

University Hospitals to open multidisciplinary psoriasis clinic First ever interdisciplinary U.S. clinic for psoriasis care

The meaning behind the phrase, “caring for the whole patient” continues to evolve at University Hospitals Case Medical Center.

For the first time ever, on Wednesday, April 25 University Hospitals’ Department of Dermatology will reveal its interdisciplinary care approach to psoriasis. Patients who are seen at the Murdough Family Center For Psoriasis Clinic will have the opportunity to see Drs. Neil Korman and Kevin Cooper, leaders in the field of psoriasis treatment and research, as well as an entire multidisciplinary team including dermatology, psychiatry, rheumatology, nutrition, and nursing.

Patients who also suffer from joint disease (related to psoriasis) will have the chance to be seen by a rheumatologist, Dr. Gary Kammer. For those suffering from the emotional toll psoriasis takes on patients and families Dr. Joseph Locala, a prominent Case Medical Center psychiatrist, will also be seeing patients in the clinic. Specialized Nursing and Nutrition services will be provided for appropriate assessment and advice on nutritional changes that could help in the treatment of psoriasis and overall health.

Patients will be seen by members of the team, who will discuss and develop a tailored treatment plan for each individual patient that takes into account personal and family history, current medications, drug interactions and new treatment options.

Additionally, patient education will be paramount in treatment of the disease as will providing the opportunity for participation in cutting edge research related to psoriasis.

Psoriasis affects 2-3% of the world’s population and most commonly develops between the ages of 15-35. The clinic was made possible, in part, as a result of University Hospitals Department of Dermatology receiving a \$5 million gift from The Murdough Foundation to advance the research and treatment of psoriasis. The Murdough Family Center for Psoriasis will support and stimulate both basic and clinical research and treatment for, and education about, psoriasis (www.murdoughpsoriasis.org). In addition to the University Hospitals Multidisciplinary clinic, the Murdough Family Center for Psoriasis is developing a community outreach network for patients with psoriasis to be seen by dermatologists in the community. This network, LIFEDERMNET (The Leaders Initiative for Excellence in Dermatology Network) will be staffed by nurse practitioners and physicians, who are part of the Murdough Center.

The Murdough Foundation of Hudson, Ohio, is an independent foundation that primarily provides support to organizations in Northeast Ohio. Foundation President Thomas G. Murdough, Jr., is a member of the University Hospitals Board of Directors, and is the founder and CEO of Step2, a multinational manufacturer and marketer of high-quality plastic products for children and for the home and garden, based in Streetsboro, Ohio. Mr. Murdough is also the founder and former president of The Little Tikes Company.

The multidisciplinary psoriasis clinic will initially be conducted at the University Hospitals Case Medical Center's main campus in the Bolwell building. Appointments can be made by calling 216-844-DERM, the Physicians Referral Line at 216-844-7553, or by requesting an appointment online <http://www.uhda.com/apptsonline.html>