

# WHAT ABOUT A CAREER IN DERMATOLOGY?

## What is Dermatology?

**Dermatology is the study and treatment of hair, skin and nail disorders in children and adults.** Skin disease affects 50% of the population at any one time, and constitutes the commonest reason for patients to present to their GP. It is a diverse and exciting career choice with the opportunity to sub-specialise in medical, surgical, paediatric, allergic, oncological, pathological, genital or psychiatric aspects among many others. Dermatology lends itself to high-quality teaching, training and academic research.

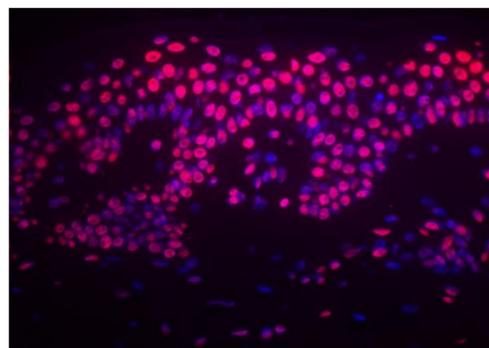
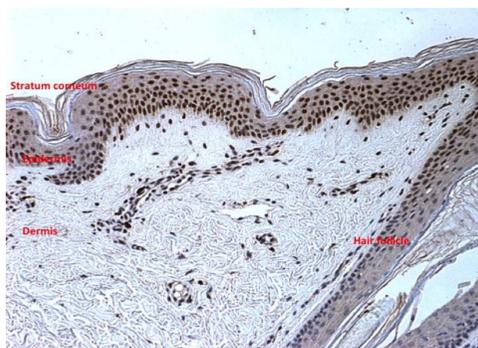


## Looking beyond the skin

**Skin diseases are multifaceted with over 2000 conditions described.**

### Dermatology offers:

- Diagnostic challenge
- Opportunities to make clinical diagnoses
- Satisfaction of confirming clinical diagnoses with investigations
- Utilisation of general medical skills in addressing underlying pathology, and treating conditions with potentially toxic medicines
- Mix of see/treat/discharge and long-term follow-up
- Challenges relating to associated physical, social and psychological burden of disease.



## Dermatology setting

**Dermatology is predominately outpatient-based.**

A typical week might comprise:

- A range of clinics
- Surgical list
- Multidisciplinary meetings
- Education sessions
- Time for research, audit and admin
- On call covering in-patient and GP referrals

## Skin cancer and skin surgery

**Skin cancer incidence is increasing, and constitutes a large part of the workload.**

- All dermatologists train in skin surgery
- Many routinely perform flaps and grafts
- Some undertake a fellowship to train in Mohs' micrographic surgery
- Skin surgeons work closely with other specialties including ENT, plastics and maxillofacial surgery.



## Academic dermatology

**There are many opportunities to get involved in research.**

- Rare presentations of disease worthy of publication are frequently seen.
- Dermatology lends itself perfectly to laboratory and clinical research.
- High quality multi-centre clinical trials are coordinated by the UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network.
- Translational research is yielding exciting developments in the treatment of inflammatory skin disease and skin cancer.
- Time out of training to undertake a higher research degree is actively encouraged.

## Entry to dermatology

**Entry to dermatology specialist training begins after internal medicine or paediatric training.** Securing a training post in dermatology is competitive – optimise your chances:

- Demonstrate interest in the specialty, by gaining clinical exposure, attending meetings and courses, completing audits or research projects, and publishing papers.
- Attending the annual *DermSchool* event organised by the British Association of Dermatologists may be a good starting point.

