



HISTORY OF DERMATOLOGY

HISTORY OF DERMATOLOGY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: THE PHILADELPHIA STORY

Lawrence Parish⁽¹⁾

Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, Dermatology and Cutaneous Biology, Philadelphia, PA, United States Of America⁽¹⁾

The first skin department in Philadelphia opened at the Western Clinical Infirmary and Hospital for Incurables (Howard Hospital) with Oliver H. Partridge as head, while J. Comminskey organized a dispensary at St. Mary Hospital in 1860. When Louis A. Duhring (1845-1913) returned from the Grand Tour of European clinics, he started the Philadelphia Dispensary for Skin Diseases (1871-1890) which later merged with Jefferson Medical College Hospital. Duhring became the first Professor of Dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania in 1875, a post he held until 1910. Henry Stelwagon (1853-1919) was appointed the first Professor of Dermatology at Jefferson Medical College in 1892.

The American Dermatological Association, the first national dermatological society, was formed in Philadelphia in 1876, while Philadelphians were instrumental in organizing the Atlantic Dermatological Conference in 1921, the American Academy of Dermatology in 1937, and the Society for Investigative Dermatology, also in 1937. Philadelphians may also be proud of having the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania for post-graduate teaching of dermatology, the Skin and Cancer Hospital which became part of Temple University School of Medicine, and the United States Naval Hospital.

