

ASPCR Mentorship Program

Background

Mentoring programs are critical for ongoing professional development for physicians. Mentors support and facilitate the personal and professional growth of mentees in a multitude of ways. From setting goals to providing learning and research opportunities, significant contributions to patient care and the medical community are often made. Mentors are also able to develop strong working relationships with young physicians who share common interests and goals and with whom future research and academic collaborations are possible. Mentors also often cite an increased job satisfaction through such altruistic working relationships.

Pigmentary disorders in the Asia-Pacific region are among the chief complaints amongst those seeking dermatology care. As such, we need to seek to inspire and cultivate the curiosity of dermatology residents and trainees in our corner of the globe. In addition, the Asian Society for Pigment Cell Research continues to promote the development of research, knowledge and skill in treating those with pigmentary disorders. This program will connect dermatology residents/trainees with dermatologists who are known leaders in the field of pigmentary disorders. Furthermore, it will facilitate observerships for the program participants. Two programs will be offered and a mentee may choose to be involved in one or both programs.

Objectives:

- To encourage positive working relationships and longitudinal mentoring between pigmentary disorder experts and interested dermatology trainees/residents
- To increase awareness of pigmentary disorders in dermatology
- To encourage scientific research in the area of pigmentary disorders
- To actively build the Asian Society for Pigment Cell Research network and membership

Longitudinal Mentoring Program – to implement in 2024/2025

In this year-long program, young physicians (fewer than 5 years since graduation) can either identify or be allocated to a mentor from the ASPCR. The mentor and mentee will aim to meet (in-person or virtual meetings) three to four times per year for professional development discussions. These meetings will enable the mentee to identify and discuss his/her goals, interests and professional development issues that he/she would like to address in the long term. The follow-up meetings throughout the year will facilitate goal-setting, monitoring of progress, advice on practical ways to increase exposure to/knowledge in pigmentary disorders and provide feedback for any projects/programs/work undertaken in the area.

Mentee Eligibility

A mentee must be:

- Current dermatology resident/trainee or board-certified/ dermatology college fellowship received within last 4 years
- An existing member of the ASPCR

Mentor Eligibility

The selected mentor must be:

- A practicing dermatologist
- A member of the ASPCR
- An agreed participant of the ASPCR Mentoring program
- Identified as a pigmentary disorders expert/specialist through
 - Scientific publications in their area(s) of expertise
 - AND leadership positions within national and international pigmentary disorders associations