

699D Departmental Research in Dermatology

This course is available to UC Irvine students only

Course Name Departmental Research in Dermatology
Course Director Natasha Mesinkovska, MD, PhD

1. Course Director, Coordinator and General Administrative Information

FACULTY AND STAFF

| Name | Office Location | Phone | Email |
|--|--|--------------|--|
| Director: Natasha Mesinkovska, MD, PhD | Department of Dermatology Hall 843 Health Science Road, Irvine, CA, 92697 | 949-824-0606 | nmesinko@hs.uci.edu |
| Coordinator: Marcos Hurtado | 1001 Hewitt Hall, Irvine, CA 92617 | 714-790-8542 | marcosh3@hs.uci.edu |

DESCRIPTION

This course is structured for medical students to complete a rotation focusing on clinical and translational research at the Dermatology Clinical Research Center. An emphasis will be placed on understanding clinical research, institutional review board protocol, and research patient interaction. Individual time will be spent with the Director of the Clinical Research Center on developing a personal research project to be initiated and if possible, completed during the elective, with the goal of eventual publication or presentation at a medical meeting. Students will be exposed to Phase II and III studies on a variety of dermatological conditions. In addition, they will attend weekly dermatology teaching conferences and the bimonthly Department of Dermatology Grand Rounds. Time will be given as well for reading and personal education.

PREREQUISITES

Permission from the course director and approval of the Associate Dean of Clinical Education, as well as completion of third year required clerkships. Students will also need to complete the UCI Human Protection Training Course prior to start of elective. Please contact the site coordinator to confirm required training when submitting an application for elective. All training will need to be completed at least two weeks prior to the start of elective.

RESTRICTIONS

Associate Dean of Clinical Education approval must be obtained prior to beginning a research project. Student must submit a UCI-SOM Student research student application.

COURSE DIRECTOR

Natasha Mesinkovska, MD, PhD, has worked in higher education since 2010, training students and physicians to develop into their chosen professional careers. She is a board-certified dermatologist and dermatopathologist who completed her medical education at the Mayo Clinic and her specialty training at the Cleveland Clinic.

Dr. Mesinkovska has remained continuously active in clinical and translational research and is a prolific author in peer-reviewed dermatology and oncology journals. Her primary research focus is alopecia and hair disorders, for which she has received grant support from the National Alopecia Areata Foundation and American Hair Research Society.

She holds a doctorate in cancer biology and has received research awards from the National Institutes of Health, Skin Cancer Foundation and the Susan G. Komen Foundation for her work on hormone and growth-factor signaling in cancer progression.

Course Coordinator:

Marcos Hurtado is the course coordinator for 699D course.

INFORMATION FOR THE FIRST DAY

Who to Report to on First Day: Marcos Hurtado.

Location to Report on First Day: Hewitt Hall, Dermatology Clinical Research, 843 Health Science Road, 1001 Hewitt Hall, Irvine, CA 92617

Time to Report on First Day: 8:00 am

SITE: UC Irvine School of Medicine

DURATION: 4-12 weeks in person

Scheduling Coordinator: UC Irvine students please email comsched@hs.uci.edu to make a scheduling appointment. Student must submit a UCI-SOM Student research or international and independent student application.

Periods Available: Available throughout the year

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ALLOWED: 10

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD DO TO PREPARE FOR THE COURSE

Complete Research Elective Proposal.

COMMUNICATION WITH FACULTY

Questions about logistics should be directed to the Course Coordinator. Direct questions, comments, or concerns about the course can be directed to the Course Director. Contact information and office location is listed at the beginning of this document.

The Course Director is also available to meet in person. Please email marcosh3@hs.uci.edu to arrange an appointment. To ensure that your email will not be lost in the large volume of email received, please use the following convention for the subject line:

SUBJECT: 699D Departmental Research Elective, your last name, your issue (e.g. XXX, Smith, Request for appointment)

2. Course Objectives and Program Objective Mapping

The following are the learning objectives for the 699D course. Students are expected to demonstrate proficiency in these areas in order to satisfactorily complete the course. In addition, the extent of a student's mastery of these objectives will help guide the course evaluation and grade.

| Course Objective | Mapped UCI Program Objective | Sub-Competency | Core Competency (AAMC) |
|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Apply scientific reasoning to develop a dermatology-focused research question (hair, skin, or inflammatory disease) | Integrate biomedical science and clinical inquiry to improve health | Scientific inquiry & hypothesis development | Medical Knowledge |
| 2. Critically evaluate dermatologic and hair-related literature using evidence-based methods | Apply evidence-based medicine to clinical and research decision-making | Critical appraisal of medical literature | Practice-Based Learning & Improvement |
| 3. Design a basic or clinical research protocol in dermatology | Demonstrate principles of clinical investigation and human | Research design, IRB, and study methodology | Medical Knowledge |

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|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| | subjects research | | |
| 4. Collect, analyze, and interpret dermatologic or hair-related data | Use quantitative and qualitative methods to generate valid conclusions | Data analysis and interpretation | Practice-Based Learning & Improvement |
| 5. Communicate research findings clearly in written and oral formats | Communicate effectively with scientific and clinical audiences | Scientific writing and presentation | Interpersonal & Communication Skills |
| 6. Demonstrate ethical conduct in research involving human subjects | Practice medicine and research ethically and responsibly | Research ethics and regulatory compliance | Professionalism |
| 7. Collaborate with a multidisciplinary research team (clinicians, statisticians, lab scientists) | Work effectively within healthcare and research teams | Team-based collaboration | Interprofessional Collaboration |
| 8. Translate research findings to clinical dermatologic practice | Integrate research into patient-centered care | Knowledge translation and clinical application | Patient Care |
| 9. Reflect on personal learning needs and seek feedback to improve research skills | Engage in self-directed learning and professional growth | Self-assessment and lifelong learning | Practice-Based Learning & Improvement |

3. Course Resources

TEXTS AND READINGS: SUGGESTED

These are the **primary foundational references** students should use throughout the elective.

Core Dermatology Texts

- **Bolognia JL, Schaffer JV, Cerroni L.** *Dermatology*. 4th ed. Elsevier.
→ Primary reference for dermatologic disease, morphology, and clinical correlations.
- **Fitzpatrick TB, Wolff K, et al.** *Color Atlas and Synopsis of Clinical Dermatology*. 9th ed.
→ Visual diagnostic reference for morphology, pattern recognition, and disease classification.

TEXTS AND READINGS: SUPPORTING AND REVIEW

Hair & Alopecia

- **Whiting DA.** *Hair Loss and Hair Disorders*.
- **Messenger AG, de Berker D.** *Hair and Scalp Disorders*.
- **Olsen EA et al.** “Alopecia Areata: Investigational Assessment Guidelines.” *JAAD*.

Inflammation, Immunology & Translational Dermatology

- **Bolognia JL.** Chapters on inflammatory dermatoses, autoimmune skin disease, and hair disorders.

Dermatology Research Methods

- **Greenhalgh T.** *How to Read a Paper*.
- **Hulley SB et al.** *Designing Clinical Research*.
- **CONSORT, PRISMA, STROBE guidelines**

Key Journals (Students should follow weekly)

- *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology (JAAD)*
- *JAMA Dermatology*
- *British Journal of Dermatology*
- *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*
- *Journal of Drugs in Dermatology*

4. Major Exams, Assignments and Grading

MANDATORY SESSIONS

Course Hours: Your hours will be determined by the faculty member and stated in the proposal submitted to the Associate Dean of Clinical Education, and average approximately 40 hours per week.

| Session Title | Location |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Clin Research meeting | Hewitt Hall |

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS

Students will be evaluated through a combination of **research productivity, scholarly communication, and professional engagement**. There is no traditional written exam; instead, students are assessed on their ability to perform as junior physician–scientists.

1. Individual Research Project (50%)

Each student will complete a mentored research project in an area of dermatology, hair biology, or inflammatory skin disease.

Projects may include:

- Literature-based systematic or narrative reviews
- Retrospective clinical data analysis
- Translational or laboratory-based projects
- Case series or clinical outcome studies

Deliverables

- Research question and hypothesis
- Brief written protocol or outline
- Final written product (manuscript draft, review, or research report)

2. Abstract and Poster or Slide Presentation (20%)

Students will prepare a scientific abstract and present their work in a poster or oral slide format to faculty and peers.

Assessment includes:

- Scientific rigor
- Clarity of data presentation
- Ability to answer questions and defend methodology

3. Literature Review and Journal Club Leadership (10%)

Each student will lead at least one journal club discussion using recent publications from JAAD, JAMA Dermatology, JID, or BJD.

Students will be graded on:

- Selection of appropriate articles
- Critical appraisal
- Ability to synthesize findings for a clinical and research audience

4. Professionalism and Research Engagement (20%)

Assessed by faculty based on:

- Attendance and punctuality
- Initiative and curiosity
- Collaboration with research team
- Responsiveness to feedback

5. Final Scholarly Reflection (10%)

A short-written reflection describing:

- What the student learned about dermatology research
- How their skills in critical thinking, writing, and scientific communication evolved
- How the elective influenced their career goals

THE GRADING SCALE

Medical students are graded using the following scale:

- **Honors (H)**
- **Pass (P)**
- **Fail (F)**
- **Incomplete (I)**

For further information, please refer to the UCI School of Medicine **Grading Policy**. Students have **30 days from the date the grade is issued** to appeal any aspect of their grade. Questions or appeals should be directed to the **Clerkship or Course Director**.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A GRADE OF PASS

To receive a grade of **Pass**, students must demonstrate **successful performance** in all of the following competency areas:

- **Knowledge**
- **Patient Care**
- **Practice-Based Learning and Improvement**
- **Interpersonal and Communication Skills**
- **Professionalism**
- **Systems-Based Practice**

Successful performance includes meeting all course requirements, completing all assigned scholarly activities, and demonstrating professional conduct throughout the elective.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A GRADE OF HONORS

To receive a grade of **Honors**, students must demonstrate **exceptional performance** in all of the following competency areas:

- **Knowledge**
- **Patient Care**
- **Practice-Based Learning and Improvement**
- **Interpersonal and Communication Skills**
- **Professionalism**
- **Systems-Based Practice**

Exceptional performance is defined as consistently exceeding expectations in scholarly engagement, quality of research output, communication, initiative, and professionalism.

GROUNDS FOR INCOMPLETE

A grade of **Incomplete (I)** will be assigned if a student has not completed all required elements of the course. No final grade will be issued until all assignments, presentations, and required activities have been satisfactorily completed.

REMEDIATION

Remediation, if needed, will be designed by the Course Director to suit the issue at hand.

Grounds for "Fail": You will receive a grade of "Fail" if the requirements for passing the course have not been met. Please refer to the [Grading Policy](#) for the impact of the "Fail" grade to the transcript.