

Hampton University Skin of Color Research Institute Symposium 2011: “From Bench to Bedside: Future Directions” IMPRESSIONS

Researchers, clinicians and students came together at the Hampton University Skin of Color Research Institute (HUSCRI) Symposium 2011: Benchtop to Bedside- Future Directions on October 7-9, 2011 in Hampton, Virginia. This was the second symposium hosted by HUSCRI and Eastern Virginia Medical School focused on dermatologic disease in populations with skin of color. Sessions topics included Health Disparities in Dermatology, Cutaneous Manifestations of Systemic Disease, Focus: Lupus Erythematosus, Keloids/Wound Healing, Advanced Imaging and Optical Properties of the Skin, and Aging. Presenters included top basic researchers who spoke about advances in areas such as structure and development of keloids, and frontiers in infrared imaging as well as physicians who covered such diverse topics as the burden of Central Centrifugal Cicatricial Alopecia, cutaneous lupus and differences across ethnic groups, treatment of keloids and scars, and new understanding of skin physiology and skin lightening.

A special session was focused on melanocytic disorders. Dr. Mark Shriver, Ph.D., Penn State University spoke about genetic regulation of skin color, Dr. Richard Spritz, M.D from the University of Colorado, School of Medicine, and Dr. Amit Pandya, M.D. of the Southwestern Medical Center spoke about pathomechanisms of melasma. In addition, Dr. Henry Chan, visiting faculty at the Wellman Center for Photomedicine presented the latest in the use of lasers in the treatment of pigmentary conditions. Dr. Meena Katdare, HUSCRI Scientific Director and Co-Chair of this session stated, “Gaining an understanding of melanocytic disorders at the most basic level is critical to developing new and more effective therapies. That is what makes the HUSCRI meeting so valuable, because it brings together bench researchers, medical doctors and others from varying related fields in a forum that encourages dialogue that can raise new questions and lead to new answers.”