

Clinician Highlight

September 2023



Steven Chen, MD

Vice Chief of Education, Director of Inpatient Dermatology, and Co-Director of Oncodermatology and Cutaneous Lymphoma Programs, Massachusetts General Hospital

Tell us a little about your clinical practice and your role in your practice/division/department.

As someone who is board certified in medicine and dermatology, I love to attend on both services! I spend a little bit of my time on the Bigelow service each year. But within dermatology:

As the Director of the Inpatient Dermatology Consultation Service, I am ultimately responsible for our department in the hospital itself, and how we work with all the other wonderful services to deliver what I hope is top notch patient care. That also means that I am attending on the inpatient service for over four months a year.

I also Co-Direct the Comprehensive Cutaneous Lymphoma Program in the MGH Cancer Center, where I partner with oncologists and radiation oncology to see patients with cutaneous lymphoma in our multidisciplinary clinic.

As the Co-Director of the Oncodermatology Program, I work with my colleagues in our department as well as the Severe Immunotherapy Complications Service to provide fast access to dermatologic consultation for some of our sickest cancer patients.

What I love about dermatology is the breadth of our specialty. For example, while I may help direct the services above, the rest of my clinical practice is a mixture of autoimmune blistering diseases, vasculitis patients, skin surgery, along with all the normal dermatologic bread and butter. It's great to have a clinic that's so diverse in the patients we get to serve.

When did you come to MGH and why?

The people. My mentor from residency recruited me to MGH and it became abundantly obvious this is a place that is full of brilliant people who want to work together to provide the best care, publish the best research, to teach students in the best way. That energy was contagious and the support I received from my department to pursue my interests was such an enriching atmosphere to launch my academic career. I really felt like I found my academic and clinical home.

What is one thing you love about your work?

First and foremost - seeing my patients get better will never get old. When they are excited to come back without a single blister or bump on them - some of my happiest moments. Outside of the clinic, I really love to see my mentees succeed. I'm getting old enough now that my own mentees are turning

into chief residents and junior faculty - and seeing them excel on the national stage is something that keeps me going.

Tell us a little bit about your life outside of medicine.

I have an amazing partner, Susie, whom I met in college in our a cappella group, the Octopodes. We couples matched in Boston which is what brought us here. We have two wonderful kids who are subjected to our constant singing in the car, and we're slowly working on our four part harmonies. Like other parents, our lives revolve around their activities, but otherwise you'll find me on the tennis court, running around the Charles River (very slowly), playing the miles and points game, or just hosting friends in our tiny backyard.