

### Samitz Lecturers

Charles D. Calnan, M.D.	1976
Herman N. Eisen, M.D.	1977
Walter C. Lobitz, Jr. M.D.	1978
Rudolf L. Baer, M.D.	1979
J. Lamar Calloway, M.D.	1980
Samuel L. Moschella, M.D.	1981
Gerald S. Lazarus, M.D.	1982
Stefania Jablonska, M.D.	1983
J. Wayne Streilein, M.D.	1984
A. Bernard Ackerman, M.D.	1985
D. Martin Carter, M.D.	1986
Aaron E. J. Masawe, M.D.	1987
Lowell A. Goldsmith, M.D.	1988
Raul Fleischmajer, M.D.	1989
Barry R. Bloom, Ph.D.	1990
James S. Taylor, M.D.	1991
Gerald D. Weinstein, M.D.	1992
Brian V. Jegasothy, M.D.	1993
Daniel H. Connor, M.D.	1994
John R. Stanley, M.D.	1995
Stephen E. Straus, M.D.	1996
Sungnack Lee, M.D.	1997
Antoinette F. Hood, M.D.	1998
Steven R. Cohen, M.D.	1999
Albert M. Kligman, M.D., Ph.D.	2000
Richard L. Edelson, M.D.	2001
Masayuki Amagai, M.D., Ph.D.	2002
William D. James, M.D.	2003
Eric C. Vonderheid, M.D.	2004
Robert E. Tigelaar, M.D.	2005
Amy S. Paller, M.D.	2006
Richard D. Granstein, M.D.	2007
David E. Fisher, M.D., Ph.D.	2008
George Cotsarelis, M.D.	2009
Howard Y. Chang, M.D., Ph.D.	2010
Lars E. French, M.D.	2011
Anthony E. Oro, MD, PhD	2012



The Department of Dermatology  
University of Pennsylvania

Thirty-Eighth M. H. Samitz  
Lectureship in Cutaneous Medicine

**Presented by:**

**Paul Nghiem, MD, PhD**

Professor, University of Washington Dermatology  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center  
Michael Piepkorn Endowed Chair in Dermatology Research

***“Merkel cell carcinoma: Toward multi-disciplinary  
and synergistic immune therapy approaches for an  
often-lethal skin cancer”***

Thursday, November 7, 2013

10:00 AM

Smilow Center for Translational Research Auditorium

**Morris H. Samitz, M.D.**  
**1909 – 1992**



Dr. Morris Samitz was born and raised in Philadelphia and attended Temple University and Temple University Medical School. He trained at the Graduate School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, New York University, and the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Samitz was the Chief of Dermatology at Graduate Hospital, served as the Chairman of the Graduate School in Dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania, and was a highly distinguished Professor in the Department of Dermatology.

Dr. Samitz received the Dermatology Foundation's Clark W. Finnerud Award, which honors an outstanding and exceptional dermatologist. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Samitz spent time in Africa developing a Department of Dermatology. In addition, his clinical and scientific contributions are voluminous and continue to be cited to this day.

Those who knew Dr. Samitz remember him not only for what he did, but also for whom he was – an exceptional human being whose passion for Dermatology and teaching are legendary. Dr. Samitz's students endowed the Samitz Lecture in Cutaneous Medicine upon his retirement in 1975 as a demonstration of their love and respect. The Samitz Lecture is a celebration of their feelings and appreciation of this great academician.

**Paul Nghiem, MD, PhD**  
**Professor of Dermatology**



Dr. Paul Nghiem (pronounced NEE-em) is the Michael Piepkorn Endowed Chair in Dermatology Research at UW and a Professor of Dermatology and Pathology at the University of Washington and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. He grew up in Olympia, Washington, and attended college at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts where he majored in Biological Sciences and played the violin in the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra.

After college, he pursued MD and PhD degrees at Stanford University where he studied Cancer Biology and Immunology, with a special interest in T cell activation. While at Stanford, he organized the first international tour of the Stanford Symphony Orchestra to Japan, Korea & Singapore.

After his medical and graduate studies, he completed:

- \* A medicine internship at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.
- \* Dermatology residency at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.
- \* A Howard Hughes Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Cancer Biology with Stuart Schreiber at Harvard University in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. During this time he studied a protein called ATR that is important in a cell's response to UV damage. ATR is interesting because cancerous and pre-cancerous skin cells need it much more than normal cells; ATR can be inhibited by caffeine; and epidemiologic studies now link caffeine consumption to decreased skin cancer.

In 2003, he started his own lab at the Cutaneous Biology Research Center at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

In 2006, he and his wife moved 'home' to Seattle. He sees patients with complex skin cancers. His lab does translational and clinical research on Merkel cell carcinoma as well as on how cells respond to UV damage (and how caffeine can protect against skin cancer, possibly when used topically).

He has published over 60 papers that in aggregate have been cited over 1500 times. He currently has 5 grants from the NIH and other sources. The first major grant he held on Merkel cell carcinoma was from the American Cancer Society. One of the current NIH grants (a "K24") supports his commitment to mentoring the young physicians and scientists who work in his lab.