When it comes to developing breakthrough treatments for complex skin diseases in the 21st century, understanding the role of genetics and genomics is an important first step. Anne Bowcock, PhD, is doing just that as the inaugural Norman Orentreich, MD, Professor of Dermatology Research in the Kimberly and Eric J. Waldman Department of Dermatology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Some of Dr. Bowcock’s most significant work resulted in the discovery of the first genetic mutation found in the type of psoriasis that runs in families.

New HPV Vaccine Guidelines for Ages 9 to 45

About 80 percent of the population will become infected with the virus that causes warts, known as human papillomavirus (HPV), according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). HPV has both low-risk and high-risk types that can infect individuals of any age or gender, although high-risk types are almost always associated with intimate contact.

Low-risk HPV types are non-cancer-causing but can produce flat warts, common warts, and plantar warts—frequently on the face, hands, elbows, knees and feet. These tend to respond to conservative therapy or go away on their own within a few years. In contrast, high-risk types of HPV are associated with persistent genital warts and cancers of the cervix, anogenital area, and throat.

High-risk HPV infection is associated with more than 40,000 new cases of cancer yearly. This is why many physicians and patients are welcoming the newly expanded guidelines for the vaccine that can prevent most cases of high-risk HPV.
Mount Sinai Launches a Dermatology Practice in the Heart of the Upper West Side

By Andrew F. Alexis, MD, MPH, Site Chair, Kimberly and Eric J. Waldman Department of Dermatology, Mount Sinai St. Luke’s and Mount Sinai West; Director, Skin of Color Center™

Searching for world-class skin care on the Upper West Side? Look no farther than our new location—Mount Sinai Doctors Ansonia.

Conveniently located at 2109 Broadway (between 73rd and 74th streets) in the historic landmark building The Ansonia, Mount Sinai Doctors Ansonia is honored to serve the community with excellent, patient-centered dermatology care from an outstanding team of physicians and support staff.

We provide a full spectrum of services: general medical dermatology, skin surgery, aesthetic procedures, and clinical research studies that offer cutting-edge therapies. Mount Sinai Doctors Ansonia is also the home of the Skin of Color Center, the first-of-its-kind facility committed to providing culturally conscious care for skin, hair, and nail problems that affect patients of color.

All of our faculty members provide general dermatology services. In addition, our dermatologists each have their own areas of expertise, such as psoriasis and skin cancer detection (Robin Buchholz, MD), facial rejuvenation and mole removal (Noelani González, MD), vitiligo, atopic dermatitis, and acne (Nanette Silverberg, MD), allergic contact dermatitis and hair disorders (Meera Sivendran, MD), and hyperpigmentation and laser hair removal (Andrew Alexis, MD, MPH).

Mount Sinai Doctors Ansonia offers same-day appointments, evening and weekend hours, and a secure Internet portal that allows our patients to communicate with physicians and staff.

To make an appointment with one of our dermatologists, please call 212-523-6003 or book online at mountsinai.org/locations/msd-ansonia/dermatology/team.

The Dermatology Clinical Research Program is now enrolling patients (ages 18+) with:
- Actinic keratoses
- Alopecia areata (ages 12+)
- Eczema (ages 6+)
- Psoriasis (all forms)
- Psoriatic arthritis
- Vitiligo (loss of pigment)

For More Information: Please contact us at 212-241-3288.
Orentreich Professorship Honors a Great Legacy

Earlier this year, the field of dermatology lost a luminary with the passing of Norman Orentreich, MD. In his illustrious career, Dr. Orentreich introduced many advances—innovative theories, techniques, and inventions—that helped to define the specialty. To name a few of Dr. Orentreich’s achievements: he was the first to successfully treat male-pattern baldness with hair transplants; he founded and was first president of the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery; he was the founding director of the Orentreich Foundation for the Advancement of Science; and he was the co-creator of the Clinique® brand, the world’s first allergy tested, dermatologist-driven line of cosmetics.

Dr. Orentreich was also a dedicated family man. Two of his three children followed in his footsteps and became dermatologists; at Mount Sinai we are lucky to count his son David Orentreich, MD, as our faculty member. In 2016, the Orentreich family made a generous gift to endow the Norman Orentreich, MD, Professor of Dermatology Research—its first recipient is Anne Bowcock, PhD (see article on page 1)—ensuring that Dr. Orentreich’s legacy will continue to shape dermatology long into the future.

New HPV Vaccine Guidelines for Ages 9 to 45

The Food and Drug Administration has approved the 9-valent HPV vaccine (Gardasil®9) for children, teens, and adults from age 9 to 45. (Previously, the vaccine was FDA approved for ages 9 to 26.) The CDC recommends routine vaccination for boys and girls at age 11 or 12 in a series of two or three injections separated by several months. (More information can be found online at https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/vaccine.html)

While there are many types of HPV, the 9-valent HPV vaccine has been shown to protect against the nine HPV types most commonly associated with sexually transmitted warts and cancer (see table). Individuals who were vaccinated with a prior Gardasil® vaccine covering fewer HPV types should consult with their doctors if they wish to receive Gardasil 9. In such cases, the new vaccine appears relatively safe and effective, but to date there is no specific recommendation.

World-Renowned Genetics Researcher

She also discovered two mutated genes that are key to a rare form of melanoma that develops in the eye, called uveal melanoma. “It takes time for genetic findings to impact directly on patient care, but by understanding how cancer and other diseases develop, new targeted therapies can be developed in the future,” said Dr. Bowcock.

Currently Dr. Bowcock is continuing to unravel the genetics of psoriasis and cancer. Building on the results of her research, our Department hopes to make dramatic advances in the detection and treatment of formerly intractable and lethal skin diseases.

In addition to the cancers noted above, recent studies have shown a link between HPV and squamous cell skin cancers. In the journal JAMA Dermatology, August 2018, Anna Nichols, MD, PhD, and colleagues at the University of Miami Health System described a case of a woman in her nineties with numerous inoperable skin cancers. After injection of HPV vaccine administered systemically and also locally into the lesions, the cancers disappeared. These results will require further study and clinical trials but raise the exciting possibility of using HPV vaccine to treat skin cancer.
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Our nameplate shows a normal skin surface under the microscope. Photo courtesy of Mark R. Wick, MD

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Skin Health
SPRING/SUMMER 2019

Say Goodbye to Under-Eye Circles

By Noelani González, MD, Director of Cosmetic Dermatology, Mount Sinai Doctors Ansonia

At one point or another, most of us have felt tired of looking tired: those under-eye circles just won’t budge, no matter which eye cream or concealer we try. Discoloration and hollow grooves can sometimes be due to genetics but can also occur with aging. Beginning around the fourth decade, our faces gradually lose soft tissue, bone mass, and skin elasticity, causing sagging skin and shadows under our eyes.

How to counter-attack? Consider a tear-trough correction with a filler agent. A few injections of a hyaluronic acid filler can smooth out the under-eye furrows called tear troughs, which separate the lower eyelids from the cheeks. The best part is that you can see immediate improvement. Possible side effects include redness, swelling, and bruising for up to a week. Best results occur after about two weeks and slowly wear off after six months to two years.