

Foreword

Anand Reddi and Robert P. Dellavalle

Department of Dermatology, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Colorado

Welcome to the latest edition of *Treatment Strategies - Dermatology*. In addition to the in-depth review of the 22nd Congress of the European Society of Dermatology and Venereology, which took place in Istanbul, Turkey, this edition highlights the latest developments in dermatology-oncology, atopic dermatitis and onychomycosis.

Personalised medicine is coming of age in dermatology. New technologies are interrogating the genomic *terra incognita* of skin disease. The torrent of data from these studies is giving rise to new-targeted treatments that take advantage of disease specific molecular targets. In this issue of *Treatment Strategies - Dermatology* a clutch of articles focus on the evolving role of personalised medicine in dermatology.

Peris and colleagues review clinical experiences from advanced basal cell carcinoma (BCC). The recent identification of the hedgehog pathway mutations in basal cell carcinoma has resulted in novel targeted cancer therapies. Peris *et al.* thoughtfully review this area and

offer encouraging support for the use of vismodegib, the first targeted therapy for advanced BCC disease.

Pastuschenko and colleagues review the enigmatic process of angiogenesis in various skin cancers. The process of vascularisation is essential for malignancy, invasion and metastasis. The insightful article reviews molecular mechanism of angiogenesis in variety of dermato-pathologies including malignant melanoma, BCC, squamous cell carcinoma, Merkel cell carcinoma, angiosarcoma, Kaposi sarcoma and fibrohistiocytic tumours. Excitingly new monoclonal antibodies and small molecule inhibitors are emerging that will be powerful anti-angiogenic therapies.

In addition to molecular therapies to treat skin cancer, dermoscopy is emerging as a powerful modality to detect melanomas and monitor disease progression. An excellent article by Lallas *et al.* reviews this paradigm and reminds us of the simple yet powerful utility of the total body skin examination.

Czarnecka-Operacz and Jenerowicz provide a magnum treatise on treatment strategies for atopic dermatitis (AD). The authors elegantly review the immunology and pathophysiology of AD and concisely present treatment strategies. This article is complimented by a paper by Johnson, in which he discusses 'The Course of Advanced Learning for the Management of ITch (CALM-IT) Task Force', and their recommendations for the treatment of atopic dermatitis.

Fritz, Francuzik and Tiplica discuss laser treatment to treat nail fungus. Device based treatments are currently under investigation and could be a promising intervention as more research in this area is conducted. The authors provided a much-needed critical appraisal of this evolving technology to treat onychomycosis.

We hope you enjoy these important articles and that they provide new clinical knowledge for treating your patients.



Anand Reddi is a student at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Before medical school, Reddi was a Fulbright Scholar to South Africa focused on the provision of antiretroviral therapy in resource-limited settings. Currently, his research focuses on U.S. global health policy. He is a frequent contributor to *The Huffington Post*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *Science* on global health issues.



Robert Dellavalle is an Associate Professor of Dermatology and Director of Dermatoepidemiology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Chief of Dermatology Service at the Denver VA Medical Center. Dr. Dellavalle is the editor for the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*, Assistant Evidence-Based Dermatology Section Editor for the *Archives of Dermatology*, and Chair of the VA Dermatology Field Advisory Committee. His academic

and clinical interests include clinical research, skin cancer treatment and prevention, public health, evidence-based medicine, residency training, and adult aesthetic dermatology.