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CREATING A DATABASE FOR DERMATOLOGIC CONDITIONS IN SKIN OF ALL COLORS

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UNM HSC EDUCATION DAY 2020-21
OBJECTIVES

- Discuss the shortage of images demonstrating dermatologic conditions in skin of color
- Demonstrate this deficit’s effects on medical education, specifically dermatology training and patient care
- Introduce our initiative—what we are doing to help
By 2044, minority groups (Hispanic, Black and others) will constitute more than half of the U.S. population.

As we shift toward a majority minority population, we need to ensure medical training and resources are adequate to provide the best care to all patients.
NOT ENOUGH IMAGES

- Only about 10% of images in dermatology textbooks illustrate dermatologic conditions in dark skin.

- This is problematic, particularly when examining the growing population of non-whites.

- Images of some infectious disease, like syphilis, are overrepresented.
IMPACT ON DERMATOLOGY TRAINING

- A study found 47% of dermatologists and residents reported that their medical training on pathologies in Black skin was insufficient
  - Suggested more training materials and experience

- Exposure to diverse population and resources is necessary
PATIENTS ARE ALSO AFFECTED

- Skin cancer is more common in white people
- Black and Hispanic patients are less likely to be diagnosed with skin cancer, but more likely to die from it
SO, WHAT CAN WE DO?

- There has been a call to expand the existing database of photographs of skin pathologies in skin of color.

- Dermatologists have been instructed to photograph all common and uncommon skin diagnoses in skin of all colors.
CREATING A RESOURCE

- Large database >10 years from UNM
- Large database from >10 years from North Carolina
- US Census Bureau Data: NM has large population of Hispanic people and NC has a large population of Black/African American people
- Target audience: Medical Students, Residents, Primary Care Physicians, Dermatologists, and possibly patients
EXAMPLE: ALOPECIA AREATA
EXAMPLE: VARICELLA (CHICKEN POX)
EXAMPLE: BED BUG BITES
CONCLUSION

- Images identifying dermatological pathologies in skin of color are lacking

- There has been a call to expand the existing database of images, in addition to increasing representation among dermatologists and authors of dermatology textbooks

- We are sorting through and organizing thousands of pictures to create a resource that we hope will help medical education and dermatology training

- The ultimate goal—improving physician knowledge and training benefits patients, particularly our skin of color patients
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION!

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?
REFERENCES


