



Dartmouth
GEISEL SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE

Office of
MEDICAL STUDENT
RESEARCH

Weekly Newsletter

May 28, 2026

The Student Research Office is actively supporting medical students throughout their research journey, serving as a central resource to help navigate onboarding requirements and connect with opportunities across departments. The office regularly shares active research projects and offers guidance on how to get involved.

Students are strongly encouraged to visit the office at **Remsen 230** for any research-related information and to begin their research journey.

Contact: Medical.Student.Research@dartmouth.edu



General Surgery Project

Project 1

Hypothesis: General surgery residents generate substantial and measurable financial value for academic hospital systems through their operative, inpatient, and outpatient clinical activities, and this contribution, when quantified in RVUs and translated into professional fee and institutional revenue terms, significantly offsets the direct costs of resident training. This study tests the hypothesis that residents are net financial assets to their sponsoring institutions and have been undervalued in prior estimations.

Help Needed: Student with strong excel modeling and quantitative skills (required) ideally pursuing a surgical specialty or applying into MD-MBA program (optional). This will be a data forward task and a great chance to dissect and display data for a high-impact paper.

Timeline: Aiming to have all data in hand by June but can start work immediately on the model for this paper. Aim to finish within 3-4 months.

Project 2:

Hypothesis: This study is a retrospective analysis of inpatient surgical cost data at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center to evaluate variation in costs among general surgeons within the same specialty. By stratifying patients by DRG codes, the study aims to identify differences in total and component costs, including length of stay, operating room time, imaging, and supplies. The goal is to identify key drivers of cost variation and inform strategies to improve efficiency and deliver higher-value surgical care.

Help Needed: Student with strong excel modeling and quantitative skills (required) and interested in healthcare economics, an MBA, or an MPH (optional). This will be another data forward task and one that will require strong critical thinking skills.

Timeline: Likely more of a yearlong project with a much more open ended question.

Both projects have support with PIs from DH and analytical support from the surgical department and Tuck School of Business. Interested Students may contact to **Jack F. Donaghue , MD , Jack.F.Donaghue.MED@dartmouth.edu** .

Dartmouth Space Medicine Innovations Laboratory

The Dartmouth Space Medicine Innovations Laboratory is looking for a motivated medical student or undergraduate to assist with an ongoing project investigating brain changes seen in astronauts after spaceflight, and comparing them to similar brain changes seen in bariatric surgery patients. The lab has already published a pilot study and is looking to acquire our own scans for a larger-scale project to further characterize these changes and any implications they may have for long duration spaceflight and patients who undergo extreme weight loss. This study will lead to at least one publication as well as likely

multiple offshoot projects, and students will also be welcome to join other projects ongoing at the Space Medicine Innovations Lab. Students will also have numerous mentorship opportunities from lab directors, research assistants, and recent Geisel alumni.

Open to all students; well suited for those with an interest in space medicine, applied physiology, surgery, gastroenterology, or weight and wellness.

Interested students may contact to Dr. Richard Rosato (Class of 2026) -

Richard.J.Rosato.II.MED@dartmouth.edu or rjrosato98@gmail.com,

Dr. Jay Buckey (Jay.C.Buckey.Jr@dartmouth.edu)

<https://geiselmed.dartmouth.edu/student-research/2026-geisel-dhmc-summer-research-project-opportunities/>

PCP Input Request

**Let us know your thoughts on smartphone apps and AI
in healthcare by taking our 5-minute survey!**

Who are we?

We are conducting an academic research study in partnership with Dartmouth Health to better understand how primary care clinicians view smartphone-based tools and artificial intelligence in healthcare.

Specifically, we are exploring how AI-driven body composition technologies might fit into primary care workflows, screening practices, and preventive care - and what concerns or barriers clinicians identify.

Your feedback will directly inform future research design and responsible development of digital health tools.

**Scan the QR code to
access the survey!**



Compensation:

Participating clinic sites
will receive a \$250
honorarium.

Have further questions about the study?

Please email the Dartmouth Health Research Coordinator at Paula.S.Hudon@hitchcock.org or troi.y.perkins@hitchcock.org

If you are interested in participating, we will arrange a time to meet with you to confirm your eligibility and explain the next steps!

General questions about the Kino app?

Contact Toby Reynolds

Co-Founder, Kino
tobyreynolds@kino-fitness.com

Or visit: www.kino-fitness.com



Robert McCollum Medical Student Scholarship in Epidemiology

The Geisel School of Medicine is proud to offer the Dr. Robert McCollum Medical Student Scholarship in Epidemiology for Geisel Medical School students seeking a research opportunity or to attend conferences to present their research to further their careers.

Medical students at Geisel who are working with faculty of the [Department of Epidemiology](#) are eligible to apply for this scholarship fund.

Learn more :

<https://geiselmed.dartmouth.edu/student-research/robert-mccollum-medical-student-scholarship-in-epidemiology/>



NIH Clinical Electives Program: Pediatric Oncology by National Cancer Institute (NCI)

Offered by the NIH Office of Clinical Research Training and Medical Education, this program provides valuable clinical and research experience in pediatric oncology.

Select 4th-year medical students may participate in a 4-week elective rotation at the Pediatric Oncology Branch. This experience highlights the connection between research and patient care in pediatric oncology.

<https://ccr.cancer.gov/Pediatric-Oncology-Branch/training-medical-student-rotation>

If you are interested in preparing for this opportunity, learn more

here. https://www.cc.nih.gov/training/students/clinical_electives/pediatric_oncology

Advancing Your Career as a Medical Education Researcher and Scholar

The AAMC is committed to developing a community of leaders in medical education research and scholarship, to drive innovation across the continuum of medical education, from medical school and residency training to continuing professional development.

AAMC's Scholar Development Pathway guides you through each stage of your scholarly journey, from building essential skills to leading at the national level. This flexible framework allows you to progress step by step or to focus on specific areas that match your career goals. Explore each stage below and discover resources to support your growth.

Learn More : <https://www.aamc.org/about-us/mission-areas/medical-education/scholar-development#innovation>



Digital Health & AI Innovation Summit

June 8-9, 2026

Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport, MA

2026 CO-OP Research Interest Workgroups



Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD)

Led by Brendan Prast, MD, MPH

Proposed first at the 2025 Annual Meeting, members expressed an interest to assess AUD in primary care practices across NNE. The 2026 workgroup is ready to engage new members with their work on a new card study and REDCap survey.

Climate Health

Led by Troi Perkins, MEM, MF

We will examine the use of GLP-1 receptor agonists in children, particularly in the context of diet, exercise, and lifestyle interventions. Members aim to understand prescribing practices, implementation challenges, and the role of these medications in pediatric obesity management.



Expanding Cardiometabolic syndromes

Led by Jiazuo "Henry" Feng, MD

This workgroup explores integrating primary care into community mental health centers, a process known as reverse integration, with a focus on improving access for individuals with serious mental illness. It examines care coordination, outcomes, workforce needs, and funding models to identify best practices for whole-person care.

Food Insecurity

Led by Lauren Ciszak, MD

Food Farmacy, Food as Medicine and nutritional deficits were recommended topics to offer a group focused on areas to further food insecurity research and impact.



AMA RESEARCH CHALLENGE



\$10,000 GRAND PRIZE



AMA Research Challenge

Accepting research abstracts from medical students, residents, and IMGs
Submit an abstract to the AMA Research Challenge—the largest national, multi-specialty research event for medical students, residents, and IMGs for the chance to win a \$10,000 grand prize presented by Laurel Road. The abstract submission deadline is July 16, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. Central time.

Please contact researchsymposium@ama-assn.org if you have any questions.

<https://www.cvent.com/c/abstracts/9c483c64-b66c-4cce-8300-ae28290a4689>



The Geisel M4 Student Research Competition and Award Dinner successfully took place on May 7, 2026, from 5–7 PM at DHMC (Auditorium A–D).

Congratulations to all finalists, winners, and semi-finalists! Thank you to all faculty, Gisele leadership, and attendees for your support, dedication, and participation in making this event a success.

<https://geiselmed.dartmouth.edu/student-research/geisel-m4-student-research-competition-and-award-2026/>

Looking for something else?

To learn about additional ongoing research projects, **visit our website** or **reach out to our office**. <https://geiselmed.dartmouth.edu/student-research>

We're here to help you find opportunities that match your interests and goals.

Upcoming Events

The Geisel School of Medicine Events Calendar

Students are encouraged to check the Events Calendar to stay updated on upcoming research talks and Grand Rounds sessions.

<https://geiselmed.dartmouth.edu/calendar/index.php?m=5&y=2026&v=m>



NNEPQIN
Northern New England
Perinatal Quality Improvement Network
— A Dartmouth Health Program —



NNEPQIN Spring Conference

Designing Strategies to Improve Perinatal Outcomes in Northern New England



May 28, 2026 (8:45 am – 4:00 pm)



Virtual Live Stream from Lebanon, NH



Free

Thursday May 28, 2026

- 8:45am Welcome & Opening Remarks**
Julie Bosak, DrPH, CNM, MSN, NNEPQIN Executive Director, Lebanon, NH
- 9:00 Landscape of Obstetrics in Rural Health**
Brock Slabach, MPH, FACHE, Chief Operations Officer (COO), National Rural Health Association, Leawood, KS
- 10:00 CPT 2027 - Maternity Care Services – Coding Restructure**
Tammy Love, MSHI, RHIA, CCS, CDIP, Director Coding Classification and Policy, American Hospital Association, Washington, DC
- 10:30 Break**
- 10:45 Leading the Charge: Enhancing Revenue Through Appropriate Charges and Leveling of Care?**
Meaghan Smith MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM Director of the Family Birth Center Maine Medical Center – Portland, Portland, ME
- 11:45 LUNCH BREAK**
- 12:45pm Perinatal Bereavement Support - outpatient and inpatient**
Amelie Thurston, RN, Clinical Nurse Educator, University of Vermont Medical Center, Burlington, VT
Andrea “Andie” Corley, BSN, RN, Nurse Educator, Nursing Professional Development Practitioner, University of Vermont Medical Center, Burlington, VT
Chelsea Hendrickson, CMA II, Bereavement Doula, University of Vermont Medical Center, Burlington, VT
Marti Churchill, CNM, Lead Midwife, University of Vermont Medical Center, Burlington, VT
- 1:45 From Pregnancy to Primary Care: Advancing Awareness, Screening, and Systems of Care for Prenatal Alcohol Exposure and FASD**
Kristen Eriksen, RN, Family Navigator at FASD United, Caregiver Navigator at MassFASD, FASD United, MassFASD at IHR, Waltham, MA
Marinell Newton, LICSW, Social Worker, Vermont Department of Health, Children with Special Health Needs, Waterbury, VT
Mei Elansary, MD, MPhil, Professor of Pediatrics, Boston Medical Center, Boston, MA
- 2:45 Break**
- 3:00 A Hard Time to be a Human (especially working with other humans!)**
Charity Bell, MPA, Founder, Relentless Positivity, Hollis, NH

<https://dh.cloud-cme.com/course/courseoverview?P=0&EID=159726>

Official Journal

Find The Latest Research In *Breastfeeding Medicine*, The Official Journal Of ABM



The premier journal providing evidence-based information for understanding the complexities and benefits of breastfeeding for mother and infant. This indispensable resource covers a wide range of lactation medicine topics including epidemiologic and physiologic benefits, breastfeeding protocols, and the health risks of artificial feeding. The Official Journal of the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine. *Breastfeeding Medicine* boasts an impact factor of 2.7. [This and more](#) in *Breastfeeding Medicine*.

Dr. Julie Scott Taylor, MD, MSc has taken on an Editor-in-Chief position for *Breastfeeding Medicine*, an international journal covering everything from large epidemiology studies to clinical cases and thought pieces.

Students who are interested in serving as reviewers can also reach out to us directly.

<https://www.bfmed.org/journal>

Scholarly Manuscripts by Geisel Students

Geisel students continue to drive innovation through research, contributing to peer-reviewed publications across clinical medicine, global health, and more. Their scholarly work reflects a deep commitment to scientific inquiry and advancing patient care. Each year, our students co-author numerous manuscripts, showcasing their passion for discovery and academic excellence. <https://geiselmed.dartmouth.edu/student-research/research-papers-by-geisel-students/>

Students are requested to submit their published manuscripts to be archived in the Student Manuscript section of the website.

Cutaneous *Mycobacterium llatzerense* in an immunocompetent woman: Case report and literature review

Benjamin Will, BS,^a Kristan Schiele, MD, MS,^b Amber Loren O. King, MD,^b David Grand, MD,^c Sarah Gonzalez, MD,^b and Jonathan Glass, MD^b

Key words: Africa; global health; *M llatzerense*; nontuberculous mycobacteria; polymerase chain reaction; public health; skin of color.

INTRODUCTION

Nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) cause disease in a number of organ systems, although cutaneous disease manifestation is rare.¹ Some NTM—*Mycobacterium kansasii*, *Mycobacterium ulcerans*, *Mycobacterium haemophilum*, and *Mycobacterium szulgai*—have been linked with cutaneous disease, requiring a range of interventions including excision, and/or antibiotics.¹ *M. llatzerense*, first characterized in 2008, has predominantly been associated with visceral disease including lung infections, a subdiaphragmatic abscess, a brain abscess, and duodenitis.^{2–7} Only twice has *M llatzerense* been associated with cutaneous infection.^{8,9} Here, we report the third documented case of cutaneous *M llatzerense* infection in an immunocompetent 25-year-old American woman temporarily working in Sub-Saharan Africa.

CASE REPORT

A 25-year-old American woman working in Senegal presented to a local clinic with a small wound on her right ankle at the site of a prior furuncular myiasis wound. Notable exposures included bucket baths. She underwent 2 complete courses of amoxicillin-clavulanate, however the ulcerated papule continued to grow over 8 weeks. Upon returning to the United States for the holidays, she presented to dermatology clinic with a 1-cm

Abbreviations used:

NTM: nontuberculous mycobacteria
PCR: polymerase chain reaction

indurated pink plaque with a focal re-epithelialized ulcer on the right lateral ankle (Fig 1, A). The differential diagnosis at this time included cutaneous leishmaniasis, NTM infection, eumycetoma, and actinomycetoma. Further diagnostic workup included: punch biopsy for hematoxylin and eosin staining; bacterial, fungal, and acid-fast tissue cultures; and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) analysis of formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue sent to the University of Washington Medical Center. Two weeks later, while awaiting diagnostic results and prior to treatment initiation, the patient provided an updated photograph demonstrating a more pronounced ulcer, likely reflecting tissue sampling performed during biopsy (Fig 1, B).

Histology revealed a superficial-to-mid dermal perivascular and interstitial lymphoplasmacytic infiltrate with dermal fibrosis (Fig 2). No diagnostic findings for cutaneous leishmaniasis or mycetoma were identified. Periodic acid-Schiff, gram, mycobacterial, and treponemal stains were negative for fungal, bacterial, mycobacterial, and spirochetal microorganisms, respectively. Fungal cultures,

From the Dartmouth College Geisel School of Medicine, Hanover, New Hampshire^a; Department of Dermatology, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, New Hampshire^b; and Department of Pathology, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, New Hampshire.^c

Funding sources: None.

Patient consent: The authors obtained written consent from patients for their photographs and medical information to be published in print and online and with the understanding that this information may be publicly available. Patient consent forms were not provided to the journal but are retained by the authors.

IRB approval status: None.

Correspondence to: Kristan Schiele, MD, MS, Department of Dermatology, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, 1 Medical Center Dr, Lebanon, NH 03756. E-mail: kristan.l.schiele@hitchcock.org.

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jidcr.2026.03.027>



Dartmouth Library Curated Database and Citation Resources

A variety of research support services provided by the Dartmouth Medical and Health Sciences Libraries including information on data searching and management, systematic reviews and analysis, and data sharing and visualization.

For more information :

<https://researchguides.dartmouth.edu/medlibresources/home>



Research & Data Support Resources at Dartmouth

- **Research Data Services (Dartmouth Libraries)**
<https://www.library.dartmouth.edu/research-create/data-services>
Support for statistical analysis, study design, and data management.
 - **Research Computing (ITC)**
<https://rc.dartmouth.edu/data-science/>
Statistical consulting and advanced data services.
 - **Copyright, and Publishing – Dartmouth Digital Commons**
<https://www.library.dartmouth.edu/research-create/publishing>
Guidance on student-led journals, scholarly communication, copyright, and publishing.
 - **Dartmouth Writing Center – Graduate Writing Sessions**
<https://students.dartmouth.edu/writing-center/appointments/graduate-sessions>
Writing support for graduate students.
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Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth
Office of Student Research
66 College St. , Remsen Medical Science Building , Room 230
Hanover, NH 03755-1404
603-646-5551

