



Cutaneous Cancer Section

AHNS Cutaneous Cancer Section Newsletter



Thomas J. Ow, MD, MS – Chair
Karen Y. Choi, MD – Vice Chair



The **mission** of the AHNS Cutaneous Cancer Section is to advance the research, education and evidence-based quality care for our cutaneous head and neck cancer patients.

All AHNS members are welcome to join the Cutaneous Cancer Section. Our members are dedicated to the mission of the section, with the goal of increasing skin cancer awareness in the community and promoting evidenced-based, quality care for patients with cutaneous malignancies of the head and neck region.

Greetings from the AHNS Cutaneous Cancer Section Leadership Team!

Steven J. Wang, MD – Immediate Past Chair

Neil Gross, MD – Scientific Program Liaison

Caitlin McMullen, MD – Social Media/Blog Chair

Jessica Yesensky, MD – Prevention Chair

Vivian Wu, MD – Membership Chair

Daniel Knott, MD – Programming Chair

David Neskey, MD – Guidelines Chair

Anne Kane, MD – Education Chair

Kelly M. Malloy, MD MBA – Mentorship Chair

Joseph Curry, MD – Research Chair

Alice Lin, MD – CDMS Liaison; Nominating
Committee Chair

2024 was a busy year for us! Several dedicated members completed their service on the leadership team this past year (Thank you Cecelia Schmalbach, MD, MSc – Past Section Chair; Brian Moore, MD Program Chair; Kevin Emerick, MD – ATC liaison, Research Chair). We provide this newsletter to share recent accomplishments from the section, upcoming events, and new and active opportunities for section members to get involved in 2025!

Upcoming Events

- **Wednesday January 15th, 2025 - Virtual Town Hall Meeting**

Please join us online! We are holding our first-ever virtual town hall meeting. Moving forward we will plan to hold one section town hall virtually and plan an in-person meeting annually at AHNS.

Plan to:

- *Meet section leadership*
- *Receive updates on current section projects*
- *Review opportunities to get involved with the section*

- **May 7, 2025 Virtual Tumor Board - Malignant Melanoma**

(Fellows and Faculty Members)

Join us if you're interested!

- **May 14-18, 2025 - AHNS Annual Meeting at COSM**

- *New Orleans, Louisiana*
- [More information at www.ahns.info/meetings](http://www.ahns.info/meetings)

In Case You Missed It! (links included)

AHNS Virtual Tumor Board: [Evolving Treatment Approaches to Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer \(originally presented December 4, 2024\)](#)

Educational Series Webinar: [New Concepts for Management of Advanced Merkel Cell Carcinoma of the Head & Neck \(originally presented July 17, 2024\)](#)

Get Involved!

There are many opportunities to serve the AHNS and the cutaneous cancer section. Research projects, Educational content, Cancer Prevention initiatives, Guideline development – reach out to the section leadership to get involved! See Below:



Caitlin McMullen, MD - Social Media/Blog Chair

We have been active on social media and the website - check us out! In the coming year, we aim to streamline our process for posting, increase membership engagement, and increase the visibility of our section and members while creating educational and helpful content.

There are so many opportunities to get involved, create content, and write about your interests and expertise. Our members have written short articles/blog posts, created social media posts and infographics and helped disseminate important information. Here is an example – click the image on the right to see the full article.

Please follow the AHNS on LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter and reach out if you would like to get involved!

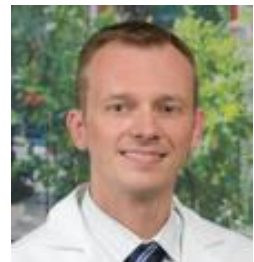
PUBLISHED ON JULY 11, 2024 BY H. MICHAEL BADDOUR, MD

Malignant Facial Palsy In The Setting of Cutaneous Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (cSCCHN) is the most frequent cutaneous malignancy leading to perineural spread (PNS). This clinicoradiologic finding is associated with malignant infiltration of the perineural space of large caliber, named nerves with retrograde spread away from the primary site. This results in neural dysfunction and central failure at the brainstem if left untreated. This entity is defined by both abnormal neural findings on imaging as well as clinical neural dysfunction. In the head and neck, the trigeminal and facial nerve systems are the most commonly involved, with the latter being involved in 25%-35% of PNS cases. Often, there is concurrent involvement of both systems leading to facial paresis/paralysis as well as sensory disturbances¹.

Joseph Curry, MD - Research Chair

Our national society and a dedicated membership will allow us to study cutaneous cancers and answer important questions that will lead to better strategies for treating our patients. Over the next year we hope to open several exciting research projects, including:



1. Developing new response endpoints and tailored surgical approaches for trials on surgical de-escalation in the setting of neoadjuvant therapy
2. Multi-institutional data collection on immunotherapy for skin cancers in immunocompromised patients

If you are interested in participating in these projects or have ideas for new projects that we could support, please reach out.



Jessica Yesensky, MD – Prevention Chair

May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month, and each year the Cutaneous Cancer section promotes a series of Skin Cancer Prevention initiatives. For Prevention awareness/Skin Cancer Awareness month 2025, we hope to engage AHNS members and dermatologists to develop videos on Instagram.

Ideas for video segments include:

1. Spots everywhere! : When to worry!
2. Common misconceptions - skin lesions/cancer
3. Common patient questions
4. Recommendations for sun protection
5. Mohs surgeon describing Mohs/video

Contact us if you are interested in developing this content!

Kelly M. Malloy, MD MBA – Mentorship Chair

Our focus this year will be on identifying networking and mentoring opportunities that address the needs of surgeons across the continuum of their careers- from early career to “what’s next” for mid to late career surgeons looking to pivot to other areas of head and neck surgical practice and professional life. We are co-sponsoring a podcast with the section’s Education team on how to start a cutaneous surgical oncology practice;



Stay tuned for more opportunities as the AHNS meeting approaches and do not hesitate to reach out with ideas and questions.

Section Members - Remember to:

1. Promote our Section to your colleagues!

Any current member can join a Section and the process is simple. Just go to the member login part of the web site (<https://www.ahns.info/login/>), log in with your user name and password and click on Manage Section Membership. Encourage your colleagues to join the Cutaneous Section!

2. Make sure your AHNS profile is up to date!

Be sure to keep your profile updated in AHNS’ [Find-A-Physician](#) page.