



RUTGERS' CENTER FOR DERMAL RESEARCH  
(CDR) SEMINAR SERIES

**Guest speaker: Hilary Baldwin**

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
September 25, 2017 at 5:30pm

## ***Acne and Inflammation: A Chicken or the Egg Conundrum (For That Matter, Where is the Egg and Who is the Chicken?)***

### **ABSTRACT:**

Although we are confident that the pathophysiology of acne includes a complex interplay of 4 factors: increased sebum production, hyperkeratosis, Propionibacterium acnes proliferation and inflammation, the relative importance of each is unknown as is the initial inciting event. Recent research indicates that inflammation is not a consequence of P. acnes proliferation but rather precedes the development of clinical lesions and persists after visible lesions have resolved. Many inflammatory pathways and factors appear to be involved but the precipitating stimulus remains elusive. An improved understanding of the chicken and the egg of the pathophysiology story should lead to more rational therapeutic approach to this common condition. Further research may help to target therapies to toll-like receptors, protease-activated receptors, cytokines, chemokines, "healthy" P. acnes subtypes, and even superficial barrier repair techniques.

### **BIOGRAPHY:**



Hilary Baldwin, a Tristate native, is a dermatologist in practice for nearly 25 years. Over the years she has focused her area of interest and expertise to acne about which she feels passionate. She received her BA and MA magna cum laude in biology and microbiology from Boston University and then went on to be a research assistant at Harvard University before attending Boston University School of Medicine and graduating with honors. She then completed a medical internship at Yale New Haven Hospital before becoming a resident and chief resident in dermatology at New York University Medical Center.

Upon graduation and board certification in dermatology, she joined the faculty of the dermatology department at The State University of New York, ultimately serving as Associate Professor and Vice Chair of the department. Over 20 years at SUNY she cared for patients, taught countless students and conducted numerous clinical studies. She is currently the Medical Director of the Acne Treatment and Research Center where her goals are two-fold: to provide comprehensive quality care for acne patients while searching for a cure.

Dr. Baldwin has lectured extensively both nationally and internationally and published prolifically in journals. She is proud to have served as a founding board member and second president of the American Acne and Rosacea Society.

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