

ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

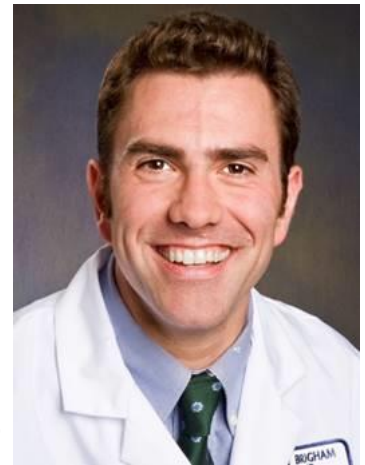
THOUGHTS AND UPDATES FROM DR. W. P. ANDREW LEE

June 1, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to announce the appointment of **Joseph F. Merola, M.D. M.M.Sc.**, as the new Chair of the Department of Dermatology, effective Oct. 16. He will hold the Mary Kay Inc. Distinguished Chair in Dermatology.

Dr. Merola joins us from Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, where he holds multiple leadership positions including Vice Chair of Department of Dermatology in Clinical Trials and Innovation, Director of the Clinical Unit for Research Innovation and Trials, Director of the Center for Skin and Related Musculoskeletal Diseases, and Associate Program Director of the Harvard Combined Internal Medicine-Dermatology Residency Training Program. Dr. Merola is uniquely board-certified in Dermatology, Internal Medicine, and Rheumatology.



After earning his medical degree from the New York University School of Medicine, Dr. Merola pursued a Master of Medical Sciences degree at Harvard Medical School. He completed a residency in Dermatology at New York University Medical Center and a residency in Internal Medicine at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, where he also attained a fellowship in Rheumatology.

Dr. Merola's clinical and research interests within the broader field of immune-mediated inflammatory disorders have focused on psoriasis/psoriatic arthritis and connective tissue diseases, especially systemic and cutaneous lupus. He specializes in patients with recalcitrant disease who are seeking diagnosis, innovative treatment approaches, and access to cutting edge clinical trials.

His work as a clinical researcher has facilitated the development and validation of database-driven epidemiologic, outcomes, and measurement tools. In the last decade, Dr. Merola has led interventional clinical trials on a broad array of dermatologic diseases, as well as rheumatology studies related to psoriatic arthritis, supported by the National Institutes of Health and the pharmaceutical industry.

Dr. Merola serves on the board of many professional organizations in the fields of dermatology and rheumatology including as the Founding President of the Psoriasis & Psoriatic Arthritis Clinics Multicenter Advancement Network Consortium (PPACMAN); the Scientific and Medical Boards of the National Psoriasis Foundation, the International Dermatology Outcome Measures Group, and the Lupus Foundation of America. He is Vice President of the Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (GRAPPA), current President of the Medical Dermatology Society, and President-Elect of the Rheumatology-Dermatology Society.

His contributions to the field have been recognized with the Outstanding Educator in Psoriatic Disease Award from the National Psoriasis Foundation, and the Research Leadership Award and the Distinguished Clinician Award presented by Brigham and Women's Hospital.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to **Robert Timmerman, M.D.**, Professor and Chair, Department of Radiation Oncology, for his service as Chair of the Search Committee, and to all the Search Committee members – Bonnie Bermas, M.D., Russell Debose-Boyd, Ph.D., J. William Harbour, M.D., Susan Hedayati, M.D., Lora Hooper, Ph.D., Sean Morrison, Ph.D., Gail Peterson, M.D., Rinarani Sanghavi, M.D., James Thornton, M.D., and Eric Peterson, M.D., M.P.H. – for the dedication and insights they brought to this comprehensive national search. I would also like to express our gratitude to **Kim Yancey, M.D.**, who will step down as Chair of Dermatology after 16 years of distinguished leadership that has further elevated the national prominence of our Department of Dermatology.

The multidisciplinary skills, clinical trial expertise, and leadership record Dr. Merola brings will expand the Department of Dermatology's tradition for excellence and further enhance our institution as a national hub for discovery and innovation.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Merola to Dallas and UT Southwestern.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D.

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Dean, UT Southwestern Medical School

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