



DERMATOLOGY

Our renowned team of dermatologists pioneers advances in the understanding, diagnosis and treatment of skin, hair and nail conditions.

A Critical Moment

Today, the number of people affected by skin disease surpasses those treated for cardiovascular disease and diabetes. In fact, one in four Americans receives treatment for at least one skin disease—from widespread conditions like acne, eczema and hair loss to more rare disorders like scarring alopecia.

Skin diseases not only limit one's quality of life, they also can be life threatening. Rates of melanoma continue to rise. This is the most lethal form of skin cancer and one of the most common cancers in young adults, especially young women.

At Massachusetts General Hospital, our dermatology experts are some of the most visionary minds in the field. While delivering compassionate, state-of-the-art care, we are also turning bold research into innovative treatments and bringing these breakthroughs to communities in need around the world. With philanthropy, our advances could improve the health and quality of life of millions of patients worldwide. Now is the time to strengthen and propel our efforts.

Positioned for Impact

We are a world leader in groundbreaking research for countless skin conditions, including ultraviolet therapy for psoriasis; genetic markers for melanoma; laser treatment for birthmarks; and policy guidelines for indoor tanning.

Our collaborative community includes talented engineers, physician-scientists, clinicians and teachers throughout the hospital and at other major institutions including Harvard, MIT and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. And, our dermatology residency is regarded as one of the most competitive training programs in the world.

In addition, the department serves thousands of patients through dermatology clinics and community programs, including our 20-year partnership with the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP), in which we provide the highest quality dermatologic care for adults and children experiencing homelessness in the greater Boston area.

Our experts are also focused on using the skin as a lens through which a wide range of skin and other diseases can be detected earlier. Most recently, our dermatologists helped identify patients with "COVID toes," a symptom that includes red or purple skin lesions on the patient's toes or hands. And, they contributed to the creation of an international registry that tracks reported dermatologic symptoms among COVID-19-infected patients.

Bold Breakthroughs. Compassionate Care. Revolutionary Results.

Our Vision

The campaign will transform care for the increasing number of patients around the world who suffer from skin diseases. Survival rates and outcomes for people with skin cancers will improve. Advanced imaging techniques will allow for more precise surgical treatment. Support for training and mentoring will attract the highest caliber of residents and fellows.

Philanthropy will accelerate research most likely to produce real breakthroughs in dermatology. Using expertise in stem cell biology, scientists will better understand the aging process, as well as responses to toxic exposures such as UV light. Basic and clinical research will identify new strategies to treat diseases such as itch, hair growth and rare conditions not funded by public agencies or drug companies. Our research also has the potential to increase knowledge of procedures such as laser treatments and cool sculpting that can be applied to disease treatment.

With funding, we will also expand and enhance our clinical care, including creating a Hair Loss Center for Excellence that would provide comprehensive, evidence-based treatments and supportive care at a single location for alopecia patients, many of whom are coping with rare forms of the disease.

Furthermore, this campaign will expand cross-cultural research focused on how to treat the skin and hair of people of color. Funds for community and global dermatology programs will improve access to care for people living in resource-limited settings in Boston and around the world.

Opportunities to Support

The Department of Dermatology's funding priorities include:

- » **Endowed Chairs, Scholars and Fellowships:** Endowed positions provide physicians and scientists with the time and resources to care for patients, conduct bold research and mentor the next generation. A great honor for recipients, endowed positions strengthen Mass General's ability to recruit and retain the best physicians and scientists. The department aims to establish five new endowed positions and expand its fellowship program, providing top fellows with more training in highly specialized areas of dermatology.
- » **Research and Innovation:** An endowed innovation fund will support a competitive Dermatology Scholars Award that will enable recipients to carry out bold research that enriches our understanding of human skin as it relates to health, aging, skin of color and disease. This research will change the way care is delivered and improve outcomes for patients and families throughout the world.
- » **Global and Community Health Fund:** Funding could expand training and care for people served by the BHCHP. Other investment areas include advocacy efforts to ensure that patients have access to drugs and life-saving treatments; a skin-of-color clinic that focuses on the specific needs of our multicultural population; and expansion of our efforts to diagnose patients with Kaposi's sarcoma—the most common HIV-associated malignancy in sub-Saharan Africa.



JOIN US

With philanthropic support, dermatology patients around the world will benefit from advances in patient care, research and education.

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