



From Founding to the Fifties

1919



Lyle Kingery and Udo Wile collaborate on experiments that show common warts were of viral origins, not bacterial, as commonly thought.

1922

Dermatology becomes a division of medicine and its future chairman, Lyle Kingery, begins volunteering.

1931

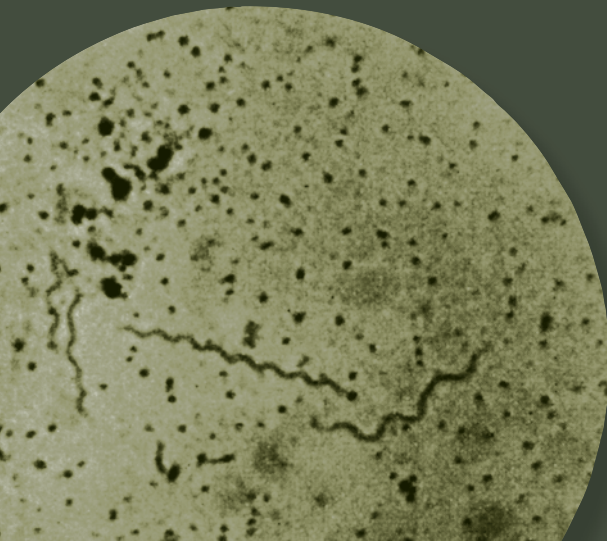


Construction of the medical school's first outpatient clinic complete

OHSU Department of Dermatology – Rooted in History

Below: Syphilis spirochaetae, Berlin, 1905

Opposite page: Prescription recipe found among Lyle Kingery's effects demonstrates early treatment for leprosy.



Skin. That marvelous organ that binds us from head to toe. A window into the body. A shield from harmful elements. The connection to those we love. The first alert when danger looms. Skin reveals us to the world – our race, age and health. It enslaved generations of Africans and stigmatized the syphilitic. Its tattooing set apart Jews in Nazi Germany. It tells stories of accidents and scars, of childbirth and surgery. We decorate it with cosmetics and piercings.

The human skin and its companions – hair, nails and mucous membranes – have been studied since the ancient Egyptians, and the lessons passed from one generation to the next. Today's dermatologists, including those in the OHSU Department of Dermatology, are rooted in all that came before.

Oregon dermatology spawned from European and large American centers

Prominent centers for the study of skin arose first in Europe. One disease in particular played a large role in the development of the specialty and eventually in Oregon dermatology education.

In 19th century Vienna, many of dermatology's pioneers reached prominence handling unpopular and scary diseases, such as syphilis, according to Frederick A.J. "Ted" Kingery, M.D., a retired Portland dermatologist and long-time clinical faculty member of the department. "These physicians became the smart lions of our specialty," he says.

Syphilis, which announces itself with skin sores, was an oft-seen disease and one of the most difficult to treat for dermatologists. The American Dermatological Association, formed in 1876, dedicated itself to the promotion and study of dermatology, with the proviso that the science of syphilology not be neglected.

1926

Lyle Kingery describes an extremely rare form of ichthyosis, Harlequin fetus.

1928



Sir Alexander Fleming discovers the antibacterial action of penicillin

1930

Fourth-year medical students begin seeing patients with Lyle Kingery in the Dermatology Clinic at Multnomah Hospital for one hour per week.



Public health officials of the early 1900s estimated that 10 percent to 15 percent of the U.S. population was infected with the stigmatizing condition. It wasn't until after penicillin's widespread use in the 1940s and 1950s to cure syphilis that professional dermatology organizations began dropping the word "syphilology" from their official names.

In America in the late 1800s and early 1900s, New York, Philadelphia and the Midwest were focal points and incubators for educating physicians in the specialty of dermatology and syphilology. One such center was the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, which has played a prominent role in the OHSU Department of Dermatology's history.

Udo Wile, M.D., a New York dermatologist trained in Germany, and the reigning authority on syphilis, arrived at the University of Michigan in 1910. He became the school's first chief of dermatology and syphilology.

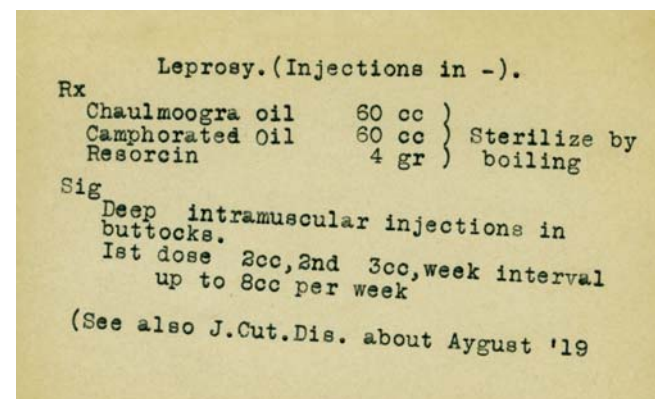
At Michigan, he trained more than 50 dermatologists, many of whom became chiefs of dermatology all over the country. The influential Wile "controlled the specialty like a trade union," according

to Kingery. One of his earliest residents was Kingery's father, Lyle Kingery, M.D. who later became OHSU's first department head.

Ted Kingery, who also received dermatology training at Michigan, calls the formative years of dermatology the "calamine lotion era:" a time when dermatologists knew how to stop itching and make patients comfortable but didn't have the scientific knowledge yet to treat the root causes of diseases. Nevertheless, Kingery lauds the early pioneers "who did so much with so little."

Dermatology and syphilology had been part of the curriculum almost since the inception of the University of Oregon Medical School in 1887. A 1904 school catalog shows that third-year medical students received 15 didactic hours and 20 clinic hours on dermatology/syphilology.

Local physicians volunteered their time to lecture medical students. In 1910 the school had only one full-time instructor, an anatomy professor. By 1913, the school had six salaried instructors, largely in the basic sciences. For decades to come,



volunteer physicians comprised the largest part of the faculty.

Although students received lectures on hygiene and dermatology from the beginning, one of the first teachers to receive an academic title was J.C. Elliott King, M.D., assistant professor in dermatology and syphilology in 1912. He and other volunteer physicians provided structured courses in dermatology for third- and fourth-year students. Lectures occurred at the school's Lovejoy Street site in Northwest Portland. Students also accompanied physicians at the People's Institute

1932

American Board of Dermatology, just the fourth specialty board in medicine, founded

1935



Edward Kendall and Philip Hench discover cortisone.

1936

Rose Hirschler, first known female dermatologist, was appointed professor and chair of the dermatology department at Women's Medical College in Philadelphia.



Above: Syphilis, with its skin lesions, was under the domain of dermatologists until the surge of penicillin use and an all-out public education campaign in the 1940s and 1950s.

and Portland Free Dispensary, the school's main outpatient facility at Fourth and Burnside and the predecessor of today's outpatient clinics.

In 1919, the first unit of the Medical Science Building (now Mackenzie Hall) was completed on Marquam Hill, providing new quarters for the school, and in 1923, Multnomah County Hospital opened on the Hill and contracted with the medical school to provide care for the poor. It was the site of dermatology's first clinic.

Medical specialties began to emerge out of internal medicine and surgery in the 1920s, and in 1922, the Department of Medicine recognized dermatology as one of its divisions. (Dermatology remained a division until 1970.)

Lyle Kingery, M.D., founding chairman, 1929 to 1952

Kingery's arrival in Portland in 1922 coincided with the early foundations of the Oregon medical school and the specialty.

Kingery was born in 1892 in Buchanan, Mich., and died in 1972 in Portland. He grew up in

Michigan and completed medical school at the University of Michigan in 1916. After postgraduate work in Vienna and Breslau, Kingery returned to Michigan for residency with Wile.

He moved to Oregon after learning that St. Vincent Hospital in Northwest Portland was seeking dermatologists. It didn't hurt that the state was renowned for its outdoor recreation, and the young physician was a keen hunter and fisherman. Kingery set up a private practice with other dermatologists and began teaching in 1922 as an associate professor at the medical school.

"He was part of an all-male fraternity," recalls his son. "There was a certain elitism – or snobbery – about being on the faculty."

In 1929, the medical school dean, Richard Dillehunt, M.D., and other department heads asked Kingery to serve as dermatology's first chief. The unpaid position required only a few hours a week, mostly to give lectures.

His sense of humor was evident in a speech he gave to allergists in the 1930s. "This Western country is filled with instances in which the man,

1938

American Academy of Dermatology and Syphilology is started.

1937

Society for Investigative Dermatology holds organizational meeting.

1940

OHSU trains its first dermatology resident, Will Davis.

1941

Frederic Mohs (surgeon, not dermatologist) publishes a landmark paper in the Archives of Surgery describing his surgical method for removing skin cancer.



who was speaking, when he should have been listening, left the scene feet first and reasonably filled with holes from six-shooters of his audience. My remarks are made in a spirit which will permit me to leave under my own power.”

A superb clinician and teacher, he also came with impressive research skills. In 1919, while still in Michigan, Kingery and Wile published results of an experiment proving that the origin of common warts was viral, not bacterial as commonly thought. He and a colleague ground up human wart tissue, passed it through a filter to remove bacteria and injected themselves. Such self-experimentation was not uncommon in the early years of medical research. Their point was proven when warts grew at the injection sites.

The historical record shows a prolific researcher, with papers appearing regularly in the *Archives of Dermatology and Syphilology* between 1924 and 1937. In 1926, Kingery published an article in the archives describing an extremely rare form of ichthyosis, Harlequin fetus. The name derives from the baby’s tightly pulled mouth that mimics a clown’s smile.



Other paper topics ranged from X-ray therapy (a novel and exciting new remedy for many skin diseases in the early 20th century), to thymol (a pungent compound derived from the herb thyme and used as an antiseptic

and fungicide) and cinnamon oil to treat ringworm. He also published papers on sternal puncture to differentiate leukemia cutis from lymphoblastomas and the role of skin in general medicine.

A part-time teacher and administrator, Kingery never had an office on Marquam Hill. According to his son, dermatology education during Kingery’s time consisted of a series of lectures and preceptor training to medical students and interns. Until 1940, when the medical school catalog lists the first dermatology resident, medical school graduates who wanted to be dermatologists had to leave the state for specialty education and certification. Nevertheless, Kingery nurtured the growth of the specialty in its Oregon infancy and prepared the division for post-World War II expansion.

The Men and Milestones in Medicine: 100 Years of Medical Education in Oregon (Wilson, 1967, page 17) credits Lyle Kingery and 18 others as the “backbone of the school. Had they not served there would be no University of Oregon Medical School today.”

1942

Birth of the Medical Research Foundation of Oregon to stimulate biomedical research



1944

Ophthalmologist Kenneth Swan, becomes the medical school’s first full-time clinical faculty member.

1950s



David Baird Jr., medical school dean, oversees the switchover from private practitioners to dedicated physician educators on the faculty.



This page: Celebrating the dedication of the Kingery Library in 1978: Associate Dean Roberts Grover Jr., new Chairman Franklin Parker, Marion Kingery and President Leonard Laster.

Opposite page: Today, after its second move, the Kingery Library lives on the 16th floor of the Center for Health & Healing. The Kingery family continues to support its operation.

The Kingery Legacy

In the beginning there was Lyle Kingery. Then there was the son Ted. And now there's a library. The library ensures that the Kingery name – synonymous with Oregon's first family of dermatology – endures for generations.

Lyle Kingery, was the Division of Dermatology's first bona fide chairman. After his spell as chairman from 1929 to 1952, he and his son Ted Kingery, M.D., gave their time, talents and financial support to the medical school and dermatology division.

Ted, 83 in 2010, served as a constant witness to every chairman since his father. After dermatology residency at the University of Michigan in the late 1950s, he briefly rubbed shoulders with Thomas Fitzpatrick, M.D., Ph.D., before "Fitz" left for Harvard. Next was Walter Lobitz Jr., M.D., who hired the younger Kingery for \$500 a month to teach in the department; his father Lyle paid him another \$500 to join his practice downtown.

Eventually, Ted started his own Portland practice but continued as a clinical instructor. He authored 45 scientific articles and parts of four books, and chaired the Medical Research Foundation of Oregon. He held many leadership positions within state and national specialty societies, including the presidency of the American Academy of Dermatology. He still attends the weekly morphology clinic and attends at the VAMC.

After Lyle's death in 1972, the Kingery family's bequest created a library in Lyle's memory. His widow, Marion, discussed plans with Chairman Lobitz to refurbish the department's existing library in the Outpatient Building on Marquam Hill. She even paid for interior design, materials and all services needed to run the library. On Sept. 22, 1978, university officials dedicated the Kingery Dermatology Library.

But the family's backing didn't stop there. Throughout the years Marion and Ted

contributed annually to the library fund, and when Marion died in 1996, Ted and his family continued making annual contributions. In addition to the family, many alumni and friends have contributed to the Kingery Library. In 1986, the department formed a committee to raise money to pay for journal subscriptions, materials and a part-time librarian.

By 1991, then-Chairman Frank Parker, M.D., notes in a letter to Ted that the library endowment had reached a market value sufficient "to now buy most of the books and journals as we need." Frances Storrs, M.D., took on the leadership of maintaining the library which she continues to do.

With the department's move to the Center for Health & Healing on Portland's South Waterfront in 2006, the family made its most generous contribution to date. The second phase underwrote the library's move and upgrades for 21st century information needs. The library is the hub of the department. "My family is most appreciative of the loving care which you have given this project," Ted wrote the department. "I think the library not only represents a jewel of a facility for the use of all the Oregon dermatology family but also serves as a very appropriate memorial to my father."

In 2010 departing Chairman Neil Swanson, M.D., adds, "A library is the educational foundation of an academic department. We are very lucky to have the library and the Kingery Library Endowment. The family's backing has allowed us to acquire key resources over the years."

