

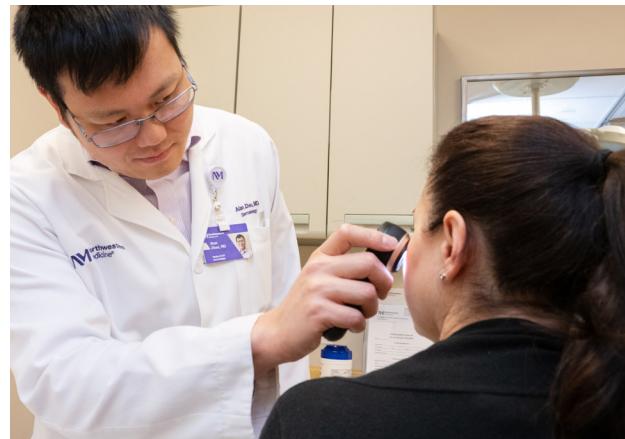
# Department of Dermatology



## » Department of Dermatology

The Department of Dermatology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine provides exceptional care for patients with skin, hair, nail, and mucous membrane disorders, while advancing education and research to improve clinical outcomes. Established in 1896, our department is one of the oldest and most respected dermatology departments in the United States. Our mission is to deliver state-of-the-art, compassionate care for patients, educate future dermatologists, and drive research that translates into improved therapies and treatments.

As dermatologic conditions affect one in three people in the US at any given time, our work is crucial to improving the quality of life for millions. From rare genetic disorders to common skin cancers, our experts are focused on providing individualized care and advancing innovative treatments.



### Groundbreaking Research and Innovation

Our research programs are at the forefront of dermatology, with Northwestern consistently ranked among the top five institutions in National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for dermatology (No. 4 in 2023). The Skin Biology & Diseases Resource-Based Center (SBDRC), a major hub for cutaneous research, brings together more than 70 scientists from 16 departments at Northwestern to focus on skin biology, cutaneous inflammation, wound healing, skin cancer, and more. Research at Northwestern is exploring exciting new ways to better understand, diagnose, and treat skin diseases. The key areas of research focus on:

- **Studying genes** to uncover the root causes of skin diseases and how they work.
- **Understanding skin cells**—how they grow, repair, and regenerate—to improve healing and treatments.
- **Using advanced technology** such as tiny devices, sensors, and artificial intelligence to make better tools for diagnosing and treating skin problems.
- **Investigating inflammation** to learn more about autoimmune and other conditions that cause the skin to flare up.
- **Fighting skin cancer** by developing improved treatments for melanoma and other types of skin tumors.



“Our many multidisciplinary clinics ... promote strong communication among specialists, better patient care, and optimal training of residents from teams of specialists who bring a perspective beyond that of a dermatologist.”

**Amy S. Paller, MD, MS**  
Chair, Department of Dermatology  
Director, Skin Biology and Diseases Resource-Based Center  
Walter J. Hamlin Professor of Dermatology

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### Skin Cancer Institute

Skin diseases, including skin cancer, affect millions of people. With one in five people in the US developing skin cancer in their lifetime, the need for specialized care has never been greater. Our Skin Cancer Institute, based at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, offers cutting-edge treatments for melanoma, non-melanoma skin cancers, and rare skin tumors. The multidisciplinary cutaneous lymphoma team has pioneered precision medicine techniques, helping patients with complex and hard-to-treat cancers. Our melanoma specialists, who see more than 2,000 second-opinion consultations annually, are recognized as experts in the field. As skin cancer services continue to grow—predicted to increase by more than 18% during the next decade—Northwestern will continue to expand clinical trials, train the next generation of melanoma specialists, and provide personalized care that improves patient outcomes. The Skin Cancer Institute, established almost two decades ago, was the first program of its kind to focus on skin, hair, and mucous membrane complications from chemotherapy and transplants. It continues to lead and innovate in the field.

### Hair - Alopecia Innovation and Research (HAIR) of Northwestern Medicine

Hair loss can be a deeply distressing condition, impacting individuals' self-esteem and quality of life. At Northwestern, we recognize the psychosocial challenges that hair disorders, particularly hair loss, or alopecia, can cause. Hair is not just a physical feature; it holds significant cultural and societal value, which makes hair loss a highly personal experience. We are proud to announce the launch of HAIR of Northwestern Medicine, a pioneering initiative to become the premier destination for diagnosing, treating, and researching hair disorders. Through collaboration with multiple disciplines across Feinberg, HAIR aims to transform the lives of patients by advancing the understanding of the underlying causes of hair disorders and developing targeted therapeutics. This initiative provides compassionate care while driving research in both the clinic and laboratory.

### Center for Ethnic Skin and Hair

The Center for Ethnic Skin and Hair, founded in 2005 as part of the Department of Dermatology, is one of the first centers in the US dedicated to treating skin, hair, and nail conditions unique to individuals of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, including Black, Asian, East Indian, Latinx, and mixed descent. The center focuses on conditions more prevalent in people of color, such as pigmentation disorders, keloids, and alopecia, offering first-rate clinical care, research, and education. It is committed to advancing dermatological understanding through a multidisciplinary approach, ensuring that medical students and residents are trained in the unique needs of skin of color. In 2020, it was renamed the Northwestern Medicine Center for Ethnic Skin and Hair, reflecting its expanded mission. The center also encourages participation in clinical trials across all racial and ethnic groups to ensure more inclusive research. In addition to comprehensive medical treatment, the center offers counseling and cosmetic dermatology services. With an expanding faculty and a new community-based office planned for 2025 in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood, the Northwestern Center for Ethnic Skin and Hair continues to make a significant impact in the dermatology field, locally and nationally.



### Centers for Excellence in Management of Rare Genetic Skin Disorders

Northwestern has long been the destination worldwide for the management of infants through adults who have two groups of rare, painful, and disfiguring lifelong skin disorders: epidermolysis bullosa (widespread blistering, often resulting in scarring and deformities) and ichthyosis (generalized thick scaling). Our clinical research unit has made discoveries and led novel studies that have transformed care through repurposing medications, topical application of gene therapy, grafting of gene-corrected skin, and other new approaches.

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### Training the Next Generation of Dermatologists

The Department of Dermatology is also known for its outstanding residency and fellowship programs, which are consistently ranked among the top 10 nationwide. We offer a comprehensive three-year residency program with a unique four-year research track and a combined five-year Medicine-Dermatology residency program. These programs provide residents with diverse clinical experiences across several prestigious facilities, including Northwestern Memorial Hospital, the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, and the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center.



Our trainees gain hands-on experience across all areas of dermatology, including general dermatology, pediatric dermatology, dermatopathology, and aesthetic dermatologic surgery. Our department is committed to providing individualized training that nurtures both clinical expertise and career development in research, preparing our residents and fellows to become future leaders in dermatology.

### Recruiting Top Talent

Recruiting top talent for Northwestern's Department of Dermatology is essential to advancing patient care, research, and education. Leading dermatologists and researchers bring the latest treatments, cutting-edge expertise, and a commitment to excellence that can transform the department into a hub for breakthrough discoveries and superior patient outcomes. By attracting world-class faculty, the department enhances its reputation, draws significant research funding, and offers students unparalleled learning opportunities. In an extremely competitive landscape, Northwestern is consistently seeking funding to provide top-tier talent protected time for their research, which leads to breakthrough discoveries in diagnosing and treating cancer, addressing hair loss, and managing other dermatological conditions.

### Philanthropy and Your Impact

Philanthropic support from individuals and groups is critical in maintaining Northwestern's position at the forefront of dermatologic research, education, and patient care. Philanthropy funds groundbreaking research, enhances patient care programs, and supports the education and training of future dermatology leaders. By contributing to the Department of Dermatology, you will directly impact the development of new treatments, the expansion of specialized programs, and the delivery of world-class care to underserved populations.

Your gift can help fund:

- Expansion of specialized programs that provide care to vulnerable and underserved communities.
- Education and career development for our residents, fellows, and graduate students, preparing them to lead in clinical practice and research.
- Groundbreaking discoveries in the laboratory that can be taken to the bedside for patient care.
- Innovative clinical trials to develop new treatments for skin cancer, hair loss, and other dermatologic conditions.

By supporting the Department of Dermatology, you become an integral part of our mission to improve patient care, advance scientific knowledge, and train the next generation of dermatology leaders.

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For more information about supporting the Department of Dermatology, please contact:

**Ashley Lough**

Senior Associate Director, Major Gifts  
Office of Development and Alumni Relations  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
Phone: 312-503-0762 | Email: [ashley.lough@northwestern.edu](mailto:ashley.lough@northwestern.edu)