

INTRODUCTION

The ethnic and racial composition of the US population is changing rapidly. There is a continuous rise of individuals with mixed ethnic backgrounds comprising skin of color. It is important for physicians to be comfortable addressing and treating the needs of this population, as it differs significantly from the white population.

Similar to the US population, the field of dermatology is constantly changing. In an era with countless devices in our toolkit, it is important to know when to use what and in whom. We wanted to give the readers background about these commonly encountered conditions and then focus on the latest treatment options in this issue of *Seminars in Cutaneous Medicine and Surgery*. You will find many well-known experts in the field provide up-to-date reviews focusing on unique conditions that predominantly affect a colored population. It is important for the dermatologist to know the advantages and pitfalls of these various treatments.

Our first section discusses normal variations in skin of color, focusing on the adult and pediatric populations, respectively. Next, we discuss the evolution of skin and hair in African Americans, followed by a unique manuscript about hair care practice specific to African American women and potential causes of allergic contact dermatitis unique to them. Combination therapies in skin of color including but not limited to injectables and laser and light

devices are thoroughly reviewed. We also include a nicely written manuscript on using devices safely in skin of color and endpoints to be aware of. The important “hot” topic of melasma is covered, with a focus on treatment with laser and light devices. To wrap it up, we included some great insight on various cosmeceuticals for the skin of color population, cosmetic concerns and specific approaches to treating Asian patients, and, lastly, the issue of diversity in the dermatology workplace.

We thank all of the contributing authors as well as our many mentors for their hard work, dedication, inspiration, and for the opportunity to be the guest editors of this esteemed journal. We hope this unique series of manuscripts will be helpful to dermatologists and other subspecialists who care for skin of color patients. Our goal is to fill in the gaps regarding this vast and ever changing field in this particular population.

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