

Preceptee reports

Preceptee: Yoon-Soo Cindy Bae-Harboe, MD
Boston, Mass.

Preceptor: Isaac M. Neuhaus, MD
University of California, San
Francisco



Dr. Bae-Harboe

I am so grateful to ASDS for the opportunity to observe Isaac Neuhaus, MD, at the University of California, San Francisco. Through the ASDS Preceptorship

Program, I was able to follow not only Dr. Neuhaus but also see the expertise of Drs. Roy Grekin, Siegrid Yu and Sarah Arron.

Among the four dermatologic surgeons, there was always an exciting procedure to observe from difficult cases of Mohs surgery – including transplant patients – to ablative lasers, sclerotherapy, soft-tissue fillers, neurotoxins and even procedures as part of larger clinical trials.

I was impressed by all of the physicians' rapport with their patients, the skill set of each surgeon and the warm working environment. The experience was definitely eye-opening as I was able to observe a variety of approaches to treatments based on each surgeon's respective training and experience. I would like to thank Drs. Neuhaus, Grekin, Yu and Arron as well as the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery for their generosity.

Preceptee: Bassel H. Mahmoud, MD, PhD
Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Mich.

Preceptor: Murad Alam, MD
Northwestern University,
Chicago, Ill.



Dr. Mahmoud

I would like to greatly thank the ASDS Preceptorship Program for allowing me to work with Murad Alam, MD, for two weeks at Northwestern University in Chicago.

Dr. Alam performs a variety of procedures other than Mohs surgeries, including different types of laser surgery as well as a wide range of cosmetic

procedures. As a Mohs surgeon, he performs a wide range of repairs with different degrees of complexity.

I also was able to see the whole Mohs experience, including taking Mohs layers, mapping tissue-processing, reviewing histology slides and watching challenging surgical repairs. Dr. Alam also has a great Mohs surgery team working with him, and everyone was very welcoming and supportive.

Dr. Alam offered many invaluable teaching points during my rotation. Some of them were directly related to surgical techniques while others were related to surgeon-patient interaction and counseling.

This Preceptorship Program offered me a great, invaluable experience that has further molded my surgical skills and will definitely help me improve the care of my patients.

Preceptee: Aelayna N. Meyer, MD
Lebanon, N.H.

Preceptor: Suzanne L. Kilmer, MD
Sacramento, Calif.



Dr. Meyer

Through the support of the ASDS Preceptorship Program, I was able to spend a week rotating with Suzanne Kilmer, MD, in Sacramento, Calif. I was able to enrich my knowledge

base in the use of dermatological lasers. I learned new applications for lasers in dermatology, including in cosmetic procedures as well as the use of lasers for the treatment of various cutaneous lesions.

I also observed the use of dermal fillers and chemodenervation, gaining valuable tips and techniques for excellent outcomes.

During part of my week, I also was able to work with Drs. Daniel Eisen and Thomas King doing procedural dermatology, including Mohs surgery. I observed multiple Mohs procedures and broadened my knowledge of the surgical treatment of cutaneous malignancies of the head and neck.

Without the support of ASDS, I would not have been able to participate in this enriching preceptorship. It has

served to extend my knowledge of surgical dermatology and to develop mentorships with specialists in the field.

Preceptee: Sonya Abdulla, MD
Toronto, Ontario

Preceptor: Jeffrey S. Dover, MD, FRCP
Chestnut Hill, Mass.



Dr. Abdulla

I was very fortunate to participate in a very enriching ASDS Preceptorship in laser and aesthetic medicine with Jeffrey S. Dover, MD. I gained invaluable exposure to a large

volume and variety of cases. I had the opportunity to learn about cutting-edge modalities in laser and aesthetic medicine and observe their application to daily practice.

I had the opportunity to observe the use of new lasers that were developed with the input of Dr. Dover and his team at SkinCare Physicians. These included a new KTP laser for the treatment of vascular conditions and a new pico alexandrite laser for tattoo removal. Pigmentary conditions such as melasma can be very challenging to treat, but I was very encouraged to see the results of a new treatment protocol using microdermabrasion and low fluence NdYAG, followed by topical hydroquinone. This is a protocol that I will certainly share with colleagues upon returning to Toronto and consider implementing with future patients.

I observed different injection techniques and gained useful clinical pearls that will undoubtedly improve patient outcomes. I was exposed to the use of Dysport as well as Botox, learning which is appropriate for a given clinical scenario. I also observed the use of multiple injectables for soft-tissue augmentation – some of which I had not previously seen used in clinical practice.

SkinCare Physicians has a very large research unit with multiple concurrent clinical trials. I had the opportunity to observe clinical trial enrollment and follow-up of patients from various studies. It was interesting to see the products currently under investigation, their clinical effects and side-effect profile.

My time with Dr. Dover opened my eyes to the spectrum of procedural medicine and has further stimulated my interest to incorporate laser and aesthetic procedures into my future practice. The expert teaching and engaging case discussions were integral to my learning. This opportunity has further developed my critical thinking skills and my appreciation for the clinical trials process in laser and aesthetic medicine.

My ASDS Preceptorship experience will definitely enhance my therapeutic choices as a clinician and ultimately improve patient outcomes.

Preceptee: Timothy J. Hansen, MD
Hershey, Pa.

Preceptor: Heidi B. Donnelly, MD
Dayton, Ohio



Dr. Hansen

Spending one week with Heidi B. Donnelly, MD, provided a wealth of insight into the effective practice of dermatologic surgery. I enjoyed the way that Dr. Donnelly systematically discussed

her approaches with me. In particular, whenever we had cleared a patient's tumor, she was sure to have me in the room with the fellow to discuss all the possible methods of repair. She welcomed my input and skillfully incorporated her own insights into every aspect of patient care.

Dr. Donnelly welcomed my questions and gave sage advice. She sat with me to review the fellowship application process.

I learned several pearls from Dr. Donnelly. I learned the art of "talk anesthesia" in enhancing anesthetic injections prior to surgery. I watched as she clearly and plainly discussed risks of surgery with a patient in which there would likely be damage to his temporal nerve. I learned how to design a bilobed flap and the value of delaying a skin graft to promote its survival. I also noticed how she constantly provided

feedback to her staff in order to improve their performance.

My experience was a great supplement to my education, and I am so grateful for the ASDS Preceptorship Program. I definitely recommend that aspiring dermatologic surgeons take advantage of this great opportunity.

Preceptee: Francis C. Hsiao, MD
Sacramento, Calif.

Preceptor: Ellen S. Marmur, MD
New York, N.Y.



Dr. Hsiao

I am very grateful to have spent two weeks shadowing Ellen S. Marmur, MD, through the ASDS Preceptorship Program. The scope of Dr. Marmur's practice was very broad,

encompassing Mohs micrographic and reconstructive surgery, neurotoxins, injectables and laser surgery.

She performed skin cancer surgery on most mornings and spent her afternoons performing cosmetic procedures and skin cancer screenings. In addition to running a busy practice, Dr. Marmur also oversaw several research projects in procedural dermatology. The manner in which she handled the multitude of demands from her work while balancing her family life provided a great learning opportunity in itself.

Her nurses and staff made me feel at ease almost immediately. I was exposed to a wide variety of cosmetic procedures after only a few afternoons. In addition to learning her pearls and techniques in reconstructive surgery and cosmetic procedures, I also learned the art of patient interaction in an aesthetic practice.

This experience exposed me to procedures that were otherwise not made available to me. Dr. Marmur is a wonderful preceptor, and I would recommend this experience to anyone who is interesting in having an aesthetic and Mohs practice in the future.

Preceptee: Maria C. Kessides, MD
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Preceptor: Maritza I. Perez, MD
Danbury, Conn.



Dr. Kessides

I am so grateful to the ASDS Preceptorship Program for this amazing opportunity to spend a week shadowing Maritza Perez, MD, both at her private practice in Danbury, Conn., as well as at St Luke's-Roosevelt in Manhattan in the resident clinic.

During this time I learned a tremendous amount about Mohs surgery and got to observe Dr. Perez do several flaps and grafts. She goes above and beyond for her patients, and in a time where doctors are pressured to move quickly and see a high volume of patients, I found Dr. Perez' approach very admirable.

I also spent a significant amount of time observing Dr. Perez perform cosmetic procedures, including fillers and toxins. I feel these procedures are very much an art form, and I had been looking forward to having an expert show me! Dr. Perez gave me some very useful pearls and pointed out all the important anatomical landmarks. It was very helpful for me not only to see her technique but also to learn from her about how to avoid complications from injecting into "danger zones."

I feel extremely lucky to have met Dr. Perez and to have had this opportunity as she taught me a tremendous amount. Dr. Perez also mentored me regarding my decision to do procedural dermatology, and I was most grateful to her for her advice and insight – I am sure I will be consulting her again in the future. I fully recommend this experience to anyone interested in procedural dermatology, as you can see the full spectrum of dermatologic procedures, learn a tremendous amount and, most importantly, have fun!

The ASDS Preceptorship Program is made possible in part by generous educational grants from Merz and Galderma. More than 600 ASDS members have participated in this program. The program succeeds in achieving two goals of ASDS: to promote excellence in the field of dermatologic surgery and to foster the highest standards of patient care. To become a Preceptor or Preceptee, or for more information, visit asds.net/ASDSPreceptorshipProgram.aspx