate to the dilated vessels in dermal papillae and "yellow dots" of alopecia areata correlate to dilated follicular infundibula.

Hobbies/Interests:

Traveling and exploring new places around the world. Spending time with my dog, Sasha. Supporting my favorite English football team, Tottenham Hotspur. Playing and listening to music.

Resident Spotlight

Erika Tvedten, DO



Erika is one of our current PGY-3 residents interested in pursuing a Mohs fellowship.

Hometown: Redington Beach, Florida

Medical School: Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Internship: NYCHHC Lincoln Medical Center - Bronx, NY



Why did you choose dermatology? There were a few things I knew I wanted in a field when entering medical school: 1) continuity of care for patients of different ages and 2) outpatient clinical setting (I thought I was a setup for primary care!). However, during my clinical rotations, I learned I was surgically inclined and searched for a field that would provide the opportunity to have continuity of care for a diverse range of ages, primarily outpatient and procedural-heavy. The versatility of dermatology perfectly fits my intellectual itch, and I love it every day.

Clinical interests or desired scope of practice: Surgical Dermatology and Cutaneous Oncology with a splash of pediatric dermatology (an interesting mix, I know)

What is your favorite thing about Cooper Dermatology? This is an easy answer: the patient population.

Favorite clinical pearl: Using non-inflammatory sutures (such as Prolene) for patients of color to decrease the risk of hyperpigmentation of their scars.

If you weren't a doctor, what would you be: A firefighter

If not in the hospital, where are you/what are you doing: Probably on a run

Favorite Movie or Show to stream: I'm not a big TV person, so I'll answer this with my favorite dermatology video tool - Dermneumonics

Favorite Podcast: The DermSurgery Digest!



Meetings and Invited Lectures

On February 7, **Dr Introcaso** and the residents hosted an exceptional **Philly Derm Society Meeting**. Our guest speaker, **Dr Crystal Augh**, gave a pearl-packed lecture on "*Optimizing Hair Health To Improve Clinical Outcomes in Alopecia.*" The residents and Dr Introcaso then presented cases and gave talks on a range of complex cases cared for at Cooper including, purpura fulminans from *Capnocytophaga* after a dog bite, radiation-induced bullous pemphigoid, and an extramedullary plasmacytoma revealing underlying multiple myeloma.

Congratulations to all for a job well done!



Stay current with **Dr. Warren Heymann's** weekly commentary on new and relevant articles and topics in the dermatologic literature.



Don't miss *The DermSurgery Digest*, a monthly podcast hosted by **Dr. Naomi Lawrence** and co-host **Dr. Michael Renzi** where you can hear a concise monthly review of journal articles from "*Dermatologic Surgery.*"



From the Archives – Cooper Dermatology Alumni Dinner



Current residents, faculty, and Alumni gathered at the 2025 AAD in Orlando in March. From left to right: **Matthew McLarney**, **David Hall**, **Lane Neidig** (with Kimberly Neidig in front), **Kristen Randolph**, **Donald Baker**, **Carlos Vieira**, **Tara Jennings**, **Robert Duffy**, **Naomi Lawrence**, **Erum Ilyas**, **Erika Tvedten**, and **Camille Introcaso**. Thanks to all who stopped by!

Shared Alumni Database



Since the Program's inception by **Dr. Warren Heymann** in 1995, our aim has been to promote and foster competent and compassionate care for patients and instill in our residents a commitment to excellence and life-long learning.

We are proud of you, **our alumni**, for carrying on our mission and the many successes you have achieved along the way.

The goal of the shared database is to help our alumni, faculty, and current trainees to connect to one another for professional opportunities. Please add or edit your information as appropriate.



Important Dates for 2024-2025

Please join us for **Virtual Grand Rounds** for the upcoming academic year. You may use the Zoom Link below. The usual format is 7:45-8:00am Lightning Rounds, 8:00-9:00am in-depth case discussions, and 9:00-10:00am Guest Speaker Lecture. Dr Heymann and the residents present Journal Club 10:00-11:00am.

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: **862 8443 8245**

Passcode: **000940**



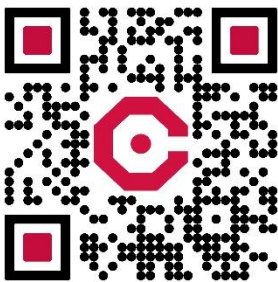
Grand Rounds Dates:

- May 1, 2025 - **Dr Shayna Rivard** (Cooper Dermatology 2024-2025 Mohs Fellow)
- June 5, 2025 - Case discussion only, No Guest Lecture

Philadelphia Dermatologic Society Meetings: 4:00 - 6:15pm EST (Virtual)

- The Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University - May 16, 2025

Cooper Foundation Dermatology, Education, Training, and Research Fund



To make a **donation to the Cooper Foundation** please scan the QR code or click [HERE](#) and choose the **Dermatology Education, Training, and Research Fund** from the drop down menu.

Please note that the Cooper Foundation is an independent, charitable, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization (Tax ID number is 22-2213715) and the philanthropic, community outreach and community development arm of Cooper University Health Care. The Cooper Foundation does not provide tax, legal, or financial advice. Any document or information shared by our staff is intended to be educational and informational. The Cooper Foundation strongly encourages all of our benefactors to seek counsel from their own legal and financial advisors. Please know that any information or documents shared by the Cooper Foundation staff cannot be used to avoid tax-related penalties.

We encourage you to send in updates so we can keep everyone apprised of current happenings in their personal and professional lives. Please send your updates and newsworthy information as well as any comments and suggestions to Sommer-Lacy@cooperhealth.edu