Imprint

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Dear colleagues, friends, referring physicians, patients, partners and readers. It is my pleasure, together with my team at the Department of Dermatology of the University Hospital Zurich, to provide you with an update of our recent activities within this biennial report.

The time frame covered by this biennial report represents my 9th and 10th years chairing the department and continued devotion towards our driving aim of providing high quality patient care, research and education in the fields of dermatology, venerology and allergology, with a focus on research and innovation in dermatoncology, immuno-dermatology and allergology.

In the last two years, we have seen the fruits of our efforts in in-house training of talented clinicians, clinician-scientists and scientists. Several of these have become junior faculty and are now actively contributing to sustain quality of care and innovation in the department. Of note is the funding by the Promedica and Bruno-Bloch Foundations of an endowed professorship for immuno-dermatology, which has been attributed in a competitive selection process to one of our talented junior clinician-scientists, Dr A. Navarini. With this new professorship, Prof. Navarini will strive to further develop his research in the field of neutrophil-mediated skin diseases and strengthen our clinical immuno-dermatology program. Likewise, Dr M. Levesque – an outstanding scientist with an endowed professorship from the department’s Skin Cancer Foundation who has been very successful in promoting both our melanoma research and the development of an extensive Biobank with live primary tumor cell lines linked to genomic and clinical data – has received a tenure-track position at our department and university.

Our research efforts have also received a considerable boost by unique competitive funding opportunities. Firstly, our focus on cutaneous oncology is being promoted in the context of a university-wide Research of Priority Program in translational oncology financed with over 6 million Swiss Francs from 2012–2016 under my direction in collaboration with 11 outstanding physicians and scientists from the University of Zurich (www.cancer.uzh.ch). Based on a recent outstanding interim external evaluation, a further 4 years of funding with over 11 million Swiss Francs from 2017–2020 have been promised. Second, several members of the Department of Dermatology in collaboration with clinician-scientists in rheumatology, plastic surgery, angiology and pediatrics, as well as scientists and engineers from the University of Zurich and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ) under the direction of Prof. S. Werner (ETHZ) and Prof. L. French won competitive seed-funding of 1 million Swiss Francs for a project called Skintegrity (www.hochschulmedizin.ch). The Skintegrity consortium in Zurich brings together leading experts in the above areas to address the need for more efficient diagnosis and therapy of major skin diseases and of acute and chronic wounds.

At a clinical level, the significant innovations in the therapy of skin cancer and inflammatory disorders enabled us in the last two years to provide our over 22,000 outpatients (70,000 patient-visits per year) and 1100 inpatients per year a higher standard of care than previously. During this period, thirteen of our residents in training became successfully board-certified in dermatology and venerology (Drs N. Galliker, N.H. Gräni, Y. Göksu, D. Jenni, M. Glatz, P. Kränzlin-Stieger, M. Kunz, C. Luder, J. Mangana, S. Micaletto, C. Murer, Ch. Steinmann, L. Wiederkehr), whereas five achieved board-certification in allergology/immunology (Drs J. Genser, M. Glatz, C. Lang, S. Micaletto, K. Schiesser), two in general internal medicine (Drs S. Conrad, K. Kaufmann-Schad) and one in pathology (Dr M. Drach). In 2015–2016 three of our senior physicians (Drs E. Guenova, S. Lächli and L. Weibel) and one of our senior-scientists (Dr H.-D. Beer) were recognized by our university for their academic achievements and awarded the Venia Legendi. Last but not least, in 2016 our deputy chair Prof. R. Dummer, was promoted to the status of extraordinary professor at the University of Zurich in recognition for his outstanding clinical and academic achievements. Our warmest congratulations go to all the persons mentioned above.

Editorial
With over 40 interventional clinical trials running currently in skin cancer and inflammatory skin diseases, and in the context of an ongoing professionalization of our clinical trial unit, we are very fortunate that one of our board-certified physicians, PD Dr S. Goldinger, recently successfully completed a second board certification in Pharmaceutical Medicine. She is now responsible for our certified clinical trials unit including a Swiss Association for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK)-certified phase I clinical trials unit.

2015 was also a special year for the departments Bruno Bloch Foundation that strives to raise money for supporting research and education in the department. On the 3rd of November 2015, the foundation organized successfully a gala concert for fundraising with the Zurich Chamber Orchestra and renowned soprano Edita Gruberova for over 1000 attendees at the Zurich Tonhalle. Our department and the Bruno Bloch Foundation are extremely grateful to the above artists, the generous participants and donators for their generous support.

Challenges are to come and we are preparing ourselves for these. The biggest challenge alongside the continuously rising financial pressure will be the relocation as of 2020 of our outpatient clinics to the ambulatory university medical center, the University Hospital Zurich Airport (UHZ Airport, see www.usz.ch/bau) being built at Zurich Airport. Detailed plans for the Department of Dermatology in the top floor of this university medical center are finalized so that as of 2020 our department will have clinical operations at the existing central campus of the university hospital and UHZ Airport. This certainly is a challenge from a management and team perspective, but also an opportunity, given the modern facilities and additional space available for us at UHZ Airport.

With this overview of selected milestones and developments for the period 2015–2016, I invite you in the name of my entire team to discover more in the following pages. Enjoy!

Prof. Lars E. French, MD
Chairman
Department of Dermatology
University Hospital Zurich
Our research activities focus on basic and translational research with relevance to skin disease, primarily skin cancer and inflammatory skin disease. The efforts of our research groups are reflected by regular high-level publications and a high cumulative yearly impact factor. Collaboration and networking with talented scientists and research groups at the University of Zurich, ETH, collaborative networks such as the Cancer Network Zurich, and other leading European dermatology centers considerably strengthens our research activities. Education is the third principle field of activity for our department. In the past few years, the department has focused its resources on pre and post-graduate training and on the development and maintenance of our innovative internet-based pre-graduate learning tool – DOIT (Dermatology Online with Interactive Technology) – in collaboration with the European Dermatology Forum.

The Department of Dermatology at University Hospital Zurich (UHZ) is devoted to the provision of sustained leadership in research, patient care and education in the fields of dermatology, venereology and allergology.

Our nationally and internationally recognized department includes centers of excellence for skin cancer, inflammatory and allergic skin diseases, and dermatological surgery. With a team of 47 specialist physicians, we offer high-level patient care in all areas of dermatology, venereology and allergology in the context of our large outpatient care clinic (Dermatologische Poliklinik), our inpatient dermatology service, our daycare unit and the tertiary care referral clinics for a large number of specialty areas, including melanoma and difficult pigmented lesions, non-melanoma skin cancers, cutaneous lymphoma, bullous and autoimmune skin disease, medical dermatology, psoriasis, hair and scalp disease, occupational and contact dermatitis, dermatologic surgery, dermatopathology and physical therapies (phototherapy, radiotherapy and laser therapy).

1 Assignment of the Department of Dermatology University Hospital Zurich
The top priorities of the Department of Dermatology – in close collaboration with other departments and institutes at UHZ – are to:

- **offer high quality individual diagnosis and therapy of skin disease, and patient education in skincare and prevention of skin disease**

- **provide a high level of teaching and training in dermatology at the pre and post-graduate level**

- **perform innovative basic and clinical research with the ultimate aim of contributing to improved patient care**

- **foster constructive collaboration and networks with private practitioners and primary and secondary institutional care providers**

Through fulfillment of this mission, we aim to position our department among the leading dermatology departments in Europe.
3 Team

Team of Physicians of Department of Dermatology

Team of Personal Assistants to our Executive Physicians

Team of Administration

Page 9:
- Attending Physicians with extended responsibility: equivalent of Assistant Professor level
- Senior Attending Physicians: equivalent of Associate Professor level
In the Swiss health service, inpatient dermatology is available almost exclusively at the five university hospitals. In contrast, outpatient care is offered in both the private sector and the public setting of university and cantonal hospitals. The largest academic dermatology center in Switzerland, the Department of Dermatology at UHZ, offers state-of-the-art inpatient medical care for complex and rare skin problems. The department’s skilled surgeons perform complex surgical procedures and histologically controlled procedures. In addition, our department is able to administer complex chemotherapeutic regimens and intravenous immunotherapy, including antibodies and fusion molecules. We also provide an extensive spectrum of outpatient services, including highly specialized consultations. Our department benefits from a large area referral base for these specialist activities and its own on-site histopathology laboratory.

**Outpatient unit (polyclinic) and specialist care clinics**

Prof. Th. M. Kündig and his team of dermatologists and specialist nurses treat more than 22,000 patients on referral in more than 70,000 consultations a year. In addition to the general outpatient clinics, patients profit from international experts in their fields of dermatology and venereology in outpatient clinics for autoimmune disorders, psoriasis, atopic eczema, acne and other severe dermatologic diseases. An interdisciplinary wound clinic is provided once a week in collaboration with the departments of vascular surgery, angiology, orthopedics and plastic surgery for patients with chronic hard-to-heal wounds. In 2016, a new consultation for acne inversa was established, managed by Prof. A. Navarini and PD Dr S. Läuchli (co-management).

In our daycare unit, infusion therapies are performed in an outpatient setting. Most of our patients suffer from metastatic melanoma and are treated mainly with recently developed immunotherapies and targeted therapies – as highly effective treatment modalities. Only in minor cases is chemotherapy still used. Further treated diseases include inflammatory and autoimmune diseases, and cutaneous lymphoma. Due to the relocation to one room (C19), we have improved the monitoring capabilities, as one nurse and one physician can be on-site. The new rapid blood laboratory analysis system enables treatment of shorter duration. We are still working on further improvements in order to ensure the stay at our day clinic is as convenient as possible.
The skin cancer center of the department integrated in the Cancer Center Zurich

Our skin cancer center runs under the direction of Prof. R. Dummer with a team of expert skin cancer specialists (Prof. R. Braun, Prof. G. Hofbauer, PD Dr A. Cozzio, PD Dr E. Guenova, PD Dr S. Goldinger PD Dr K. Kerl, Prof. M. Maiwald, Dr J. Mangana and Dr S. Goldinger), and is comprised of the following clinics: The pigmented lesion & skin cancer prevention clinic: this clinic runs under the direction of Prof. R. Braun and makes use of modern high tech equipment (confocal microscopy, skin surface videomicroscopy, dermoscopy, total body imaging) for the early detection of melanoma. The skin cancer clinic runs under the direction of Prof. R. Dummer and offers patients with skin cancer of different types (melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer) highly professionalized treatment and follow-up as well as access to the most innovative clinical trials. The cutaneous lymphoma clinic runs under the direction of PD Dr A. Cozzio and since April 2016 of PD Dr K. Kerl & PD Dr E. Guenova.

With the incidence of melanoma and other skin cancers growing worldwide and new therapies prolonging the survival of patients with advanced disease, complex medical care is needed. Best care of complicated melanoma and skin cancer cases is achieved in specialized referral centers such as the Zurich skin cancer center integrated in the cancer center of the university hospital (www.cancer-center.ch). Our aim to provide optimized melanoma therapy, best patient reported treatment outcome and successful clinical and translational research, necessitates a dedicated inter-disciplinary team.

Modern skin cancer management is a paradigm for precision medicine in a rapidly evolving scientific environment. Networking and cooperative projects with basic research on a local, national and international level is crucial. It is especially attractive to include well established local basic research groups and cooperative projects including the investigation of patient samples collected in the biobank. Clinical research with Pharma-sponsored and investigator initiated clinical trials is necessary to create a critical understanding of clinical science. Patients are regularly informed about these projects and may even actively support these efforts.

Allergology unit

The allergology unit of our department is a European certified (GALEN) center of excellence in the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic allergic disease. Managed by Prof. P. Schmid and his staff, our unit has developed a special focus on skin allergy, food allergy, drug allergy and desensitization protocols (specific immunotherapy); for example, including life-threatening insect sting allergies. Outpatient clinics for patients with atopic dermatitis, drug hypersensitivity, mastocytosis and hereditary angioedema complete the general clinics. Translational research involves mainly these diseases, with, for example, investigation by Dr M. Glatz and Dr Ph. Bossard on the effect of the microbiome on atopic eczema. Other approaches focus on the role of food allergens and histamine intolerance, and mast cell-associated diseases. Special attention is also given to inter-professional patient education, based on individual and patient-tailored instructional steps (micro-education) and counseling.

Dermatosurgery

Our dermatosurgery unit and its experienced team of dermatologic surgeons (PD Dr S. Läuchli and Prof. J. Hafner) have developed a renowned area in general dermatologic surgery with a focus on skin cancer surgery and chronic wound surgery. High-end techniques, such as micrographic surgery (MOHS) for complex skin cancer cases, ablative laser treatments or fibrotic tissue shaving and skin transplantation for complex wounds, are performed regularly with a high level of patient satisfaction in this unit.

Physical treatment unit – including radiotherapy, phototherapy and laser unit

This unit, led by Prof. R. Dummer and Dr L. Imhof, is equipped with the latest physical therapy technologies, including UVAl devices, a full range of lasers and an Intense Pulsed Light (IPL) platform.

Recently, two modern X-ray devices for superficial radiotherapy of skin cancer and selected refractory inflamma-
tory diseases have been installed. Over 3,000 treatments are performed per year.

The Department of Dermatology has a long-lasting interest in the application of laser technology. The laser therapy and aesthetic dermatology unit attracts patients from all over the world seeking treatment for aesthetic and skin conditions. We perform a full range of laser procedures, such as permanent hair removal, tattoo removal, laser treatments of vascular disorders, fractional resurfacing, fractional CO2 and fractional erbium treatments, skin-tightening procedures and traditional CO2 and erbium-resurfacing treatments. Additionally we perform numerous other treatments such as injections with botulinumtoxin, soft tissue fillers and chemical peels.

Dr L. Imhof, the director of the laser unit, collaborates in an interdisciplinary manner with plastic surgeons, angiologists and gynecologists.

**Weekday inpatient ward**

Our weekday inpatient ward under the direction of Dr M. Nägeli has 8 beds to provide rapid, complex inpatient workups and short inpatient therapies. This unit also offers extracorporeal photopheresis, an immunomodulatory treatment, to stem cell transplant recipients with graft-versus-host-disease, to lung transplant recipients suffering organ rejection, and to cutaneous lymphoma patients with three photopheresis units. In January 2017 we will extend to 4 photopheresis machines. On the same floor there is the bath therapy room to fulfill complex dermatological therapies.

**Our inpatient clinic**

With 36 beds, 12 of which are available for semi-private and privately insured patients, this unit is unique with respect to the medical expertise and the level of integrated medical and dermatological care that the highly specialized and committed team of nurses and doctors offers. Under the direction of senior medical staff (Prof. L. French, Prof. R. Dummer, Prof. J. Hafner, Prof. M. Maiwald, Dr M. Nägeli) solutions are found for the management of particularly severe forms of skin disease. The most common diagnoses include therapy-resistant forms of psoriasis and atopic dermatitis, medical and surgical treatment of advanced forms of skin cancer, treatment of complex autoimmune skin disease, closure of chronic wounds, and examination of any complex and/or extended forms of skin disease for which an appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic approach needs to be put in place. The concentrated medical expertise and friendly atmosphere are highly appraised by the patients.

**Nursing care**

Two recent personnel changes have bolstered the clinic: Heiko Müller has been working as a healthcare expert since September 2015, and in October 2016 Angela Andreoletti took over the management of inpatient care.

The most important goals of nursing care are based on the three-pillar concept of UHZ Shared Governance: expertise, education and management. These elements are closely interrelated and require the best possible collaboration from the team. The various skills of the staff
must be used in a targeted manner in order to maintain quality assurance and patient safety at the highest level. It is important to ensure that the specialist knowledge of dermatological care is passed on consistently, even in the case of personnel or organizational changes or new requirements at UHZ level.

The clinic’s nursing care focuses on three areas: dermatological specialist care, dermatology and palliative care. Dermatological care is sometimes underestimated, but the fact is that nowadays patients are increasingly treated if possible outside of the hospital, and our most complex cases are multimorbid patients. This brings great but exciting challenges for the team, especially since the treatments are often interdisciplinary.

In this context, the position of a skin cancer nurse was created in autumn 2016, financed by the Verein für Haukrebsforschung (see page 38). The nurse accompanies the patients continuously from the initial diagnosis to the unfortunately often terminal stage of the disease. She is the constant point of contact for patients and relatives and coordinates contact with psycho-oncology and social services (contact with palliative medicine: by our physicians). We created this position in order to be able to address urgent demands from our patients, who in these often very difficult situations need a support person for questions and information on clinical studies.

Another example of interdisciplinarity is extracorporeal photopheresis (ECP): we treat about 40 lung transplant patients with ECP annually. After the approval was given for treatment of lung transplant rejection in autumn 2016, we had to buy a third ECP device due to the increasing demand. These highly multimorbid patients are treated by our team in close cooperation with UHZ’s pneumology department.

Several nurse-based educational activities have been developed in the allergology unit, including specific training in the management of atopic dermatitis and allergic asthma. K. Grando is a highly skilled expert in adult patient education and has introduced the micro-education approach, which is now applied to all patients who receive allergen-specific immunotherapy.

Our outpatient care under the management of S. Beeler-Trüssel has been intensively involved in the preparations for the move of the entire outpatient Department of Dermatology to the future location UHZ Airport.
Laboratory facilities

The laboratory facilities of the department are devoted to routine lab procedures and research. The department manages fully equipped dermatopathology, allergology, mycology and serology/venereology labs, and eight competitive skin disease and allergy research labs.

Dermatopathology

Our dermatopathology team examines and diagnoses 30,000 samples per year and provides sample testing for formalin-fixed tissue and cryomaterial (frozen section), and specific immunopathological studies (immunohistochemistry, immunofluorescence). In collaboration with other teams, we provide molecular biological studies (PCR) for pathogen search or suspicion of lymphomas. Our dermatopathology is a certified teaching center and organizes regular courses in dermatology for residents in collaboration with the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV).

Other routine laboratories

The clinic is also equipped with laboratories devoted to allergology, molecular diagnostics, mycology and syphilis serology. These labs are run under the laboratory head Dr P. Bosshard (together with Prof. P. Schmid-Grendelmeier in the allergology laboratory) and together they analyze 12,000 patient samples a year. The allergology lab was among the first to use ISAC (Immuno Solid-phase Allergen Chip) in Switzerland. In molecular diagnostics, tests such as the T cell receptor clonality assay or a genital ulcer disease multiplex PCR are performed. The mycology lab is renowned as a reference laboratory, in particular for dermatophyte infections. The routine labs are fully accredited according to ISO 15189:2012.

Research laboratories

The continued expansion of our research activities with about 50 researchers was matched by an expansion of our research space. We now operate research laboratories on the top floor of our department at Gloriastrasse 31, as well as in two research buildings at the new biomedical campus in Schlieren – Wagistrasse 12 and 14. The latter labs contain state-of-the-art equipment in order to perform competitive research in the fields of biochemistry, molecular biology, cell biology, immunology and allergy. For animal experiments, we have access to a modern animal house at UHZ, as well as in Schlieren. Our research labs are certified according to ISO standards and comply with GMP guidelines for patient samples.

Financial Key-Facts

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<td>Number of Leaves in Inpatient Clinic</td>
<td>1346</td>
<td>1284</td>
<td>1344</td>
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<td>11,016</td>
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<td>Number of Outpatients</td>
<td>21,955</td>
<td>21,965</td>
<td>22,594</td>
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<td>28,849</td>
<td>30,212</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
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5 Quality Management

Main fields of activity

Our aim is to ensure that our organization and services are consistent and of the best possible quality. Our activities can be divided into four main components: quality planning, quality control, quality assurance and quality improvement. Our activities not only focus on service quality, but also on the means to achieve it. Our quality management therefore uses quality assurance and control of processes, such as PDCA (plan-do-check-act or plan-do-check-adjust) to achieve more consistent quality. In order to achieve this goal, we intentionally chose a multidisciplinary approach to reach out to all groups of professions and break barriers between those groups.

Our main focus of interest is the permanent improvement of the quality of care, the safety of our patients and the satisfaction of our collaborators, referring physicians and, most importantly, patients.

Analysis of patient feedback indicates that more than 98% of all patients would recommend us to a friend or a relative, and 99.5% would choose to be treated again at our faculty.

We cover topics such as complaint management, Critical Incident Report System (CIRS) and surveys (patients, collaborators and referring physicians). One of the central activities is the analysis and critical appraisal of all processes in the institution. In order to improve the standard of care, we introduced a quality manual that is reviewed and updated on a regular basis. We use quality assurance and process control to achieve, maintain and permanently improve the quality of our care. We formulate annual goals, and execute and monitor them using an interdisciplinary approach that breaks down barriers and involves all collaborators in the process. The department is ISO 9001: 2008 certified by Swiss TS since 2011. This certificate covers the clinic, research, education and our laboratories.

Our skin cancer center has been certified by the Deutsche Krebgesellschaft (DKG) via Onkozert since 2011. We are in charge of the certifications, but consider the real challenge is to make the step from simply fulfilling requirement catalogs to real quality management projects where everyone (collaborators, patients and referring physicians) can feel the improvement.
We aim to continuously improve the quality of our service for patients and we are committed to the highest level of research in dermatology. Our achievements in this field – as judged by the cumulative impact factors for 2014 and 2015 (561 and 918) – position us among the world’s leading departments.

Our research activities focus primarily on basic, patient-oriented translational and clinical research in dermatology, where we focus on the pathogenesis, early diagnosis and molecular targeted treatment of skin cancer, particularly in melanoma, cutaneous lymphoma and non-melanoma skin cancers. Immunodermatology is also a research focus, in particular innate immunity and T-cell biology in inflammatory skin diseases, notably psoriasis, neutrophilic dermatoses, cutaneous drug eruptions and severe allergic adverse drug reactions. Allergology focuses on atopic dermatitis, drug and food allergies, and specific immunotherapy.

The aim of our research activities is to:

- promote high quality research with clinical relevance in the defined fields of focus.
- promote intensive networking and collaboration with other institutes and departments at the University of Zurich and ETH, and through active participation in networks such as Cancer Network Zurich and Life Science Zurich.
- support fellowships abroad in excellent research institutions and maximize competitive research funding, including that from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF professorships).
- create endowed professorships in our department in inflammatory skin disease and skin cancer research, with the aim of recruiting and retaining leaders in these research fields.
Key figures and highlights

Approximately 40 clinical trials on new therapeutic approaches in skin disease are ongoing – corresponding to about 15% of all studies performed at UHZ. In 2015, our department published more than 100 original research articles and approximately 20 reviews in peer-reviewed journals.

Several original publications in interdisciplinary journals, such as:


SSS Weekend

Our 20th and 21st SSS (Science, Sun and Snow) weekend took place again in 2015 and 2016. Approximately 50 researchers participated in this meeting, which was held in the Schatzalp Hotel in Davos. For one and a half days, our young researchers presented their work and updates of their progress, followed by intense discussions. The meeting also allowed a ski day, a dinner and a fondue evening, creating an ideal atmosphere for scientific exchange.
Research groups

Prof. Barbara Ballmer-Weber, MD

Group Members and Associates
Caroline Guillod, MD
Claudia Lang, MD
Nora Gräni, MD
Muriel Trächsler

Main Fields of Research
Our research activities are focused on food allergy, in particular pollen related food allergy. We are particularly involved into the identification and molecular characterisation of important cross-reactive allergens, and the development of diagnostic and therapeutic methods based on recombinant allergens. Allergen based on component resolved diagnosis in food allergy is a major topic of our research group. Another important aspect of our research activity is risk assessment in food allergy with regard to genetic modified foods/novel foods but also threshold doses (minimal allergen doses to induce an allergic reaction) of plant and animal food allergens.

Selected References


Main Fields of Research
Keratinocytes represent the main cell type of the epidermis. This outermost layer of the skin is directly exposed to numerous types of stress. Our research tries to elucidate the mechanisms, which are responsible for the maintenance of the integrity of the epidermis under stress conditions. Protein complexes, termed inflammasomes, and the protease caspase-1, which is their central molecule, play important roles in these processes, including sunburn, infection by Herpes virus and UV-induced skin cancer development. Since these defence mechanisms are only poorly conserved in other species, such as in mice, we are establishing novel protocols for the stable genetic manipulation of human primary keratinocytes and of skin cancer cells. In addition, we are interested in understanding how anti-inflammatory drugs modulate inflammasomes and caspase-1.

Selected References
Opposing effects of Nrf2 and Nrf2-activating compounds on the NLRP3 inflammasome independent of Nrf2-mediated gene expression. Garstkiewicz et al., Eur J Immunol. 2016, eji.201646665 [Epub ahead of print]

Research groups

Philipp P. Bosshard, PhD and Martin Glatz, MD

Group Members and Associates
Cheryl Leong Kit Mun, PhD
Bettina Schmid, PhD student
Ksenia Mischler, MD student
Antonino Buttafuoco, MSc
Riccardo Curatolo, MSc student
Nada Juricevic, technician

Main Fields of Research
Our research activities focus on skin infections and pathogen-host-interactions. This comprises research on bacterial infections (e.g. sexually transmitted infections), fungal infections and the role of the human skin microbiome in inflammatory skin diseases such as atopic dermatitis. Our main interests are epidemiological studies, to develop and improve diagnostic tools for skin infections (e.g. PCR) and to perform research on the human skin microbiome (e.g. next generation sequencing).

Selected References


Prof. Ralph Braun, MD

Group Members and Associates
Sabine Ludwig
Sarah Denzler
Corinne Eggenschwiler
Severin Marfurt
Aline Golliez
Sophie Gu

Main Fields of Research
Our main interest is the non invasive diagnosis of skin cancer, especially malignant melanoma. We use established techniques such as dermoscopy as well as new techniques including in vivo laser scanning microscopy. Due to different international research collaborations our patients benefit directly from the latest technological developments.

Selected References


Main Fields of Research

The team has established a world class skin cancer center providing the best clinical care connected to translation and clinical research. We intensively investigate the immune biology of cutaneous lymphomas, cutaneous melanoma and epithelial skin cancers. Based on the microenvironment of these tumors, we have established immune interventions in cell cultures and animal models. Translational research applies this new knowledge to our patients in order to provide effective treatment with best quality of life.

Selected References


Main Fields of Research

Our skin is not only a physical barrier against the environment but also an immunologically active organ, which can readily respond. Cutaneous inflammation is a very common condition in dermatology and numerous insults from the environment or endogenous danger signals can lead to skin inflammation. The aim of our research is to better understand the molecular events leading to inflammatory responses in the skin. We are particularly interested in the mechanisms involved in i) the immune responses to Propionibacterium acnes in acne vulgaris; ii) hypoxia-induced melanoma progression; and iii) the regulation of the danger- and pathogen-sensing intra-cellular complexes known as inflammasomes in keratinocytes. We found that i) Propionibacterium acnes can induce mixed Th1/Th17 responses in the skin of acne patients ii) in hypoxic conditions, melanoma cells secrete the alarmin HMGB1 inducing the accumulation of tumor-promoting macrophages; and iii) the regulation of the inflammasomes in keratinocytes upon UVB exposure is different to that seen in myeloid immune cells. The new pathways, cell types and cytokines involved in the above-mentioned inflammatory skin diseases present as potential targets for the development of new therapies.

Selected References


Research groups

PD Emmanuella Guenova, MD, PhD
PD Antonio Cozzio MD, PhD

Group Members and Associates
PD Wolfram Hötzenecker, MD, PhD
Joanna Mangana, MD
Tabea Koch, MTA diagnostic
Agathe Duda, MTA diagnostic
Desislava Ignatova, PhD student
Yung-Tsan Chang, PhD student
Pesho Ivanov, PhD student
Ieva Saulite, MD student
Tanja Eberle, MD student

Main Fields of Research
Our research activities focus on (i) interactions between innate and adaptive immunity in cutaneous inflammation; (ii) pathogenesis and therapy of skin tumours; cutaneous lymphoma & Merkel cell carcinoma; (iii) development of new immune therapies and translational research.

Selected References

Prof. Jürg Hafner, MD

Group Members and Associates
In-Hospital Dermatology:
Prof. Mirjana Maiwald, MD; Mirjam Nägeli, MD

Surgical Dermatology:
PD Severin Läuchli, MD; Sabine Bruckert, MD; Stephan Nobbe, MD

Vascular Medicine and Wound Healing:
PD Benedikt Weber, MD, PhD; PD Nikolaus Duschek, MD, PhD; Claude Luder, MD; Caroline Buset, MD

Main Fields of Research
Dermatology in severely ill patients
Dermatologic surgery and surgical oncology
Dermatology in immunosuppression
Dermatologic angiology and phlebology
Wound healing

Selected References


Hafner J, Möhrle M, Löser C: Retroauricular pedicled flap for repair of large helix and anthelix defects. JDDG 2016;14:753-755


Skrinjar E, Duschek N, Bayer GS, Assadian O, Koulas S, Hirsch K, Basic J, Assadian A: Randomized controlled trial comparing the combination of a polymeric membrane dressing plus negative pressure wound therapy against negative pressure wound therapy alone: The WICVAC study

Research groups

Prof. Thomas M. Kündig, MD

Group Members and Associates
Prof. Martin Bachmann, PhD
Prof. Gabriela Senti, MD
PD Pál Johansen, PhD
PD Steve Pascolo, PhD
PD Ying Waeckerle-Men, PhD
Gary Jennings, PhD
Anja Fettelschoss, PhD
Franziska Thoms Zabel
Florian Olomski
Stefanie Haas
Anna Wiegand
Corinne Zurfluh

Main Fields of Research
Our research group is focused on immunotherapy of allergies and cancer. In allergy we aim to improve and shorten current regimens for immunotherapy or desensitization, which today require 3 to 5 years of allergen administration. We found that direct administration of allergen into a lymph node allowed shortening immunotherapy from 60 to merely 3 injections. Also, we developed epicutaneous immunotherapy, where allergens are applied by use of a skin patch, shortening a course of treatment to merely 6 patch applications. Using virus-like particles we aim to further reduce the number of allergen applications to one or two. We are also using virus-like particles for anti-cytokine vaccination in horses and dogs, and furthermore in cats to render them hypoallergenic. In cancer we focus on the role of cytokines in tumor cachexia and we are working RNA-based cancer vaccines.

Selected References
Bachmann MF, Kündig TM. Allergen-specific immunotherapy: is it vaccination against toxins after all? Allergy 2016. [Epub ahead of print]
Main Fields of Research

Our research interests are in understanding the molecular mechanisms of melanoma progression and identifying novel biomarkers or targets that may be translated into clinical practice. We also run the dermatology biobank, which is a critical resource for basic research as well as translational oncology. Please visit our website for more information: www.cnz.uzh.ch/en/Research/RG3/Levesque.html

Selected References


Cheng, PF, Shakhova, O, Widmer, DS, Zing, D, Benedetta B, Raaijmakers, MMI Eichoff OM, Goldinger SM, Hemmi S, Hoek KS, Sommer L, Dummer R, Levesque MP. Methylation dependent SOX9 expression mediates invasion in human melanoma cells and is a negative prognostic factor in advanced melanoma. Genome Biology 2015;6:42

Research groups

Prof. Alexander Navarini, MD, PhD

Group Members and Associates
Rebecca Higgins, PhD
Adhideb Ghosh, PhD
Florian Anzengruber, MD univ.
Mathias Drach, MD univ.
Moritz Klinger, M.Stud.
Katja Hofstetter, M.Stud.

Associated members
(from Inflammatory Dermatoses Study Team and Patch Test Unit)
Tamsyn Meyer
Julia Püschel
Jasmine Narainsing

Main Fields of Research
The focus of our activities is the investigation of inflammatory skin disease, especially neutrophil-mediated inflammatory dermatoses (NMID). We have two groups of investigators working on projects addressing genetic and pathophysiological questions (NMID-Team), as well as a newer and smaller Vision-Team whose aim is to transform visual information into quantifiable phenotypic data.

Selected References

**PD Steve Pascolo, PhD**

**Group Members**
- Pantelyushin Stanislav, PhD, Postdoc
- Marina Tusup, PhD Student

**Associated members**
(from URPP “Translational Cancer Research”)
- Prof. Maries van den Broek, PhD
- Prof. Burkhard Becher, PhD
- Prof. Michael Weller, MD
- Prof. Onur Boyman, MD

**Main Fields of Research**
Our major focus of research is the therapeutic utilization of RNA. We develop multifunctional anti-cancer immuno-stimulating RNA formulations. Within the University Research Priority Program (URPP) “Translational Cancer Research”, we generate and formulate mRNA for expression of therapeutic proteins. As we have done in the past, those RNA-based strategies can be transferred to clinics and tested in clinical trials.

**Selected References**
- Pascolo S. The messenger’s great message for vaccination. Expert Rev Vaccines 2015;14:153-6
Research groups

Prof. Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier, MD

Group Members and Associates
Benno Schnyder, MD
Eugen Bersuch, MD
Meike Distler, MD
Matthias Drach, MD
Kirsten Schiesser, MD
Christina Weber, MD
Celine Eichenberger
Karin Grando
Karin Schnyder
Muriel Träxler

Main Fields of Research
Our research activities are focused on epidemiology, pathophysiology and treatment of allergic diseases, namely atopic dermatitis. We also investigate new therapeutic options in a variety of diseases, mainly atopic dermatitis, mastocytosis and drug allergy. Recently we have also started to implement, evaluate and improve educational tools to promote knowledge and training in allergic diseases.

Selected References
PD Lisa Weibel, MD

Group Members and Associates
Martin Theiler, MD
Agnes Schwieger, MD
Regula Wälchli, MD
Barbara Heidecker, MD
PD Clemens Schiestl, MD
Katharina Steindl, MD
Dr phil Ornella Masnari

Main Fields of Research
Our research group is based at UHZ and the University Children’s Hospital. Our activities focus on rare skin disorders, congenital anomalies, stigmatization and pediatric clinical drug studies. As for rare skin disorders we are investigating the genetic background of localized scleroderma (with Prof. A. Navarini, Zurich), hair disorders such as uncombable hair syndrome and others (with Prof. R. Betz, Köln), the inflammatory profile of Netherton syndrome (with Prof. A. Hovnanian, Paris), aspects of congenital melanocytic nevi (with Dr. V. Kinsler, London) and we detect new types of epidermolysis bullosa (with Prof. C. Has, Freiburg). We perform clinical studies with patients with vascular anomalies such as infantile hemangioma including the description of topical betablocker therapy and the publication of European and national treatment Guidelines. As for complex vascular disorders we investigate PIK3CA-related overgrowth syndromes and the clinical response to treatment with sirolimus (orphan disease indication). As the only Swiss pediatric center we participate in international drug trials for the treatment of psoriasis.

Selected References

Clinical research is a major focus in an academic center like ours. It is essential to translate new basic research results into beneficial treatment regimens. Clinical trials today are performed in an increasingly regulated network that combines clinical, ethical, legal and economic aspects. Respect for the patient’s life and well-being, and the integrity of all personnel involved (principles of good clinical practice) are absolutely central. A network of clinical trial specialists is necessary in order that clinical trials can be integrated in the treatment strategy for the respective disease.

The Department of Dermatology and the skin cancer unit have a long and successful record in this context. We are a major research center for the development of targeted therapy and immunotherapy for skin cancers and immune-mediated skin diseases.

The clinical trial unit of our center has extensive experience in early and late phases of clinical development (phase I-IV). The unit is certified by SAKK to perform phase I trials and offers a post-graduate education in pharmaceutical medicine. In addition, the unit recently received permission for its own trial pharmacy. Dedicated trial pharmacists have joined the team and established pharmaceutical management to further improve quality for our trial patients.

In recent years, the clinical trial unit has worked with many molecules including:

- BRAF-inhibitors
- MEK-inhibitors
- Combination therapies with other kinase inhibitors including ribociclib
- Anti-CTLA-4 antibodies
- Anti-PD1 antibodies
- Combination of different immunotherapy agents including epacadostat and T-VEC
- Oncolytic virus therapy with T-VEC
- Pan-RAF inhibitors including RAF265, LXH254
- MDM2 inhibitors
- Somatostatin-analogs
- Antisense-BCL-2 Nucleotides
- Tyrosine kinase inhibitors including nilotinib, pazopanib, lapatinib and sorafenib
- Gene therapy including T Vec Allovecin-7 and adenointerferon gamma and canary pox viral vectors
- Pan-kinase and Anti-VEGF inhibitors
- Monoclonal antibody-cytokine fusion proteins
- Vaccines
- Antimicrobial agents (taurodine)
- PEG interferon
- Various Chemotherapies
- Hedgehog Pathway Inhibitors
- Histone-Deacetylase Inhibitors (HDAC)
- RXR Retinoids
- NAD+ biosynthesis inhibitors
- Purine Nucleosid Phosphorylase inhibitors
- Resiquimod
- IL-17A and IL-17R antibodies
- PDE4 inhibitors
- TNF-α antagonists
- IL-12/23 antibodies
- IL-1β antagonists
- IL1Ra soluble receptor
- Topical parathormone
- Topical Vitamin D3 analogons
- Anti-IgE antibodies
We focus on the development of investigator initiated trials (IITs) for the treatment of orphan diseases of the skin and for sub-groups of skin cancer patients with high medical requirements, such as those with brain metastases.

**Our clinical trial unit is today one of the leading clinical research centers in Europe**

Recognized as SAKK Phase I Center in September 12, 2016: the dermatological clinical trial unit UHZ was officially approved by the Swiss Association for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK) to conduct SAKK Phase I/first in human (FIH) studies.
Since the launch of the University Research Priority Program (URPP) for Translational Cancer Research in 2012, the Department of Dermatology has been an important contributing partner and has also greatly benefited from the interaction and financial support provided.

In 2012, the University of Zurich committed more than CHF 6 million over a period of four years in order to finance this URPP with the prime aim of bridging fundamental and clinical cancer research at the university. The URPP is directed by Prof. L. French, along with vice-director Prof. C. Basler and the scientific coordinator Prof. M. van den Broek.

The funding of URPP Translational Cancer Research clearly underscores the commitment of our university to the promotion of innovative cancer research and translation to the clinic through high quality science.

URPP Translational Cancer Research is unique in that it unites an exceptional team of internationally recognized scientists and physician-scientists in the field of oncology and cancer research, and is determined to bridge the gap in communication and collaboration between physicians and scientists to bring cancer research a step closer to translation into the clinic.

In 2015, the performance of URPP Translational Cancer Research was evaluated by three external experts commissioned by the university. Based on the very positive evaluation, productivity and outlook, in 2016 the University of Zurich decided to continue and increase the financing with an additional CHF 11 million for the next four-year period (2017–2020).

The project delivers innovation thanks to engaged post-doctoral fellows who liaise between clinical and basic labs and the high-level mentoring provided by the principal investigators in clinical and basic science. As a consequence of the above research strategy, an increasing number of interesting publications are appearing; an example is the collaborative work between the groups of Professors Sommer (Institute of Anatomy, University of Zurich), Levesque and Dummer (both Department of Dermatology, UHZ) on epigenetic control of melanoma growth and metastasis through silencing of distinct tumor suppressors by the epigenetic modifier EZH2 (Zingg D, Debbache J, Schaefer SM, Tuncer E, Frommel SC, Cheng P, Arenas-Ramirez N, Haeusel J, Zhang Y, McCabe MT, Creasy CL, Levesque MP, Boyman O, Santoro R, Shakhova O, Dummer R, and Sommer L. Nature Communications, 6:605, 2015).
In autumn 2016, a new large-scale interdisciplinary project of Hochschulmedizin Zürich was initiated with the aim of establishing the Zurich location as a world-leading center for skin research. The project is led by S. Werner, Professor of Cell Biology at ETH, and L. French, Professor of dermatology and venereology at the University of Zurich and Director of the Department of Dermatology, UHZ. The main reason for the project is the increasing importance of skin diseases, such as skin cancer, chronic skin wounds and scleroderma. Through a unique collaboration between highly specialized clinicians and scientists from the University of Zurich and ETH, the best expertise in biology, medicine, mechanics and engineering can provide the best basis for rapid and targeted research to improve the treatment of severe skin diseases.

We focus on the development of investigator initiated trials (IITs) for the treatment of orphan diseases of the skin and for sub-groups of skin cancer patients with high medical requirements, such as those with brain metastases.
9 Collaborations with other Dermatology Centers

Dermatological outpatient clinic at Kantonsspital Frauenfeld

A dermatological outpatient clinic at the cantonal hospital in Frauenfeld (KSF) has been in operation since 2011 in close collaboration with the Department of Dermatology of UHZ. The clinic is run by two senior dermatologists from the Department of Dermatology of UHZ, who divide their hours equally between UHZ and KSF. A six-month rotation for senior dermatology residents from UHZ was started in 2013. Dr St. Nobbe, part of the team in Frauenfeld from the start, is officially heading the clinic since July 2015. The other senior dermatologists are currently Dr M. Barysch (April 2015–April 2016) and Dr L. Wiederkehr (since May 2016).

The clinic covers a broad spectrum of outpatient dermatology, including a radiotherapy unit. The majority of patients are referred by practicing physicians, from both primary carers and specialists. In addition, the clinic is responsible for dermatological inpatient consultations of all hospitals in the canton of Thurgau. Special consultation hours are held on a monthly basis with professors from UHZ. After five years of operation, the results are very positive and the outpatient clinic is a valuable addition to the dermatological services of the canton of Thurgau.

Center of Dermatology and Allergology, Luzerner Kantonsspital

The cantonal hospital Lucerne comprises the central hospital in Lucerne, two primary healthcare hospitals at Sursee and Wolhusen, and the Lucerne Alpine Clinic Montana. It is the biggest non-university central hospital in Switzerland. The Center of Dermatology and Allergy is responsible for the dermatological and allergological care of the population of central Switzerland. It is part of the Department of Medicine and has access to inpatient facilities with patients treated in the intensive care unit or the medical day clinic. It comprises a dermatological ambulance, an allergy ambulance and an allergy day clinic, covering the whole spectrum of outpatient dermatology and allergology, with about 25,000 outpatient contacts a year. It is accepted as a dermatology training institution “B” offering a three-year curriculum to dermatology students. The center is headed by Prof. Ch. Brand and his deputy Prof. B. Ballmer-Weber. The medical staff comprises the co-head physician Dr G. Müllner, the leading physician Dr A. Wysocki, three senior physicians, three consultants and three to four assistant physicians. There is close collaboration between the Department of Dermatology at UHZ and the Center of Dermatology and Allergology Lucerne, with allergy multicenter studies run at both locations by Prof. B. Ballmer-Weber. An exchange of dermatology students between the two clinics is in discussion.

Kantonsspital St. Gallen

Through our lymphoma consultation setting under the lead of PD Dr K. Kerl (UHZ) and PD Dr E. Guenova (UHZ, cantonal hospital of St Gallen), we treat one of the largest patient groups with cutaneous lymphomas in Europe. This institution was recently extended as part of a collaboration with the Department of Dermatology and Allergology at the cantonal hospital of St. Gallen (KSSG). Patients from eastern Switzerland can be treated by Dr Guenova at KSSG. And thanks to the addition of Dr Guenova at UHZ, these patients can be offered the latest diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in clinical trials at KSSG. This service from both hospitals helps to offer the patient an optimal and individual care.
One of the traditions and highlights at the Bruno Bloch Foundation are the yearly Memorial Lectures, which take place in February with more than 200 faculty members and students at UHZ. In 2015, the Bruno Bloch Memorial Lecture was held by Prof. Andreas Bircher, Chair Department of Allergology, University Hospital Basle, and in 2016 by Prof. Karin Scharffetter-Kochanek, Chair of the Department of Dermatology and Allergologic Diseases at Ulm University, Germany.

For the first time in 2013, the Bruno Bloch Foundation organized a charity recital with the exceptional contribution of Anne-Sophie Mutter. The funds collected served to finance research for skin diseases and skin cancer at the Department of Dermatology at UHZ. Important donators supported this charity evening and made a substantial benefit in favor of the research possible. Due to its success, the Bruno Bloch Foundation organized a second charity evening in November 2015 with the participation of soprano Edita Gruberova and the Zurich Chamber Orchestra (ZKO).

- In 2015, the Board of Directors of the foundation decided to grant two fellowships each year to young dermatologists (residents) from the Department of Dermatology at UHZ for further training abroad.
- As of 2016, selected guests were invited by the Bruno Bloch Foundation to attend the breakfast round table of the foundation. At this event, a representative of the medical staff of the Department of Dermatology at UHZ presented a specific topic of general interest in the field of dermatology to the audience.
- The Bruno Bloch Foundation is also co-organizer of the Zürcher Dermatologische Fortbildungstage.
- An important aim of the foundation is to foster fellowship – in 2016, Dr Lea Wiederkehr received a financial contribution for a residency in Trinidad.
Report of the fellowship of Dr L. Wiederkehr: “In my last year...”

In my last year of residency I spent seven weeks abroad in Trinidad and Tobago at the Eric Williams Medical Science Complex Hospital. As Trinidad and Tobago has many inhabitants of Indian, Asian and African descent, the country is the ideal place to study skin of color. The staff around Dr Hallai gave me a very warm welcome and I quickly felt part of the team. During the morning we did ward rounds and in the afternoon we saw outpatients. It was remarkable to see these people waiting for hours for their appointment without complaining – very different from the behavior we sometimes see in Switzerland. On the weekend I had the opportunity to explore the country with its wonderful flora and fauna. Time flew by and I am grateful to the Bruno Bloch Foundation for supporting my exciting stay in Trinidad and Tobago. I obtained wide-ranging insight into the dermatology of skin of color, as well as into the daily life of a Caribbean island.

Association for Research on Cancer of the Skin (Verein für Hautkrebsforschung)
www.skincancer.ch

The Verein für Hautkrebsforschung VHKF, association for research on skin cancer, founded in 2004, aims to coordinate and stimulate skin cancer research in Switzerland by supporting research of rare and severe forms of skin cancer (e.g. melanoma, cutaneous lymphoma). The board consists of Prof. R. Dummer (President), Prof. R. Braun, Prof. L. French, C. Frey-Blanc (Treasurer), all Zurich-based, Prof. D. Hohl (Vice-President), Lausanne, Prof. R. Hunger, Bern, Prof. R. Kaufmann, Frankfurt, and Prof. W. Kempf, Zurich. The current goal is to generate a substantial contribution to clinical and experimental skin cancer research in Zurich and in other institutions in Switzerland. Recently, the association created an assistant professor position at the University of Zurich. Prof. M. Levesque, an internationally renowned melanoma researcher, will hold the position for at least four years starting from February 1, 2014. His research activities involve development of new tools for understanding next generation sequencing data, and functionally testing novel melanoma mutations in the lab. In this context, he is using the zebrafish model organism to better understand the basic biology of cancer genes. In his new function, Prof. Levesque also manages the dermato-oncology biobank at UHZ, which provides a diverse collection of live cancer cells to collaborators for experimental research. These are fundamental research activities that form the basis of an understanding of melanoma progression for future improvements in melanoma therapy.

In the past year, Prof. Levesque has also established a molecular tumor board for melanoma, with the help of the ETH Nexus platform and an innovation grant from UHZ. This will provide patients who have exhausted other therapy options with new possibilities based on the genomic sequence of their tumors and the availability of new targeted pathway inhibitors in the clinic. In addition, Prof. Levesque obtained funding from the Skinintegrity flagship project at ETH to continue expansion of the dermatology biobank and to make it more accessible to researchers across Zurich. Finally, collaboration with Roche and Bristol Myers Squibb has provided further funding to identify novel predictive biomarkers for melanoma immunotherapy treatment. These efforts have resulted in the submission of a manuscript in which novel features in the immune landscape of patients receiving anti-PD1 inhibitors were shown to be predictive of response. The molecular mechanisms of these observations will be further elucidated in the coming months and years.
Financing of a new position: skin cancer nurse

Although significant progress can be observed due to the variety of treatment strategies in metastatic melanoma within the last years, physicians and patients may have overlapping or divergent expectations of the outcome of cancer therapies and the quality of medical services. However, hardly any communication takes place between physicians and patients about their interaction.

The nursing role during systemic therapy is particularly noteworthy. Since October 2016, a specialist skin cancer nurse, financed by the Verein für Hautkrebsforschung, has been integrated into the treatment processes and is responsible in particular for regular contact with patients regarding adverse events (AE), which can occur at any time during the treatment. Many patients find it easier to phone a nurse than a doctor; hence, nurses can provide open and easy contact to the treatment team. It is mandatory that the nurse is familiar with the peculiar AE spectrum and the timing of AEs during the therapy.

Christine Kühne Center for Allergy Research and Education (CK-CARE)

The Christine Kühne Center for Allergy Research and Education (CK-CARE) is dedicated to the research and education of allergic diseases with a specific focus on atopic dermatitis. It has been initiated in 2009 with it’s domicile in Davos and is a network between research groups in Davos, Bonn, Munich, St. Gallen and the Allergy Unit Zurich (see www.ck-care.ch).
Medical education is crucial to guarantee a high level of professionalism of physicians and healthcare professionals. Our continued implication in education is reflected by:

1. Student education in the medical faculty of the University of Zurich.
2. Specialist training for resident physicians qualifying in dermatology and venereology, and allergology and clinical immunology.
3. Continuing medical education for private practitioners – mainly dermatologists and allergologists, but also general practitioners and to a lesser extent other healthcare professionals.

**Student education**

Senior physicians in our department provide an introductory dermatology course to third-year medical students, a yearly core course in dermatology (eight-day block) to fourth-year medical students, a case-based thematic lecture series in the sixth year, and a practical training course in dermatology in the sixth year of the medical training curriculum at the University of Zurich. In complement to these ex-cathedra and bedside teaching activities, medical students can benefit from web-based learning with an online platform (DOIT: Dermatology Online with Interactive Technology) developed by our department under the direction of former chairman, Prof. Gunter Burg in close collaboration with several other dermatology departments (Basel, Bern, Lausanne, Jena, Stadtspital Triemli in Zurich, and the European Dermatology Forum; see also www.cyberderm.net).

This platform has been continuously improved under the new direction of Prof. Peter Itin with support of the European Dermatology Forum and currently exists in seven languages with two further languages scheduled. In 2009, the DOIT platform was chosen as the best internet-based teaching platform and won the EUR 50’000 Medida Prize.

**Resident physicians**

The Department of Dermatology offers 22 residency positions for the five years of obligatory training required for Swiss board certification in dermatology. Demand for residency training in our department is extremely high, with more than 150 applications for approximately four positions per year. Two training positions are also available for part of the board certification in immunology and allergology, and angiology. During their residency training in our department, residents benefit from the broadest offer in Switzerland, comprising a rotation plan through 20 units and specialist clinics covering all sub-specialties of dermatology and allergology, including dermato-oncology, autoimmune skin disease, trichology (hair disease), dermatosurgery, dermatopathology, physical skin therapy (radiotherapy, UV therapy, laser), phlebology and others.

In addition, three residency positions for board certification in allergology and clinical immunology are available on the allergy unit, counting for the full three years necessary in a specialist clinic to obtain the FMH qualification. The quality of the training and teaching receives a very high rating among residents.

Following interest from the German, Austrian and Swiss dermatological societies, the online platform for students (DOIT) is now being used as the basis for the development of a pan-European post-graduate online continuing medical education (CME) platform, to be named DERMOKRATES. Our department and faculty are actively participating in this innovative project.

The Department of Dermatology UHZ received FMH acknowledgment and confirmation on August 8, 2016, as a training center for pharmaceutical medicine (cat. A, three years) from September 28, 2015, with a satisfactory FMH visit on April 7, 2016, and FMH confirmation.
Continuing medical education and post-graduate training for private practitioners

Our department and faculty offer 12 to 14 CME events and grand rounds per year, comprising six half-day thematic CME events per year at the University of Zurich Irchel (180–200 participants), and six to eight grand rounds and interdisciplinary CME sessions, the latter co-organized with other medical disciplines at UHZ. In addition, and as of 2007, four new CMEs per year entitled *Dermatology Update* have been added to our post-graduate teaching program, with the aim of providing a further platform for case presentations, short updates and an overview of important new publications in dermatology (Journal Club).

In addition, in the context of the new *Schwerpunkt Entzündliche Hautkrankheiten*, founded in 2013, in 2013 and 2014 our department organized four workshops on psoriasis for private practitioners (speakers: Prof. Lars French, Dr Antonio Kolios and Dr Julia-Tatjana Maul). In order to promote support for Medical Practitioner Assistants (MPA), four workshops took place under the lead of Dr Antonio Kolios and Dr Julia-Tatjana Maul. The aim of these is to optimize support for MPAs through, for example, preparation of the PASI score for patients in advance before consultation with the practitioner.

An interesting and interactive exchange motivates us to continue this concept of medical education at a broader level.

### Guest Speakers 2015/2016

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<td>Universitäre Klinik für Akutgeriatrie SWZ, Stadtspital Waid, Zürich, CH</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Hess-Schmid Monika, MD</td>
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<td>Itin Peter, Prof.</td>
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<td>Kägi Martin, MD</td>
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<td>Köhli Alice, MD</td>
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<td>Scheidegger Paul, MD</td>
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<td>Schlüer Anna-Barbara, MD</td>
<td>Kinderspital Zürich, Klinische Pflegewissenschaft, CH</td>
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<td>Department of Dermatology, Inselspital Bern, CH</td>
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<td>Thaçi Diamant, Prof.</td>
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<td>Torrelo Antonio, MD</td>
<td>Department of Dermatology, Hospital Nino Jesus, ES</td>
<td>Pediatric cutaneous mastocytosis</td>
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<td>Yawalkar Nihil, Prof.</td>
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The Zürcher Dermatologische Fortbildungstage (ZDFT) was launched in 2011 and immediately proved to be very successful as reflected by the feedback and number of participants – mainly practicing dermatologists. The four-day intensive continuing medical education event offers a mixture of plenary lectures, hands-on workshops at the Department of Dermatology, and a half-day What’s new session.

The latter provides the participants with an overview of the most important developments in the preceding year. In 2016, about 240 Swiss dermatologists participated, which confirms the establishment of this event as one of most important congresses on dermatology in the German-speaking region of Switzerland.

### Medical Education 2015

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<td>June 24–26, 2015</td>
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<td>Dermatoskopie-Kurs</td>
<td>September 3, 2015 (1/2 day)</td>
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<td>Subject/Title</td>
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<td>Prof. A. Navarini</td>
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100 Year Anniversary of the Department of Dermatology UHZ in 2016

In 2016, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Department of Dermatology at UHZ. We are very proud to look back at the efforts and the accomplishments of the former directors of the department, to whom we owe the unique position of the department today.

Various activities have been dedicated to the anniversary:

- **Scientific symposium, September 16, 2016:** Three international top experts, Prof. Keith Flahery, Boston (latest review about immunotherapy in melanoma), Prof. Martin Röcken, Tübingen (latest innovations in immuno-therapy of severe inflammatory skin diseases), and Prof. Gerd Plewig, Munich (overview of our department from an international point of view), contributed to this very successful event.

- **Publication:** Under the leadership of Dr M. Geiges and Prof. G. Burg, and with support from C. Frey-Blanc, the comprehensive and very enriching book *100 Jahre Dermatologische Klinik Zürich* was published by Springer Verlag. It gives an overview of the development of the department – clinical aspects and research – under the former directors and highlights the current activities of our broad spectrum of dermatologic indications, with a focus on translational medicine (ISBN 978-3-662-53346-8).

- **Public open day, October 4, 2016:** Within the department, we had more than 150 visitors – a successful and enriching experience for our staff.

- **VIP tour, October 25, 2016:** We guided 22 guests from politics (cantonal council and health department, canton Zurich), the University of Zurich, ETH and the Board of Directors of UHZ through our department in order to provide an impression of the department’s activities and profile. Various interesting conversations with our guests completed this very fruitful evening.
Public relations

- **Events for the public and patients:** We regularly organize evening events on topics such as psoriasis, rosacea, acne inversa and acne, as well as information on skin cancer at the National Swiss Skin Cancer Day in May. These evenings are highly popular – we usually number about 200 participants.

- **Internet and Intranet:** We regularly update our homepages in order to deliver the most recent and accurate content (www.dermatologie.usz.ch). We count about 5000 hits per month.

- **Patient information brochures:** We edit our own patient information brochures about the most common skin diseases, such as skin cancer, psoriasis, acne, chronic wounds, neurodermitis and laser medicine to provide balanced and objective information to our patients. These are regularly updated, on average every two years.
The Museum of Wax Moulages serves as a window to the public for current and historical research and daily practice in dermatology at UHZ and the University of Zurich. In addition to general public visits to the museum during opening hours, there is increasing demand for museum visits as part of academic meetings, conventions and courses. Again, the traditional *Lange Nacht der Museen*, which takes place every year in September, is a highlight with more than 500 visitors during the evening.

Dr M. Geiges as curator and S. Carraro as restorer set their priorities on three main interests: teaching, history of dermatology and medicine, and research on the wax moulage itself. For teaching, the basic course in dermatology as part of the medical studies is given in the museum and the teaching collection serves the students as an ideal preparation for their exams, both with a very positive feedback. More historical research has been done with the focus on the 100th anniversary of the Department of Dermatology and 100 years of successful translational research from bench to bedside. Further moulages representing research documents have been identified and documented and are displayed in the museum. The preservation and storage conditions are continuously improved and a research project was accomplished in collaboration with Bern University of the Arts (BUA) on the touch-free reproduction of wax moulages with the help of 3D scanning and 3D printing in order to improve conservation of the fragile wax objects.

For information about the opening hours of the museum, please consult: www.moulagen.ch
14 Honoraries and Prizes

Promotions

2016:
- Prof. Reinhard Dummer, MD, was promoted to the status of Extraordinary Professor by the University of Zurich in September 2016.

2015:
- Prof. Alexander Navarini, MD, PhD, was attributed the Bruno Bloch-Promedica Foundation Endowed Professorship for Experimental Immuno-dermatology in August 2015.

Honoraries, Prizes and Grants

2016:
- The Mycology Laboratory Mycology (directed by Dr Philipp Bosshard) obtained the status of reference by e.V. Instand (German Company for quality assurance).
- Dr Marie-Charlotte Brüggen received the scientific prize of the ÖGDV (Österreichische Gesellschaft für Dermatologie und Venerologie) in 2016 and the Collegiality Award of the ESDR (European Society of Dermatological Research) in 2016.
- Dr Silvia Haueis received the poster prize, category Clinical Dermatology Oncology for her poster at the ADO Congress 2016.
- Dr Martin Glatz was awarded a research prize in 2015 by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Dermatologische Forschung ADF and a research fellowship from the Ulrich-Müller-Gierok Foundation in 2015. In addition, he received in January 2016 a scholarship of € 50’000 from the German Research Foundation for Dermatology ADF (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Dermatologische Forschung).
- Prof. Mitchel Levesque received in 2015 a grant of CHF 100’000 from the University of Zurich for the Seed Project (Personalized Medicine) and in 2016 a grant of CHF 188,000 from the commission “Innovation”, Directorate for Research and Teaching.
- Prof. Alexander Navarini, together with ETH Zurich, has received the FreeNovation Grant of CHF 180’000 for 4-dimensional acne facial analysis on smartphones.
- PD Dr Lisa Weibel and Dr. Ornella Masnari (Children’s Hospital Zurich) received the SGDV Galderma 2016 prize, CHF 5’000, for the project www.hautstigma.ch.

2015:
- Dr Martin Glatz was awarded a research prize in 2015 by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Dermatologische Forschung ADF and a research fellowship from the Ulrich-Müller-Gierok Foundation in 2015. In addition, he received in January 2016 a scholarship of € 50’000 from the German Research Foundation for Dermatology ADF (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Dermatologische Forschung).
- Dr Silvia Haueis received the poster prize, category Clinical Dermatology Oncology for her poster at the ADO Congress 2016.

Venia Legendi

2016:
- PD Dr Lisa Weibel, MD: title inauguration lecture “Habilitation: Innovative Aspekte der lokализierten Sklerodermie (Morphea) im Kindesalter”
- PD Dr Dr Emmanuella Guenova, MD, PhD; title inauguration lecture “Dermatology and Allergology”
- PD Dr univ. Katrin Kerl, MD, title inauguration lecture “Dermatopathology – Reading the Skin”
- PD Dr Severin Läuchli, MD; title inauguration lecture “Mohs Chirurgie – Hautkrebs nachhaltig und ästhetisch behandeln”

2015:
- PD Dr Katrin Kerl and PD Dr Severin Läuchli were promoted to the status of Senior Physicians with extended responsibilities in 2015, followed by the PD Dr Mirjana Maiwald in 2016.
- PD Dr Severin Läuchli was promoted to the status of Senior Physician with extended responsibilities in 2015, followed by the PD Dr Mirjana Maiwald in 2016.

Attending Physicians with extended responsibility

- PD Dr Katrin Kerl and PD Dr Severin Läuchli were promoted to the status of Senior Physicians with extended responsibilities in 2015, followed by the PD Dr Mirjana Maiwald in 2016.

Attending Physicians

- Dr Marjam Barysch and PD Dr Emmanuella Guenova were promoted to the status of Senior Physicians in 2015, whereas Dres Martin Glatz, Joanna Mangana, Carla Murer (Winterthur), Mirjam Nägeli and Lea Wiederkehr achieved this promotion in 2016.
Further Promotions

- Prof. Reinhard Dummer: elected as Member of the European Academy of Sciences (EUAS) in 2015.
- Prof. Lars French: elected President of the EDF (European Dermatology Forum), 2015 and 2016.
- Prof. Lars French: elected Honorary Member of the Finnish Society for Dermatology in 2015.
- Prof. Jürg Hafner: elected Honorary Member of the French Society for Dermatology in October 2016.
- Prof. Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier: elected Board Member of the SGAI (Swiss Society for Allergology and Immunology) in 2016.
- Prof. Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier: elected Officer of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology EAACI as Vice President “Education and Specialty” (2016).

In cooperation with several other departments of the University Hospital Zurich (UHZ) and Zurich Children’s Hospital, the project “Targeted and interdisciplinary treatment of severe immune-mediated diseases” was funded by the Canton of Zurich. The lead is Prof. Onur Boyman (Department of Immunology UHZ). From the Department of Dermatology Prof. Alexander Navarini, PD Dr Wolfgang Hötzenacker and Prof. Lars French are involved.

2015:

- Prof. Ralph Braun & the team of quality management (Dr Karin Kaufmann-Schad & Heiko Müller) received the Quality Award 2015 of the University Hospital Zurich; in addition, Prof. Braun was nominated as Expert by OnkoZert for the certification of skin tumor centers.
- PD Dr Emmanuella Guenova was rewarded the fellowship-prize 2015 of the Deutschen Gesellschaft für Allergologie und Klinische Immunologie (DGAKI) and received the prize best speech and poster in the field of cutaneous autoimmune illnesses and psoriasis at the Annual Meeting of the European Association for Clinical Immunology (EAACI) 2016 in Barcelona. Additionally, in 2015 she received the 20th European Research Award of the Foundation La Roche-Posay for lymphoma research.
- PD Dr Simone Goldinger won the SAKK / Dr Paul Janssen Fellowship 2015 worth CHF 30'000.

Named Lectures

- Prof. Lars French: Memorial Lecture of the Alfred Marchionini-Stiftung, 31.1.2015, University Hamburg-Eppendorf.
15 Partners, Sponsors, Collaboration with Industry and Fundraising

Our continuing efforts in medical education, public relations, marketing, and networking with private practitioners are possible only thanks to external funding. We collaborate with industry for our post-graduate education, giving private practitioners and industry a platform for communication and exchange. Furthermore, opportunities are provided by our charitable foundations, the Bruno Bloch Foundation and the Verein für Hautkrebsforschung.

We would here like to acknowledge with great respect the support of our industrial partners. Their collaboration supports the quality and nature of our post-graduate teaching offer. The Department of Dermatology UHZ is grateful to the following sponsors and donors for their generous support.

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- Shire Switzerland GmbH
- Waldmann Lichttechnik

With special acknowledgement to our partners

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- Galderma Schweiz AG
- MSD AG
- Pierre Fabre Suisse SA
- Roche Pharma (Schweiz) AG

Schwerpunkt “Entzündliche Hautkrankheiten”

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- Celgene GmbH
- Eli Lilly Suisse SA
- Janssen-Cilag AG
- Merck Sharp & Dohme AG
- Pfizer PFT AG
- Sanofi Genzyme
Publications 2015 and 2016

Original Papers


 Reviews

Zeitschrift für Onkologie 2015;5:2-5


Freiburger SN, Zehnder M, Gafvelin G, Grönlund H, Kündig TM, Johansen P. IgG4 but no IgG1 antibody production after intralymphatic immunotherapy with recombinant MAT-Feld1 in human. Allergy 2016;71:1368-70


Glattz M. Das Hautmikrobiom und seine Bedeutung für Hauterkrankungen. Dermatologie Praxis 04/2016


Goldinger SM, Blank C. Malignes Melanom, gezielte Therapie und Immuntherapie – Der Weg zum Erfolg. Dermatologie Praxis 05/2016


Reinau D, Meier CR, Blumenthal R, Surber C. Skin Cancer Prevention, Tanning and Vitamin D: A Content Analysis of Print Media in Germany and Switzerland. Dermatology 2016;232:2-10


of print

1-FV in birch related soy allergy. Allergy. 2016 Dec 20. [Epub ahead of print]


Reviews


Book chapters

Braun R, Thomas L. Dermoscopie et imagérie cutanée. Dermatologie et infections sexuellement transmissibles J.-H. Saurat et al. 6ème édition


Geiges ML. 100 Jahre Dermatologische Klinik Zürich – 100 Jahre translationale Forschung. Springer, Berlin Heidelberg, 2017


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Tramline 5 or 6, get off at “Platte”