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Big Care for Little Patients

Two infants and their families find promising treatment and specialized care at UCLA's Pediatric Dermatology

The obstetrician said she was a perfectly healthy baby. It was the affirmation that Kameron Nesen, like any new parent, hoped to hear in the moments following the birth of her baby girl, Aurora Murdock (pictured above).

Three weeks passed of newborn baby bliss. Then a little red bump surfaced on Aurora's lip. What the pediatrician thought to be a sucking sore was eventually diagnosed as an infantile hemangioma, a vascular birthmark that usually appears as a red or purple lesion on a baby's skin in the first weeks of life, most commonly on the scalp, face and neck. Infantile hemangiomas are the most common benign tumor of infancy, and they can affect 5-10% of the population. Despite their benign nature, as well as their predictable and characteristic growth pattern—rapid proliferation followed by slow involution—they can sometimes cause serious complications when they are located near a critical structure such as the eye, nose, or mouth.

By six months of age, Aurora developed 11 total hemangiomas scattered throughout her body, and all but one were small. The hemangioma on the lip, the one that was first observed, enlarged dramatically. Eventually, the hemangioma became more than a cosmetic concern since it could potentially affect her ability to eat and speak.

In Santa Barbara, Stephanie Remick recalls a similar experience. At two months old, her baby girl, Nicole, was diagnosed with an infantile hemangioma after patchy red marks overlying a bulbous swelling appeared on her nose. "After spending time on Google doing research and looking at pictures, all I could do was cry," recalled Stephanie. "How could my perfect little girl have to go through something like this?"

Stephanie knew that leaving Nicole's hemangioma untreated would bring a lifetime of psychosocial challenges for her daughter. Would her perfect little girl be able to endure the stares and unwanted comments from naïve children or strangers?

Both families eventually turned to UCLA's Division of Dermatology, where they consulted Ki-Young Suh, M.D., Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor and Director of Pediatric Dermatology. Dr. Suh introduced them to a systemic medication called propranolol, which, historically, was most commonly used to treat hypertension and anxiety. Recently, propranolol was also discovered to be an effective treatment for infantile hemangiomas.

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Letter from The Chief

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 faulty 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.

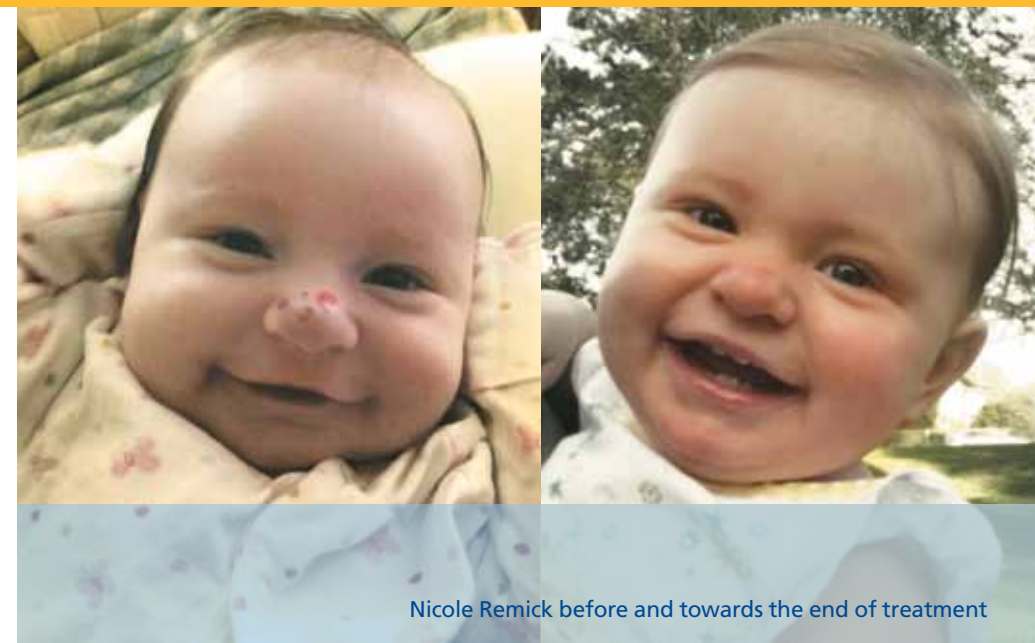
On the education front, we have hired eight new full-time clinical educators and one part time. This year's Newcomer lecture was delivered this past April by distinguished guest, Jean Bolognia, M.D. Her presentation, entitled "Skin Signs of Monoclonal Gammopathies," gave an overview of skin disease related to monoclonal gammopathies 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 2013 program three of the top applicants in the country.

Our research has grown as well. Roger Lo, M.D. was honored by election as a member of the prestigious American Society for Clinical Investigation. His laboratory continues to be at the forefront of melanoma research with important strides in understanding B-RAF inhibitor resistance mechanisms, its toxicity, and its combination with other agents to augment patient response and reduce suffering. Jenny Kim, M.D.'s laboratory continues to study skin immunity and defense mechanisms while actively collaborating with multi-disciplinary groups on campus to advance applied sciences in dermatology. Lloyd Miller, M.D. and his laboratory are developing innovative immunomodulatory and vaccination strategies to provide a therapeutic advantage against skin infections caused by staph (*Staphylococcus aureus*) and MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*). As I discussed in my Dermatology Grand Rounds lecture in January, our lab has published a paper in *Nature Medicine*, which provides a new strategy for vaccines through the induction of a novel mechanism and dendritic cells by a new cytokine, interleukin-32.

We've achieved so much in the past two decades, and we will have some events in the coming year to highlight some of our outstanding program, achievements and faculty. Stay tuned for the UCLA Division of Dermatology Evening Grand Rounds, as well as our upcoming Research Symposium. Also keep an eye out 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 MD

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



Nicole Remick before and towards the end of treatment

After topical medicines proved ineffective, both families turned to the expertise of UCLA's physicians to administer an aggressive propranolol treatment for each infant. Aurora and Nicole were admitted into local hospitals for observation during the first days of treatment. This included close monitoring of each infant's heart rate, blood pressure, and glucose levels, which may be affected by propranolol. "Because of the potential side effects that may result from this treatment, many pediatric dermatologists choose to start treatments of young infants in a controlled hospital setting," said Dr. Suh, who worked closely with the pediatric intensive care unit hospitalists for the most effective treatment.

At home, the parents of Aurora and Nicole continued treatment with a medication schedule and diet plan in addition to making regular visits to UCLA's pediatric dermatology clinics in Westwood and Santa Monica. "It was emotionally and physically exhausting as a parent because the medication can have pretty serious side effects," recalls Kameron. "Dr. Suh followed up with all of my concerns as a parent. She was calm and compassionate... and would respond to me right away."

Both Aurora and Nicole showed incredible progress within weeks of receiving propranolol and are expected to see the remnants of the vascular birthmarks diminish significantly over time with the help of laser treatments. For mothers Kameron and Stephanie, working with UCLA's pediatric dermatology team not only helped their families prevent years of anxiety and hardship, but also restored their little girls' childhoods.

"We can't thank Dr. Suh and her staff enough for everything they have done for our family," said Stephanie. "She has been so informative and willing to go the extra mile to make this as easy as possible for not just Nicole, but my husband and me."

Dr. Suh is pleased with the outcome. "Watching both Aurora and Nicole improve as much as they did was exciting, and this experience is a great example of why providing pediatric dermatology services at UCLA is so rewarding," she said. "First and foremost, these parents were committed and motivated to staying true to the treatment regimen, which I recognize can be challenging. In addition, I am able to work and collaborate with other top-notch physicians, like the ones I worked with in the pediatric ICU for Aurora's and Nicole's treatment."

In addition to treating infantile hemangiomas and other types of birthmarks, UCLA's pediatric dermatology specializes in services for a variety of skin conditions affecting children and adolescents, including atopic dermatitis, acne, eczema, warts, and alopecia. Dr. Suh adds, "For my other patients who require additional care outside of dermatology, I can confidently refer those patients to pediatricians or other specialists, such as plastic surgeons, radiologists, allergists, and rheumatologists, among many others, within the UCLA system. The collaborative spirit at UCLA makes for great patient care and helps all of us learn from one another, and it's hard to match that."

For more information on UCLA's pediatric dermatology services, call (310) 206-SKIN.

A Select Few Matched to UCLA's Dermatology Residency Program

On March 16, 2012, medical students nationwide tore through envelopes and rode through an outpour of emotion as they disclosed the results of their residency applications to fellow classmates and loved ones. Match Day — as it's typically referred to by medical students and professionals — marks the day each year when medical students learn where they will spend the next three to five years of residency training after graduation.

The Division of Dermatology's ACGME-accredited residency training program welcomes only select few annually. Of this year's 347 applicants considered for the division's rigorous training program, only 24 were invited for interviews, and three soon-to-be graduates were matched by the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) using a computer algorithm that aligns the preferences of applicants to those of residency programs.

Melvin Chiu, M.D., M.P.H., Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor and Associate Director of the division's residency program, is all too familiar with the process. As a former resident, he credits the comprehensive training he received at UCLA with enabling him to provide the best care possible to his patients. Today, he strives to create the same first-rate experience for current residents so they are equipped with the training and confidence necessary to handle any situation they may encounter as practicing dermatologists.

He says, "I had excellent teachers and role models that inspired me to stay in academic medicine and join the UCLA Dermatology faculty when I finished my residency. As a former resident of the program and now a faculty member, I think I have good insight into the unique pressures and challenges facing both the residents and the attending physicians, and I think this truly helps me in my capacity as the associate program director."

This year's Match Day brings three future residents to the division's residency training program in 2013:

- **Jennifer Hau, M.D.** – The University of Texas Medical School at Houston (Houston, TX)
- **Mengjun Hu, M.D.** – Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine (Cleveland, OH)
- **Sabrina Martin, M.D.** – Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA)

Patient Outreach

Hair Loss

Carolyn Goh, M.D., Health Sciences Clinical Instructor and Director of Inpatient Services of Dermatology, knows more than most physicians the toll that alopecia, or hair loss, can have on her patients. She knows that sometimes, the very best that medicine has to offer may not be enough to heal the emotional damage a hair loss disorder can inflict on patients. She knows not only because of her specialized training, but because she herself has been an alopecia patient since the age of three.

At the Division of Dermatology, alopecia patient outreach is equally as vital to treatment as medicine. Support groups that are sponsored by national patient advocacy groups are an invaluable resource for patients and are proven to help them cope with hair or skin disorders.

Since February 2011, Dr. Goh has led

a monthly alopecia support group at the division's Westwood office that offers a safe and open venue for individuals to share their experiences with hair loss disorders, inquire about treatment options and offer psychosocial support among peers who are coping with similar disorders. Sessions typically include group discussions with an attending therapist in a friendly, non-judgmental environment. During a recent session, participants welcomed a local wig and hairpiece vendor for a demonstration on ways to camouflage hair and scalp disorders.

"My first support group meeting was at the age of 16," says Dr. Goh. "I have experienced firsthand many of the psychosocial concerns patients have as they experience their hair loss and can share in their hopes and frustrations. I hope that through example, I also inspire my patients to face their condition with courage and with the knowledge that it is possible not only to survive this process, but to thrive."

In addition to leading the alopecia support group, Dr. Goh directs the division's Clinic for Hair and Scalp Disorders in both the Santa Monica and Westwood offices. The clinics are open to patients with non-scarring and scarring alopecia as well as other scalp conditions. Dr. Goh is also developing research projects to better understand the pathogenesis as well as effective treatments for these patients. New tools including trichoscopy are being used as well as old tools including hair mounts. The conditions seen in the clinic include telogen effluvium, androgenetic alopecia, and alopecia areata, as well as central centrifugal cicatricial alopecia, lichen planopilaris, frontal fibrosing alopecia, discoid lupus erythematosus, folliculitis decalvans, acne keloidalis nuchae, and dissecting cellulitis of the scalp.

For more information on the division's Clinic for Hair and Scalp Disorders and/or the support group, call (310) 917-3376.

Dr. Carolyn Goh

Newcomer Lectureship

Jean L. Bolognia, M.D.

The Division of Dermatology hosted its sixth annual Victor D. Newcomer, M.D. Endowed Lectureship on April 10, 2012 at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. This year's event honored Jean L. Bolognia, M.D., an internationally recognized dermatologist, author and professor at Yale University. With faculty, residents, fellows and students in attendance, Dr. Bolognia delivered her lecture, "Skin Signs of Monoclonal Gammopathies."

"As a respected leader in academic dermatology, [Dr. Bolognia] is an excellent choice for UCLA's Newcomer lecture series, says Ki-Young Suh, M.D., Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor. "Her passion and rigor for teaching dermatology are traits that we all look to for inspiration, and these are the traits that embody the spirit of Dr. Newcomer himself."

Dr. Bolognia currently serves as the Director of the Pigment Lesion Clinic and Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs at Yale University's Department of Dermatology. Of her most recent honors and recognitions, she was awarded the Certificate of Appreciation from the International League of Dermatological Societies and became an Honorary Member of both the Deutsche Dermatologische Gesellschaft and the Czech Academy of Dermatology in 2009. In 2008, she received the Mentor of the Year Award from the Women's Dermatologic Society.

"Dr. Bolognia is one of the great leaders of medical dermatology and the author of one of the major textbooks that all trainees read," says Lorraine Young, M.D., Health Sciences Clinical Professor and Co-Chief of Clinical Services.

Established in 1988, the Victor D. Newcomer, M.D. Endowed Lectureship is an annual lecture series that brings renowned leaders in dermatology to UCLA to share their knowledge and research, as well as enhance the Division of Dermatology's education and research mission. It serves as a tribute to the late Dr. Newcomer's distinguished career, 40 years of which he served as Clinical Professor of Dermatology at UCLA. In his lifetime, he received numerous honors and awards for his research and work, as well as served as a member of various medical boards, committees, foundations and associations. Dr. Newcomer is most known for his dedication, passion and tireless involvement as a health professional, educator, and mentor.

The Newcomer Endowed Lectureship continues annually thanks to the help of tax-deductible donations. Past keynote speakers include: David R. Bickers, M.D. of Columbia University (2011), William D. James, M.D. of University of Pennsylvania (2010), R. Rox Anderson, M.D. of Harvard University (2009), Barbara Gilchrest, M.D. of Boston University (2008), and Stephen Katz, M.D., Ph.D. of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Disease and National Cancer Institute (2007).

If you would like to contribute to Dr. Newcomer's legacy, as well as the Division's education and research mission through a tax-deductible donation, visit our website www.derm.med.ucla.edu and click "Support Our Mission."

Division Chief Inducted into Prestigious AAAS Fellowship

On February 18, 2012 Division of Dermatology Chief Dr. Robert L. Modlin was inducted as a distinguished fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) during a ceremony at the AAAS Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada. He was presented with an official certificate, as well as a gold and blue rosette pin whose colors represent science and engineering respectively.

Dr. Modlin joined 539 new inductees from around the world to accept the prestigious award, which honors his significant contributions towards understanding human antimicrobial pathways including Th1/TH2 cytokines, TLR 2 recognition of microbial lipoproteins and the role of vitamin D in immunity. His research is focused on the study

of leprosy as a means to learn more about the mechanisms of host defense in humans.

As an AAAS Fellow, Dr. Modlin is bestowed by his own peers one of the most prestigious honors recognized in the scientific field. An inductee must first be nominated by current AAAS fellows and is then extended an invitation to join the fellowship based on his or her contributions in various scientific arenas, including research, education, technology, communication, as well as administration in academic, industry, government and other institutions. Dr. Modlin is one of 137 new fellows recognized for his contributions in the biological sciences field and one of five new fellows that represent UCLA.

The AAAS is an international non-profit



organization dedicated to perpetuating the advancement of science and technology around the world and fostering international collaboration in these fields. It is the largest general scientific society in the world and the publisher of *Science*, a renowned scientific journal that has an estimated readership of one million. Dr. Modlin was recognized in the AAAS News & Notes section of *Science* on December 23, 2011.

CARA

Clinic for Acne Rosacea and Aesthetics

CARA (Clinic for Acne Rosacea and Aesthetics) serves patients suffering from appearance-related dermatologic conditions such as acne and rosacea. The clinic is actively involved in both clinical and basic science research to promote a better understanding of acne and rosacea and to improve the quality of life for patients suffering from these diseases.

CARA directors Drs. Christina Kim, Jenny Kim, and Ki-Young Suh, along with research student Francesca Tenconi, were awarded an American Acne and Rosacea Society Clinical Research Grant in the amount of \$10,000 for their project titled "Mobile Device Application for Acne." In addition, the team with Dr. Christina Kim serving as the principal investigator was awarded a grant titled "Acne and Omega 3" from the Dermatology Foundation.

We welcome donations to support this mission. If you are interested in supporting acne and rosacea research at UCLA, or if you would like to find out how to participate in a research study, please visit: www.derm.med.ucla.edu and click "Support Our Mission."



Reunion at the AAD

UCLA Dermatology Brings Together Past and Present Faculty and Alumni

UCLA's Division of Dermatology held its reunion on March 16, 2012 during the 70th Annual American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) Meeting in San Diego. About 100 attendees, including former and current division alumni and faculty, gathered at the San Diego Marriott Marquis & Marina to catch up with fellow associates, as well as network with other industry professionals.

This year's reunion welcomed several of the division's past residents, some of whom began the residency program more than 30 years ago.

"It was terrific to re-connect with old friends at the UCLA dermatology AAD reunion," said Teresa Soriano, M.D., Health Sciences Associate Clinical Professor and an alumnus of the Dermatology Residency and Mohs Surgery Fellowship Program. "The relationships I have made being part of the UCLA Division of Dermatology—my colleagues and the residents and fellows—have been invaluable and one of the reasons I remain on faculty at UCLA."

The division hosts its reunion to coincide with the AAD Annual Meeting, a convention that brings together the largest and most influential dermatology group in the United States. The AAD, whose mission is to promote leadership in dermatology and excellence in patient care through education, research and advocacy, holds a membership of over 17,000 and represents virtually all practicing dermatologists in the U.S., as well as some international dermatologists.

"I was quite impressed by the attendance of alumni, faculty, and residents," said Melvin Chiu, M.D., M.P.H., Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor and an alumnus of the Dermatology Residency Program. "This was certainly the best attended AAD reunion in recent memory. It was great to see old friends and meet new ones. I look forward to attending the next reunion!"



The Gift that Keeps Giving

A Conversation with Joseph W. Landau, M.D., Former Acting President of One of the Division's Most Generous Donors

dermatology research with money that was originally raised from outside donations and pharmaceutical companies.

Did your involvement with the DRF start at its inception?

The DRF was established in 1966, but I wasn't with them until I became part of the full-time staff in the late 60's. Harry Levitt, M.D. was a member of the board and was with the DRF from the very beginning until the foundation was dissolved last year. He's in his 90's now.

What inspired the DRF's decision to primarily support UCLA's Division of Dermatology with its philanthropy throughout the years?

An executive committee unanimously approved the decision to support UCLA and donate most of the foundation's assets to UCLA when the DRF dissolved. Most of us were affiliated with UCLA and saw a need. It's a great division and they could always use money to help new and promising investigators get started so that they can obtain additional grants.

How are you affiliated with UCLA?

I received my dermatology training from UCLA in 1962. From 1964 to 1974, I was a member of the full-time staff in dermatology, and since 1974,

I've been on the clinical staff in the pediatric dermatology clinic. I'm a general dermatologist but my specific interest is in pediatric dermatology. I was originally trained in pediatrics and served on pediatric boards, as well.

What is the Dermatology Foundation Education and Research Grant?

Last year when the DRF dissolved, we decided to transfer all the funds to UCLA Dermatology, which helped establish this research fund. An endowment committee has been appointed to help advise on how to distribute the money within the division based on an application process, and the fund's primary purpose is to enable investigators to generate preliminary data that can lead to federal and private funding. This endowment committee is made up of Robert L. Modlin, M.D., Teresa Soriano, M.D., Jenny Kim, M.D., Ph.D., and myself.

What can others do to help the division's cause?

I would encourage everyone to give to UCLA's Division of Dermatology. We've supported a lot of young investigators who are just starting out in their careers and they can use the additional funding.

Research Updates

Jenny Kim Laboratory

Dr. Jenny Kim, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, on behalf of the Kim Laboratory and as a Founding Board Member of the American Acne and Rosacea Society (AARS), gave the keynote speech on May 9 at the 2012 AARS meeting at the Society for Investigative Dermatology (SID) meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina. Four members of the Kim lab also gave a research presentation at the SID, including Suzanne Berkowitz, George Agak, Aslan Pirouzmanesh and Min Qin. Aslan also received the prestigious AARS Research Grant for his work in Dr. Kim's laboratory. Dr. Kim's laboratory continues to study skin immunity and defense mechanisms and continues to collaborate actively with multi-disciplinary groups on campus to advance applied sciences in dermatology. For more information

about Dr. Kim's lab and philanthropy please visit: www.derm.med.ucla.edu.

Roger Lo Laboratory

Dr. Roger Lo, Assistant Professor-in-Residence, was honored by election in 2012 as a member of the prestigious American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI). The ASCI is an honor society of physician-scientists who translate findings in the laboratory to the advancement of clinical practice. Founded in 1908, the Society is home to more than 3,000 members who are in the upper ranks of academic medicine and industry. His laboratory continues to be at the forefront of melanoma research, having made important strides in understanding B-RAF inhibitor resistance mechanisms, its toxicity, and its combination with

other agents to augment patient response and reduce suffering. Work from his laboratory this past year has resulted in high-impact publications in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *Nature Communications*, *Nature*, and *Cancer Discovery*. His publication in *Cancer Discovery* was featured by the 2012 Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research in Chicago as ground-breaking in translational cancer medicine and received wide press coverage. He has lectured nationally over the past year at Stanford, Yale, USC and cancer centers at MD Anderson, Vanderbilt-Ingram, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering. Dr. Lo along with his colleague in oncology at UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, Dr. Antoni Ribas, are co-chairing the largest international melanoma meeting, bringing the 2012 Society for Melanoma Research Meeting to Los Angeles in November.

Lloyd Miller Laboratory

Dr. Lloyd Miller, Assistant Professor-in-Residence, and his laboratory are developing innovative immunomodulatory and vaccination strategies to provide a therapeutic advantage against skin infections caused by staph (*Staphylococcus aureus*) and MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*). This work has direct clinical relevance because the numbers of staph infections have reached epidemic proportions and virulent MRSA strains are becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotic therapy. Dr. Miller's findings have published in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* in 2010 and the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology* in 2011. A summary of Dr. Miller's work and future directions of his research was recently published in *Nature*

Reviews Immunology in 2011 in an article titled "Immunity against *Staphylococcus aureus* cutaneous infections."

Robert Modlin Laboratory

There were two outstanding publications from the Modlin lab this year that involve the study of leprosy and provide new insight into the human immune system. Philip Liu, Ph.D., Assistant Professor-in-Residence, led the study published in the February 2012 issue of *Nature Medicine* that identifies the set of microRNAs that regulate the antimicrobial response to infection. MicroRNAs are regulatory RNAs that inhibit gene expression. In this case, Dr. Liu found that the leprosy bacteria induce a specific microRNA that

inhibited the vitamin D-dependent antimicrobial pathway. Mirjam Schenk, Ph.D., previously a postdoctoral scholar, now a Visiting Assistant Researcher, led the study published in the April 2012 issue of *Nature Medicine* that identifies a novel mechanism by which monocytes can be differentiated into dendritic cells, involving a cytokine called interleukin-32. Both of these studies identify new therapeutic targets for intervening in infectious and inflammatory diseases of the skin. Most recently, Dr. Schenk received the 2012 Chancellor's Award for Postdoctoral Research, which recognizes the important contributions that postdoctoral scholars make to the interrelated missions of research, teaching, and public service at UCLA.

skin.

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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 to the UCLA Division of Dermatology.

Aurora Murdock