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# Introduction to Dermatology Mini-Elective Spring 2020

Course Dates: January 27, February 10, 24, March 2, April 6  
Mondays, 5:00-6:30 PM

Maximum Students: 6

Class Year: MS1 and MS2

Course Director: Dr. Alaina James, MD, PhD  
Department of Dermatology

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## Description:

This mini-elective involves 5 sessions, each about 1.5 hours long, to introduce the student to the field of dermatology. Students will learn about the diagnosis and management of dermatologic conditions, the terminology used to describe skin lesions and will be introduced to common skin treatment modalities. Students will gain valuable clinical presentation experience by preparing a short presentation about an assigned case. Students will also gain hands-on experience performing common types of biopsies and cryotherapy on pig's feet after learning about the indications. Students will practice excisional biopsies with simple and layered closure and transposition and advancement flaps.

## Objectives:

1. Understand the descriptive terms used to describe skin conditions and apply these terms to describe skin lesions
2. Learn the presentation, differential diagnosis and treatment of common dermatologic conditions
3. Understand the indications for various dermatologic treatments, such as cryotherapy and skin biopsies
4. Learn the basics of how to perform various dermatologic treatments including cryotherapy and skin biopsy techniques, including shave, punch and excisional biopsies

## Requirements:

- Short presentation about an assigned dermatologic case
- Active participation in all sessions

Pre-Requisites:  
None.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **INTRODUCTION TO DERMATOLOGY**

**DATES: January 27, February 10, 24, March 2, April 6**

**TIMES: 5:00-6:30 PM**

**LOCATION: Scaife Hall, Rooms 460 A&B**

#### **Course Director:**

Dr. Alaina James, MD, PhD  
Department of Dermatology

#### **Course Assistant / Coordinator:**

Angelica Maria Escobar  
Second Year Medical Student  
Phone: 412-608-9701  
Email: ame86@pitt.edu

#### **Session 1:**

Students will learn the important aspects of the dermatology H&P, will be introduced to the terminology used to describe skin lesions, will practice applying these terms to examples and will be guided to generate a differential diagnosis.

#### **Session 2:**

Students will be presented with a photo of a dermatologic condition and will be asked to give a 5-minute presentation to the group. Presentations should include a description of the lesion or rash, differential diagnosis, work-up and management. As this is an academic exercise, the process of investigating the lesion and thinking of the differential diagnosis is the main purpose of the exercise, rather than if the student determines the correct diagnosis.

#### **Session 3:**

Students will learn the indications for cryotherapy and the different types of biopsies including shave, punch and excisional. They will then have hands-on practical experience performing cryotherapy and shave and punch biopsies on pig's feet. They will also perform excisional biopsies with simple closure using interrupted, running and vertical mattress sutures.

#### **Session 4:**

Students will have additional practical experience performing excisional biopsies with more advanced sutured techniques including layered closure using running, modified buried vertical mattress, and running subcutaneous sutures, and will practice transposition and advancement flaps.

#### **Session 5:**

Department of Dermatology Grand Rounds: Students will have the opportunity to perform a history and physical exam on a patient, develop a differential diagnosis and discuss the case.