

# SKIN OF COLOR SOCIETY

## Inaugural Newsletter

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### Mission Statement

*The Skin of Color Society is a professional dermatologic organization established in 2004.*

*It is dedicated to promoting awareness of and excellence within the area of special interest of dermatology, skin of color.*

*Individuals with skin of color are defined by the Society as those individuals of Asian, Hispanic/Latino, African, Native American and Pacific Island descent.*

### President's Message



*Dr. Amit Pandya*

On behalf of the Skin of Color Society, I am excited to be part of our first newsletter. Our society, founded by Dr. Susan Taylor, has been a focal point for those who are interested in the diagnosis, treatment and investigation of patients with skin of color. Our annual meeting is the highlight of our year, in which clinicians, young and old, meet together to hear the latest research in skin of color and network with each other. I am especially excited about the many young students, residents, fellows, and new dermatologists who attend each year, bringing their enthusiasm and ideas to the table. I am also excited about the international focus of our society, with next year's meeting highlighted by internationally known researchers from South Africa and India. Please plan to attend this meeting, to be held on Thursday, February 3rd at the Riverside Hilton in New Orleans from 2-8 pm. We are also in the process of updating our website, which includes skin disease information for patients, a calendar of events and a

members only section which includes a membership directory. We also welcome grant applications for our annual AMBI research award which can be found on the website. As I near the end of my presidency, I would like to thank the officers, board of directors, committee members, industry colleagues and all the participants in our meetings who have helped in the success of the Skin of Color Society. Dr. Raechele Gathers and her newsletter committee should be especially commended for creating this very first newsletter. I am glad to be part of our society and look forward to many productive years to come. We need to unite in order to do our best to help our patients with skin of color who suffer from skin diseases, never losing our focus on them, as this will lead us to greater accomplishments in the future.

*-Amit Pandya, President*

### *In The Spotlight!*



*Susan C. Taylor, MD  
Founder, Skin of Color Society*

#### **An Interview with Dr. Taylor:**

##### **Why did you decide to start the Skin of Color Society?**

Skin of Color has been an area of keen interest to me since I completed my residency at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in 1989. Ten years later, in 1998, I had the opportunity to create a center at St. Luke's- Roosevelt Hospital Center in NYC that was devoted to the diagnosis, treatment and investigation of disorders of patients of

African, Latin, Asian and Native decent. We coined the term, "Skin of Color," and named our center, The Skin of Color Center. Early on, at the Center, we were able to publish an important and seminal work, Understanding Skin of Color, which appeared as a Supplement to the JAAD in 2002. The Supplement was received with interest, excitement and success. One day in 2004, while at the Skin of Color Center, I was discussing all of the interest throughout the United States in this burgeoning field with a colleague, Dr. Jeff Weinberg, and we realized the need for a specialty society for Skin of Color. That very week, I identified and contacted those leaders in our field and asked if they would be interested in becoming a member of the newly created Board of the Skin of Color Society. Unbelievably, everyone that I contacted enthusiastically agreed! So, with Drs. DeLeo, Grimes, Sanchez, Scher, Callender, Rodriguez, Pandya, Rendon, Lim, Kang, Gupta, Halder, Holloway, Kelly and myself, the Skin of Color Society was born.

**What are your goals for the Skin of Color Society?**

For physicians: Achieve a comprehensive understanding of the issues faced by skin of color patients, understand and implement appropriate treatment in a culturally competent manner, and advocate for those who have been underserved.

For young physicians: Encourage and nurture scientific inquiry and research in the field of skin of color and give assistance with obtaining dermatology residency positions.

For patients: Provide comprehensive and socially relevant care and information regarding the cutaneous disorders that they face.

**How do you envision the future role of the Skin of Color Society within the general dermatology community?**

- Provide greater education to the general dermatology community through symposia, journal articles, textbooks, etc.
- Assistance with patient education by providing multi-lingual information
- Promote research within the field of skin of color

**Do you have a personal philosophy? If so, how has it guided both your career and private life?**

I think that I have been guided by the following principles:

- Hard work

- Creative thinking
- Unwavering dedication
- Exploration of that which is of interest to me
- Mentoring
- Always extending a helping hand

### **What is the biggest challenge facing the field of dermatology today?**

The biggest challenge facing the field of dermatology today is encroachment by other specialists and supporting health care providers. Dermatologists are "THE" experts in disorders of the skin, hair and nails. Unfortunately, we are losing that clear distinction.

### **What are your goals for the next ten years and beyond?**

Obesity and diabetes are of epidemic proportion in several Skin of Color populations. These diseases are not only of domestic concern but they are major international health problems as well. I was recently lecturing in the Middle East and discussed with dermatologists in both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirate, the emerging health threats that both obesity and diabetes have become. Dermatologists are often the first health care providers who observe signs of these disorders before the onset of significant morbidity.

#### *Members Making News*

#### ***Dr. Ammar Ahmed, PGY-4, University of Texas Southwestern, Department of Dermatology:***

-With Dr. Amit Pandya, recently completed study visits for a 12-week clinical trial of oral polypodium leucotomos extract for the treatment of melasma in 40 Hispanic women with moderate to severe melasma, data analysis pending.

#### ***Dr. Kesha Buster, 4th year resident/Fellow, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Dermatology:***

-Implemented the UAB Department of Dermatology Ethnic Skin and Hair Clinic (under the supervision of Assistant Professor Naveed Sami, MD and Professor Boni Elewski, MD)  
-Staffs the dermatology clinic at MPower Ministries every other month (a volunteer community clinic for indigent patients)

#### ***Dr. Cheryl Burgess, Medical Direction, Center for***

***Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery, Washington DC:***

-Clinical Investigator, Completed a multicenter, single-blind, randomized, "no-treatment" control study of the safety and effectiveness of JUVEDERM VOLUMA XC Injectable Gel for cheek augmentation to correct age-related volume deficit in the mid-face. Allergan, November, 2009

-Clinical Investigator, Completed a randomized, open-label, parallel-group study in subjects with signs of photoaging and photodamage to evaluate the efficacy and safety of a novel dual resurfacing product that combines manual microdermabrasion and chemical peeling.

Stiefel/GSK, November, 2009

-Weekly guest dermatologist: local Washington, DC NBC News affiliate to discuss current dermatologic news

***Dr. Raechele Cochran Gathers, Senior Physician, Henry Ford Hospital Multicultural Dermatology Center, Department of Dermatology:***

-Discussed Central Centrifugal Cicatricial Alopecia and hair grooming practices in African American women and girls at the "3rd L'Oreal Workshop on African Hair and Skin," Accra, Ghana, November, 2010

***Dr. Mona Gohara, Private practice, Danbury, Connecticut, Assistant clinical professor, Yale Department of Dermatology:***

-Founded k&j sunprotective clothing (named after her 2 sons). The clothing line provides 100 percent cotton, chemical-free, tagless, upf 50+, hip tees for everyday use. It is the only line of this kind to provide everyday sun-protective wear for kids 2 years old and younger.

***Dr. Davindra Singh:***

-Will soon launch Toronto's first dermatology clinic with a focus on ethnic skin. It will be located in the Toronto's Distillery District.

-Recently completed a 3 month fellowship in Washington DC under the tutelage of Rebat Halder, Valerie Callender, Eliot Battle and others.

***Dr. Benjamin G. Vazquez:***

-Founded a free underserved clinic in Rochester, MN serving primarily immigrant patients from Somalia, Sudan, Mexico, and southeast Asia. The clinic, currently in the pilot stage, has had a great response. Dr. Vazquez hopes to reevaluate his progress at the 6 month mark and publish his experience.

## Ongoing Research

### ***Examining acne health related-quality of life across racial/ethnic groups***

Dr. Kesha Butler, 4th year, Resident/Fellow, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Dermatology

### ***Genetic causes of keloid formation***

Donald Glass, MD, PhD, PGY-4, University of Texas Southwestern, Department of Dermatology

### ***Practice behavior of dermatologists providing photoprotection recommendations to ethnoracial patients***

Crystal Pourciau, MD, MPH, Dermatology Resident, Henry Ford Hospital Department of Dermatology, Dr. Henry W. Lim, Chairman and C.S. Livingood Chair  
Department of Dermatology and Senior VP for Academic Affairs, Henry Ford Health System, Detroit, Michigan

## Books/Articles by Members

**Dr. Cheryl M. Burgess**, Medical Director, Center for Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery, Washington DC:  
**-Chapter: Special Considerations In Skin of Color** (with Beverly A. Johnson, MD), in *Sauer's Manual of Skin Disease*, edited by John Hall, Tenth Edition, June, 2010, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins

**-Chapter: Cosmetic Concerns and Therapeutic Considerations in Ethnic Skin**, in *Aesthetic Rejuvenation Challenges and Solutions*, edited by Paul J. Carniol and Gary Monheit, April 2010, Informa Healthcare

**Dr. Susan C. Taylor**, Society Hill Dermatology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Assistant Clinical Professor of Dermatology, College of Physicians & Surgeons, Columbia University, and Clinical Assistant Professor of Dermatology, Associate Faculty of the School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

**-Book: Treatments for Skin of Color**, Susan C. Taylor, Editor (with coeditors: Sonia Badreshia-Bansal MD, Valerie D Callender MD, Raechele Cochran Gathers MD, David A Rodriguez MD) pending publication, Elsevier, 2011

## Upcoming Events

**January 15, 2011**

*Skin of Color Session at the Orlando Dermatology Aesthetic &*

*Clinical Conference*

Orlando, FL <http://orlandoderm.org>

**February 4-8, 2011**

*Skin of Color Society Meeting at the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual American Academy of Dermatology Meeting*

New Orleans, LA [www.skinofcolorsociety.org](http://www.skinofcolorsociety.org)

**May 14, 2011**

*Skin of Color Seminar Series*

New York, NY <http://skinofcolorseminars.com>

**May 20-21, 2011**

*Ethnic Skin Course*

London, UK [www.londonethnicskin.com](http://www.londonethnicskin.com)

**May 24-29, 2011**

*World Congress of Dermatology*

Seoul, Korea [www.wcd2011.org](http://www.wcd2011.org)

**July 23-27, 2011**

*National Medical Association Annual Convention & Scientific Assembly*

Washington, DC [www.nmanet.org](http://www.nmanet.org)

**August 3-7, 2011**

*American Academy of Dermatology Summer Meeting*

New York, NY [www.aad.org/meetings](http://www.aad.org/meetings)

**September 21-24, 2011**

*21st International Pigment Cell Conference*

Bordeaux, France [www.ipcc2011.org](http://www.ipcc2011.org)

**October 27-28, 2011**

*Cicatricial Alopecia Research Symposium*

Bethesda, MD [www.cicatricialalopecia.org](http://www.cicatricialalopecia.org)

**Date TBA, 2012**

*5th Asian Society of Pigment Cell Research Congress*

New Delhi, India [www.aspcr.org](http://www.aspcr.org)

**New Members**

*We would like to extend our cordial welcome to the following new Skin of Color Society members for 2011:*

**Dr. Carlos Charles** - Weill Medical College, New York  
Presbyterian Hospital

**Ms. Lucy Colon, MS, CCRC, CCRA** - Galderma, Inc.

**Dr. Seemal Desai** - Fort Worth, TX

**Dr. Janiene Luke** - St. Lukes/Roosevelt, New York

### Grants Available

**AMBI Skin of Color Research Award.** Deadline: January 7, 2011. Details on website:

[www.skinofcolorsociety.org/ambi.asp](http://www.skinofcolorsociety.org/ambi.asp)

### **The Cicatricial Alopecia Research Foundation (CARF)**

seeks original, focused, and innovative research grant applications dealing with cicatricial alopecia. Rolling submission. Grants from \$1000 to \$20,000. Details on website: <http://www.carfintl.org/grants.html>

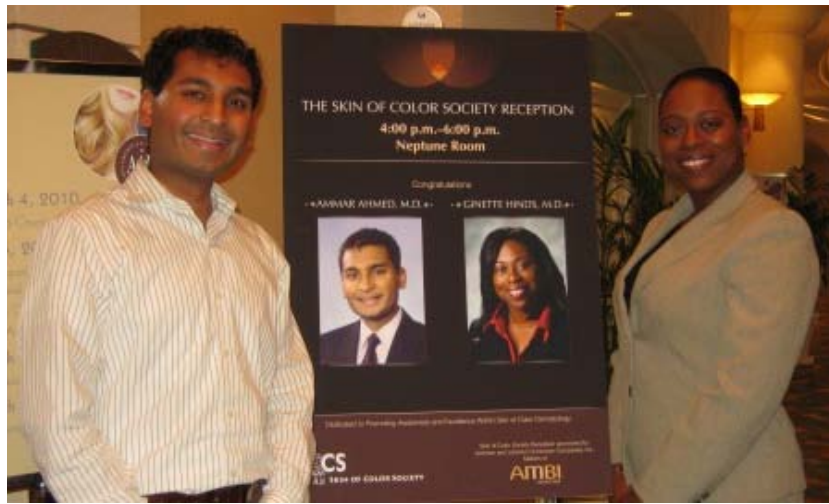
**The American Skin Association** provides multiple grant opportunities. Application deadlines vary. Details on website:

<http://www.americanskin.org/research/seekers.php>

### Event Photos



*From L to R: Drs. Henry W. Lim, A. Paul Kelly, Susan C. Taylor, Marta Rendon, Rebat Halder, Valerie Callender, Cheryl Burgess, Amit Pandya, Andrew Alexis and David Rodriguez*



*Drs. Ammar Ahmed and Ginette Hinds*

### Get Involved!

*The Skin of Color Society welcomes participation by dermatologists and dermatology residents in our activities. We have several committees, including the Development, National and International, Patient Education, Professional Development, Research, Scientific Meeting, Nominating and Website and Newsletter committees. Openings in these committees are announced at our annual meeting each year, at which time members can volunteer to join a committee of their interest. In addition, the chairs of each committee welcome input into their activities and projects from members at any time. There is so much to do for patients with skin of color and if we all work together we can do even more to improve their lives.*

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*Volume I, Number 1*

*Newsletter Committee: Raechele Cochran Gathers, MD, Mona Gohara, MD, and Ginette A. Hinds, MD*

