



### SOCS Symposium Summary – March 2016

The Skin of Color Society (SOCS) hosted its **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Symposium** on Thursday, March 3, 2016, at the Washington, DC, Marriott Marquis. The day began with the General Business Meeting and the President's Report by Dr. Amy McMichael and was followed by a full program of speakers. The President's report included statistics on increased membership for the Society. Several major accomplishments of the Society in the past year were celebrated, including:

- 1) An update on the resounding success of the inaugural SOCS Media Day which was held in December 2015
- 2) An announcement of Valeant's continued funding of our research grant program as well as an acknowledgement of our corporate sponsors and the Society's gratitude for their participation
- 3) An update on our social media, website and public outreach initiatives
- 4) An announcement of the Inaugural Skin of Color Society International Networking & Scientific Session to be held in April 2016 in New Delhi, India

SOCS committees reported on their activity over the past year. Exciting new initiatives were discussed, some of which included: growth of our membership numbers, continued activity of the mentorship program, the appointment of Dr. Sarkar as chair of the International & National Committee, Scientific Committee reported a record number (20) of abstracts submitted, and continued efforts by our technology committee to ensure search engine optimization of our website to increase traffic from the public.

Outgoing officers and committee members were thanked for their service and the new slate of officers was presented and accepted. In addition, Dr. Amy McMichael will continue as President, and Dr. Seemal R. Desai will continue as Secretary/Treasurer.

The Scientific Symposium was moderated by Andrew Alexis, MD, MPH and oral presentations were judged by: Gary Brauner, MD, Heather Woolery-Lloyd, MD, and Chere Lucas Anthony, MD.

Prof. Harvey Lui, President of the ILDS, presented the Certificate of Appreciation to Amit G. Pandya, MD.



*Drs. Lui, Rendon, Pandya, McMichael & Desai*

The official program of the SOCS included presentations by eight Resident / Research Fellows who presented information about their original research. They included:

1. Michael California Abrouk, BS, University of California, San Francisco - *Is Race a Factor in the Presenting Severity of Psoriasis*
2. Jean-Claire Powe, BS, University of Texas Southwestern - *The Use of Home Phototherapy as Standard Treatment*
3. Attiya Haroon, MD, PhD, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital - *Should Erythema Still Be Called Erythema in Darker Skin Types? A Review of Literature for Differential Diagnosis of Erythema in Darker Skin Types*
4. Alessandra Haskin, BS, Howard University College of Medicine - *Understanding Patient Experiences with Scarring Alopecia: A Qualitative Research Study*
5. Karen Chinonso Kagha, BA, Loma Linda University Health Department of Dermatology - *Allergens in Natural Hair Products*
6. Sarah Lyon, BA, The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine - *Evaluation of the Influence of Pregnancy on Vitiligo Vulgaris Disease Activity*
7. Tasneem F. Mohammad, MD, Henry Ford Hospital Department of Dermatology - *The Effect of Minimal Long-Wavelength Ultraviolet a Light on Visible Light Induced Pigmentation*

8. Ariana Nicole Eginli, BA, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center - *Developing a Central Centrifugal Cicatricial Alopecia Clinical Database*

There were 3 excellent expert talks given during the SOCS Annual Scientific Symposium by invited speakers as well. The invited speakers included:

1. **Jared Jagdeo, MD**, Assistant Professor of Dermatology, UC Davis, Department of Dermatology, Director, Photobiomodulation Laboratory (UC Davis and Sacramento VA), Dermatologist, Dermatology Service, Sacramento VA Medical Center, Director, Lasers, Light and Complementary Therapy, Director, HIV Lipoatrophy Clinic, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Dermatology, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, spoke on keloid scarring, the title of his talk was *Pioneering Light Emitting Diode-Red Light Phototherapy for Keloid Scarring: From Bench to Bedside*
2. **Ginette A. Okoye, MD**, Director, Ethnic Skin Program, Assistant Professor Department of Dermatology Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, spoke on Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma the title of her talk was *Cutaneous T-cell Lymphomas/Mycosis Fungoides in African Americans*
3. **Amit G. Pandya, MD**, Professor of Dermatology, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, ended the program by speaking on diversity in dermatology, the title of his talk was *Diversity in Dermatology: A Call to Action*

In addition to the oral presentations, eleven Resident / Research Fellows displayed posters at the Symposium:

1. Michael California Abrouk, BS, University of California, San Francisco - *Is Race a Factor in Age of Onset for Psoriasis Patients?*
2. Sharif Currimbhoy, MD, UT Southwestern Medical Center - *Sunscreen Use in Patients with Vitiligo*
3. Raechele Gathers, MD, Henry Ford Hospital - *By 2050, persons with skin of color will make up the majority of US citizens*
4. Alessandra Haskin, BS, Howard University College of Medicine - *Krokodil is the street name for a new injectable opioid derivative called desomorphine*
5. Mayra Buainain de Castro Maymone, MD, Boston University - *Maturation Hyperpigmentation: A Distinct Entity*
6. Ashley Nicole McWilliams, MD, Virginia Commonwealth University Health System - *Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent Skin Cancer*
7. Michelle Oboite, MD, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center - *Algorithms for maintaining healthy hair and preventing trauma in patients with skin of color*
8. Stephanie Pollack, BS, UT Southwestern Medical Center - *Vitiligo is a chronic depigmenting disorder of multifactorial etiology that affects 1% of the world population*
9. Vanessa Richardson, MD, Medical College of Georgia (Augusta University) - *Texturizers and Relaxers: A Continuum of Chemical Relaxing Practices*
10. Rechelle Tull, BS, BA, Wake Forest University School of Medicine - *Persons of color, corresponding with Fitzpatrick's Skin Phototypes IV through VI, comprise 38% of the United States population.*
11. Yi Yang, BBA, MPA, UT Southwestern Medical School - *Vitiligo has a significant effect on quality of life (QOL)*



**Drs. Elbuluk, Bagayako, McMichael & Charles Hahn-Valeant**

At the conclusion of the Scientific Symposium, there was a Skin of Color Awards Reception, sponsored by Valeant Pharmaceuticals where the Valeant Research Grant Award was presented to **Courtney Bagayako, MD** from Wake Forest University. Her research will examine *Treatment outcomes for patients with Central Centrifugal Cicatricial Alopecia (CCCA)*.

Winners of the Resident/Research Fellow presentations were also noted:

- **1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Tasneem F. Mohammad, MD
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Jean-Claire Powe, BS
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Sarah Lyon, BA

Susan C. Taylor, MD, SOCS Founder, acknowledged the contribution of other founding SOCS members and honored A. Paul Kelly, MD and announced the new edition of the Taylor and Kelly Textbook.

SOCS President, Dr. Amy McMichael and SOCS Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. Seemal R. Desai thanked all attendees and encouraged continual involvement in the specialty to increase the visibility of the Skin of Color Society and our cause.



**Save the Date:** SOCS 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Symposium will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2017 in Orlando, Florida