According to the American Academy of Dermatology, acne is the most common skin disorder in the United States, affecting 40 to 50 million Americans. It is an epidemic that surprisingly lacks very effective and safe prevention and treatment, but the innovative and talented researchers at UCLA’s Division of Dermatology are helping to change that.

Researchers at the division are leading the battle with a new understanding of the skin disorder.

In September, the American Society for Microbiology’s mBio published findings by Dr. Robert Modlin’s laboratory and a team of collaborators at UCLA and the University of Pittsburgh in a paper entitled, “Propionibacterium acnes Bacteriophages Display Limited Genetic Diversity and Broad Killing Activity against Bacterial Skin Isolates.” The groundbreaking study proposes a new weapon against acne—viruses—as a way to attack the bacteria on the skin that causes breakouts since conventional treatments such as antibiotics and other prescription acne treatments have proven to be less effective over time.

"Acne affects millions of people, yet we have few treatments that are both safe and effective," said Division of Dermatology Chief Robert Modlin, a co-author of the paper. "Harnessing a virus that naturally preys on the bacteria that cause pimples could offer a promising new tool."

And the outlook is, indeed, promising. The study has already been recognized in the scientific community and highlighted by prominent media outlets globally including Time magazine, the Los Angeles Times, WebMD, BBC News and Smithsonian magazine. Dr. Modlin’s lab, which began investigating P. acnes bacteriophages in 2007, is encouraged by the support.

Continued on Page 4
Letter from The Chief
by Dr. Robert L. Modlin

During the past 20 years during which I have served as Chief of Dermatology at UCLA, the growth of our program has been remarkable in all areas: clinical, education and research. Our division has created a unified and talented team, and I am very optimistic about the future.

I want to applaud our faculty for all of their contributions thus far, particularly those who are expanding beyond clinical care to give our patients the dedication and unique practice that they deserve. One faculty member, Ki-Young Suh, M.D., is highlighted in our cover story about her treatment of infants with infantile hemangioma and how their families have overcome the stress and risks of treatment with Dr. Suh and her staff’s help. Another faculty member, Carolyn Goh, M.D., is featured in a story about patient outreach for those in the community that deal with hair loss.

On the education front, we have hired eight new full-time clinical educators and one part time. This year’s Newcomer lecture was delivered this past April by distinguished guest, Jean Bolognia, M.D. Her presentation, entitled “Skin Signs of Monoclonal Gammapathies,” gave an overview of skin disease related to monoclonal gammapathies and brought together key aspects of clinical care, research and education that represent the unified vision of Dermatology that Victor D. Newcomer, M.D. envisioned. Dr. Bolognia inspired our residents, clinical educators and investigators with her knowledge and vision. Additionally, this year’s resident match is complete, and we are proud to welcome to our outstanding program, achievements and faculty. Stay tuned for our Fall 2012 newsletter to see further updates. I believe that the successful growth of the division over the last 20 years is due to our teamwork. We do not work in separate units; we have an integrated approach in which clinician educators and physician scientists work together to achieve common goals.

Robert L. Modlin, M.D.
Chief of Dermatology
Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Molecular Genetics
Vice Chair for Cutaneous Medicine and Dermatological Research
Department of Medicine

Scott Worswick, M.D. returns to UCLA as a clinical instructor in Health Sciences. Originally from Santa Monica, Dr. Worswick graduated from Princeton University before earning his medical degree at USC’s Keck School of Medicine. He completed his residency at UCLA’s Division of Dermatology before joining the faculty in August. He also completed an internship at California-Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, where he focused on preliminary medicine for a year. “I chose to stay at UCLA because I am interested in academic medicine and teaching, and I think the program here is great,” he says. Dr. Worswick specializes in hospital dermatology, rheumatology, dermatology, transplant dermatology, and infectious disease dermatology.

Jenny Hu, M.D., M.P.H. returns to UCLA as a clinical instructor in Health Sciences after completing her medical education, internship, residency, and fellowship with the Division of Dermatology under Robert Modlin and the Department of Medicine under Alan Fegely, M.D., he says.

Paul Levin, M.D. returns to UCLA as an associate clinical professor after 13 years in Boston, where he Paul C. Levin, M.D. returns to UCLA as an associate clinical professor after 13 years in Boston, where he served as faculty at his alma mater, Harvard Medical School, and staff at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Levin first joined UCLA’s Division of Dermatology in 1993 as an assistant professor in medicine and dermatology. He earned his medical degree at the University of Cincinnati’s College of Medicine and completed his dermatology residency and fellowship at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital. At UCLA, Dr. Levin will specialize in medical dermatology, as well as medical student and resident education. “I am excited to rejoin the growing clinical and educational mission of the Division of Dermatology under Robert Modlin and the Department of Medicine under Alan Fegely,” he says.

Sarika Banker, M.D., joins UCLA as a clinical instructor of Health Sciences specializing in medical dermatology. Dr. Banker graduated from New York University before earning her medical degree at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She completed her medical training at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and New York Hospital Queens in Flushing, NY.

Kristy Fleming, M.D., joined UCLA as clinical instructor of Health Sciences in July. Dr. Fleming graduated summa cum laude from the University of San Francisco before earning her medical degree at the University of California, Irvine’s School of Medicine. She completed her residency at Baylor College of Medicine. “I chose UCLA because I love the challenge of caring for complex medical dermatology patients and I want to continue to expand my knowledge,” she says. “I also enjoy teaching and learning from our residents and medical students.”

Sarah Gee, M.D., joins UCLA as a clinical instructor of Health Sciences. Originally from Illinois, Dr. Gee graduated magna cum laude from Princeton University. She earned her medical degree from University of Southern California’s Keck School of Medicine. She completed her medical training at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center as an intern and Harvard Medical School as a resident. “I chose UCLA because there is no better place to work and learn from the best and brightest dermatologists in Los Angeles,” she says.

UCLA Dermatology
www.derm.med.ucla.edu
New Westlake Village Clinic Offers Convenience and Five-Star Care

I
n July, UCLA’s Division of Dermatology celebrated its expansion to Westlake Village as part of the grand opening of UCLA Health System’s newest medical facility at 1250 La Venta Drive.

Seeking to accommodate patients throughout the Conejo Valley, Las Virgenes, Ventura County, and the San Fernando Valley areas, UCLA Health System Westlake Village is a 20,000 square foot primary and specialty care office with 12 board-certified physicians in a variety of disciplines, including general internal medicine, family medicine, cardiology, endocrinology, rheumatology, as well as medical and cosmetic dermatology.

The expansion to Westlake Village marks the second of four new dermatology clinic openings since May to accommodate patients throughout the Southern California area. In addition to UCLA’s top-notch medical care and service, the new location boasts ample parking and appointment availability.

“It’s exciting to be part of UCLA’s expansion into the 101 corridor and it’s outreach to a broader population,” said Jenny Hu, M.D., M.P.H., health sciences clinical instructor and primary dermatologist at the Westlake Village clinic. “It’s welcoming when so many patients have come through the door with smiles, telling me how happy they are that UCLA has finally made it out here.”

In May, the division added a cosmetic dermatology clinic to its Santa Monica location, which offers a variety of procedures such as botulinum toxin, chemical peels, laser hair and tattoo removal, and sclerotherapy. A new cosmetic clinic is also slated to open at the division’s Westwood location next year. December, medical and cosmetic clinics will be available at UCLA’s new Thousand Oaks facility.

It feels good to be able to make it easier for these patients to have access to the UCLA system. —Dr. Jenny Hu

For more information on UCLA’s Westlake Village location, go to www.uclahealth.org/WestlakeVillage.
Remembering Dr. Paul Gethner

Paul J. Gethner, M.D., whose dedication to the UCLA Dermatology community helped perpetuate a legacy of education and mentorship, passed away on Oct. 4. He was 88.

Gethner was born and raised in Chicago, Ill. He graduated from the University of Illinois College of Medicine before completing a residency at Norwegian American Hospital and internship at Mount Sinai Medical Center. His induction to the Bruin community dates back to 1952, when he began his dermatology residency at UCLA.

As a mentor, colleague and friend to the UCLA Dermatology community, Paul was a tremendous supporter of our research and education programs, said Robert L. Modlin, M.D., Chief and Professor. “We will always remember his persistence.”

Paul was a tremendous supporter of our research and education programs,” said Dr. Robert L. Modlin, Chief and Professor of Dermatology at UCLA. “We will always remember his persistence.”

Dr. Gethner was born and raised in Chicago, Ill. He graduated from the University of Illinois College of Medicine before completing a residency at Norwegian American Hospital and internship at Mount Sinai Medical Center. His induction to the Bruin community dates back to 1952, when he began his dermatology residency at UCLA.

Colleagues and loved ones will mostly remember Dr. Gethner’s devotion to his work and family. He is survived by his sister, Rita; daughters, Betina and Michelle; and grandchildren, Judi and Brett; five grandchildren.

Today, Dr. Behr is a published author and lecturer, as well as a fellow for several distinguished dermatologic groups. In 2007 and 2009, she was named Best Dermatologist by Fresno Magazine and still continues to be recognized for her service to the community.

For information about Dr. Behr’s practice, visit 435Skin.com. To learn how you can contribute to the Division of Dermatology’s Futures Fund, visit www.giving.ucla.edu/dermatology.
How You Can Help

Contributions to the UCLA Division of Dermatology will:

• provide outstanding individualized diagnosis and treatment of skin disease.

• educate the next generation of physicians and scientists to become leaders in medical dermatology, cosmetic dermatology, dermatologic surgery, dermatopathology and investigative dermatology.

• develop new and better strategies to diagnose and treat skin disease through innovative research.

You can make a gift to the Division by logging on to www.derm.med.ucla.edu. Please call (310) 794-4746 if you have questions about making a gift.

From the cover of Nature Immunology December 2012 Volume 13 No 12

Activation of type I interferon by c-di-GMP and c-di-AMP depends on the adaptor STING. Cheng, Modlin and colleagues show that these bacterial secondary messengers are detected by the helicase DDX41, which forms a complex with STING (p 1155 and News & Views by Bowie, p 1137). The original image by Rosane Teles, from the Robert Modlin Laboratory, shows weak colocalization of c-di-GMP (red) with STING (green) in 293T cells transfected with Myc-STING and biotinylated c-di-GMP. Artwork by Lewis Long.