

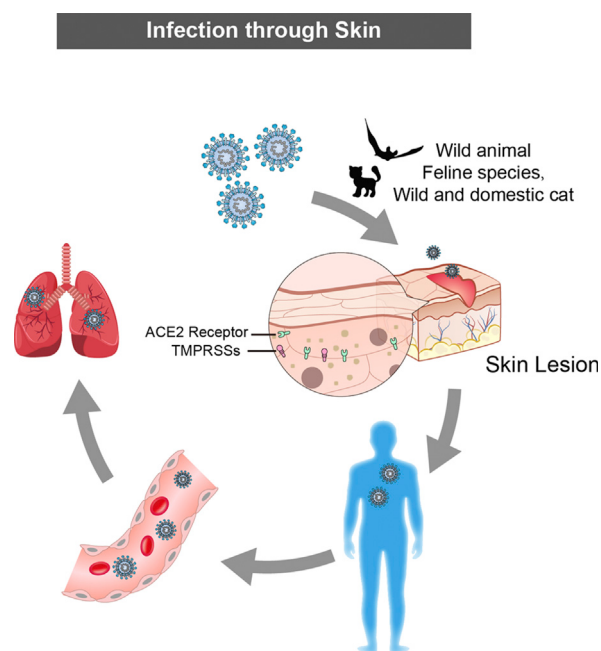


Fig 2. The potential risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission via wounded skin causing COVID-19. *ACE2*, Angiotensin-converting enzyme 2; *TMPRSS*, transmembrane serine proteases.

Drs Sun, Zhou, and Zhang contributed equally to this work.

Funding sources: This work was supported by grants from National Natural Science Foundation of China (81701937) and Shanghai Sailing Program (20YF1422800).

Conflicts of interest: None disclosed.

IRB approval status: The work was performed in accordance with the ethical guidelines of the Institutional Review Board of the Fudan University Shanghai Cancer Center, Shanghai Medical College, Fudan University.

Reprints not available from the authors.

Correspondence to: Yangbai Sun, PhD; Wang Zhou, PhD; Yimin Liang, PhD; or Qingfeng Li, MD, Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Shanghai Ninth People's Hospital, Shanghai JiaoTong University School of Medicine, 639 Zhi Zao Ju Road, Shanghai 200011, People's Republic of China.

E-mail: drsunnyb@fudan.edu.cn or brilliant212@163.com or acho_liang@hotmail.com or dr.liqingfeng@sbsmu.edu.com

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaad.2020.08.057>

Ethnic skin centers in the United States: Where are we in 2020?



To the Editor: By 2044, people of color, representing Fitzpatrick's skin phototypes IV through VI, will make up more than half the US population.^{1,2} This demographic shift shows the need for dermatologists with skin of color expertise. Recognizing the unmet needs of patients with darker skin tones, Susan Taylor, MD, and others founded the Skin of Color Center at Mount Sinai St. Luke's in 1999. Over the past 20 years, 15 academic ethnic skin centers have been established in the United States to (1) further the care and research of conditions common among persons of color, (2) prepare residents to treat skin of color, and (3) educate the medical community and public (Table 1). We conducted a 13-item questionnaire sent to institutions with formal ethnic skin centers in the United States.

Ethnic skin centers average 2.3 faculty (range, 1-5) and 19 dermatology residents (range, 9-31). A previous study showed that 47.6% of residents receive no formal education regarding skin of color, demonstrating need for increased training during residency.³ In US metropolises where the majority of patients are of ethnic minorities, centers support resident training through diverse, high-volume clinics. Some centers offer disease-specific expertise: Henry Ford Ethnic Skin Care is globally recognized for vitiligo. To enhance skin of color education at institutions lacking exposure to patients with ethnic skin, faculty from ethnic skin centers accept visiting professorships.

Given the paucity of controlled studies on conditions prevalent in skin of color, research is paramount. More than one third (7/16) of ethnic skin

Table 1. Ethnic skin centers in the United States

Institution	Location	Date established	Number of faculty	Funding	Research
Skin of Color Center at Mount Sinai St. Luke's	New York, NY	1999	6	None	Acne in SOC, CCSA, laser resurfacing in SOC, keloids, pseudofolliculitis barbae, SOC in psoriasis clinical trials
University of Miami Ethnic Skin Division	Miami, FL	2002	3	None	Alopecia, pigmentary disorders, skin cancer in patients of ethnic minorities, SOC in cosmetic clinical trials
Henry Ford Multicultural Dermatology	Detroit, MI	2003	5	Community giving, dermatology department, institution, private donations	AKN, Nd:YAG laser for hidradenitis suppurativa, MKTP for vitiligo, skin cancer in patients of ethnic minorities
Northwestern University Center for Ethnic Skin	Chicago, IL	2005	2	Grant funding	Keloids, vitiligo and the microbiome, NIH All of Us program, Scarring Alopecia Registry
Hampton University Skin of Color Research Institute	Hampton, VA	2009	2	Hampton University, US Department of Education	Cutaneous melanoma disparities, hidradenitis suppurativa, keloid pathogenesis
Johns Hopkins Ethnic Skin Program	Baltimore, MA	2010	3	Dermatology department, Dermatology Foundation, industry, SOCS	AKN, laser therapy for CCSA, hidradenitis suppurativa, keloids, mycosis fungoides, vitiligo
Boston University Center for Ethnic Skin	Boston, MA	2012	3	Dermatology department	Melasma and disorders of hyperpigmentation
Brigham and Women's Hospital Multicultural Dermatology Program	Boston, MA	2013	3	None	None
Ethnic Skin Care Clinic at University of Iowa	Iowa City, IA	2015	1	Dermatology department	None
Massachusetts General Hospital Pigmentary Disorder and Multi-Ethnic Skin Clinic	Boston, MA	2015	2	None	None
University of California, Davis Health Center for Multicultural Dermatology and Hair Health	Sacramento, CA	2015	1	None	Cicatricial alopecia clinical trials, hidradenitis suppurativa clinical trials
University of Southern California Skin of Color Center and Pigmentary Disorders Clinic	Los Angeles, CA	2018	1	None	Pigmentary disorders, vitiligo
University of Alabama Skin of Color	Birmingham, AL	2019	1	None	CCSA, hidradenitis suppurativa
Weill Cornell Dermatology Center for Diverse Skin Complexions	New York, NY	2019	1	None	Keloids

Continued

Table I. Cont'd

Institution	Location	Date established	Number of faculty	Funding	Research
Washington at St Louis Skin of Color and Inflammatory Dermatoses Clinic	St. Louis, MO	2019	1	Dermatology department, institution	Hidradenitis suppurativa, sarcoidosis, vitiligo, lichenoid dermatoses

AKN, Acne keloidalis nuchae; CCSA, central centrifugal scarring alopecia; SOC, skin of color; SOCS, Skin of Color Society; Nd:YAG, neodymium-doped yttrium aluminum garnet; NIH, National Institutes of Health; MKTP, melanocyte-keratinocyte transplantation procedure.

centers receive institutional, grant, and/or industry support. The Hampton University Skin of Color Research Institute, a nonclinical entity founded by Valerie Harvey, MD, and David McDaniel MD, investigates keloid scar pathogenesis and melanoma disparities. The Johns Hopkins Ethnic Skin Program performs clinical trials assessing novel laser therapies for keloid scars and central centrifugal cicatricial alopecia. The Skin of Color Center at Mt. Sinai St. Luke's researches safe cosmetic procedures for darker skin, an area of growing demand. Advocacy and education are also imperative, as evidenced by the Massachusetts General Hospital Pigmentary Disorder and Multi-Ethnic Skin Clinic publicizing the dangers of intravenous glutathione skin lightning via local news media. Several centers organize seminars at churches and hair salons to raise awareness of central centrifugal cicatricial alopecia and traction alopecia while teaching healthy skin care practices.

The Skin of Color Society, established in 2004, drives this movement by promoting awareness, furthering research, and providing education to 592 fellows, associate members, residents, and research fellows through grants, mentorship, and industry partnerships. Other supporting organizations include the American Academy of Dermatology Diversity Task Force and National Medical Association Dermatology Section. We recognize pioneers, including the Department of Dermatology at Howard University and others, as initial, exclusive sources of dermatologic care and research for marginalized minority communities. We must also acknowledge departments without established centers that are contributing to this work.

Ethnic skin centers have made significant strides. Nonetheless, centers must continue practicing culturally sensitive patient care; educating the medical community and public; and performing innovative, collaborative research to advance the knowledge and treatment of conditions prevalent in skin of color.

Rechelle Z. Tull, MD,^a Eva Kerby, MD,^b Jacob J. Subash, MD,^a and Amy J. McMichael, MD^a

From the Department of Dermatology, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, North Carolina^a; and Department of Dermatology, Weill Cornell College of Medicine, New York, New York.^b

Funding sources: None.

Conflicts of interest: None disclosed.

IRB approval status: Not applicable.

Reprints not available from the authors.

Correspondence to: Amy J. McMichael, MD, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Department of Dermatology, 4618 Country Club Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27104

E-mail: amcmicha@wakehealth.edu

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaad.2020.03.054>

Systematic retrospective study of 64 patients with anti-Mi2 dermatomyositis: A classic skin rash with a necrotizing myositis and high risk of malignancy



To the Editor: Dermatomyositis (DM) is an autoimmune myopathy associated with the presence of a specific skin rash and characteristic morphologic features, including perifascicular pathology without