



24<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CONGRESS  
OF DERMATOLOGY  
MILAN 2019

## **HARRIS JOHN**

Dr. Harris is a board-certified dermatologist and tenure-track physician-scientist who conducts NIH-funded research in vitiligo. His career goal is to reveal the mechanisms of autoimmunity in vitiligo, develop new treatments using animal models, and translate these treatments to human patients. He works to seamlessly integrate basic/preclinical, translational, and clinical research strategies to accomplish these goals. Dr. Harris received his MD/PhD degree from UMass Medical School in Worcester, MA, and completed a combined dermatology residency and postdoctoral fellowship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. In 2010, he returned to UMass as faculty, and is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Dermatology.

His work has garnered national and international attention, leading to significant interest in developing targeted immunotherapies for vitiligo. He is currently a consultant and/or investigator to multiple pharmaceutical companies who are interested in conducting preclinical research or clinical trials to test drugs in their pipeline. He has been invited to speak at national and international meetings, as well as grand rounds speaker and visiting professor at dermatology and research departments across the United States and around the world. He serves on the advisory boards for multiple foundations dedicated to supporting patients with autoimmune skin diseases, including vitiligo and alopecia areata. He is an Associate Editor for the journal *Pigment Cell and Melanoma Research* and Section/Deputy Editor for the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, as well as an invited guest editor for a *Dermatologic Clinics* issue dedicated to the clinical management of vitiligo.

Dr. Harris is the Assistant Director of the MD/PhD program at UMass, and he is the founding director of the Vitiligo Clinic and Research Center there. This Center includes 4 clinical faculty who collectively diagnose and treat vitiligo patients a total of three half-days per week, perform procedural treatments for patients with vitiligo, and recruit patients for their translational research studies. In addition to seeing vitiligo patients in the clinic, Dr. Harris also directs the research part of the Center, mentoring multiple postdoctoral fellows, graduate and MD/PhD students, medical



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students, and undergraduate fellows in his laboratory. The clinic and research sides of the Center are collaborating to initiate clinical trials in patients with autoimmune skin diseases to test drugs that were developed largely based on their preclinical and translational research.