Mission and Structure

The department offers the entire spectrum of conservative dermatology and dermatologic surgery in patient care, research and teaching. Residents can obtain a full specialization in dermatology and venereology; additional professional qualifications include allergology, dermatohistology, medicinal tumor therapy and proctology. Apart from the head of the department, 4 professors of dermatology and 3 associate professors have been working in research and education during the period under report. The department has 9 senior physicians, 4 further specialists in dermatology and 14 assistant doctors. In research projects, 2 natural scientists are employed on regular positions and 10 research associates on third-party funds. The department comprises the following divisions:

- General outpatient clinic and consultations for specific skin diseases, outpatient clinic for private patients
- Day clinic
- Wards for conservative dermatology, dermatoncology and private patients
- Operating theatre
- Outpatient clinic for allergy
- Outpatient clinic for phototherapy
- Dermatohistology, immunofluorescence
- Laboratory for dermatologic infectiology
- Research laboratories

Focuses of clinical interest

- Dermatoncology (J.C. Becker, E.-B. Bröcker, S. Ugurel-Becker)
- Allergology and occupational dermatology (A. Trautmann)
- Autoimmune skin diseases (E.-B. Bröcker, C. Seitz, E. Schmidt)
- Hair diseases, hyperhidrosis (H. Hamm)
- Dermatologic surgery (N. Berens, H. Hamm, G. Weyandt)
- Phlebology und proctology (N. Berens, G. Weyandt)
- Pediatric dermatology (H. Hamm)
- Dermatologic infectiology (A. Kolb-Mäuerer)
- Dermatohistology (E.-B. Bröcker, C. Kauczok)

Major Research Interests

Tumor biology and tumor immunology

This continuing main field of research initiated by the head of the department is conducted by Prof. Dr. J. C. Becker und addresses several aspects of the biology of cutaneous tumors within the scope of the Klinische Forschergruppe KFO 124 (http://www.tumor-microenvironment.de/index.htm) and various third-party funded projects listed as follows:

- Tumor stem cells in skin tumors (J.C. Becker, R. Houben) (see also figure)
- Signal transduction in Merkel cell carcinoma (J.C. Becker, R. Houben)
- Melanoma immunology (D. Schrama)
- Melanoma genetics, chemoresistence and preclinical testing of innovative therapies (S. Ugurel-Becker)
- Genesis and molecular diagnostics of melanoma (J.C. Becker, E.-B. Bröcker, C. Kauczok)
- Cutaneous lymphomas (J.C. Becker, C. Kauczok)
- Resistance to therapy of malignant tumors (M.P. Schön, Ma. Schön): mechanisms of tumor metastazition, tumor-endothel interactions, resistance to apoptosis, molecular mechanisms of low-molecular substances
- Apoptotic signal pathways in epithelial cutaneous tumors (T. Giner)
- Influence of polymorphisms on melanoma prognosis (J.C. Becker, S. Ugurel-Becker, D. Schrama)
- Cell migration (P. Friedl): collective invasion of tumor cells; RAS/RAF regulation of tumor invasion; tumor invasion along vessels; multi-photon microscopy of small tumor masses; cell-based tumor therapy

Immunology and inflammation

- Interaction between T-lymphocytes and keratinocytes in dermatitis (A.Trautmann, A. Kerstan)
- Imunotherapy with wasp venom as model for therapeautic immune modulation in humans (A. Trautmann, A. Kerstan)
- Interaction of T-cells with dendritic cells and target cells (P. Friedli)
- Leukocyte recruitment in inflammatory skin diseases (M. Schön)
- Interaction of dendritic cells with pathogenic microorganisms (A. Kolb-Mäurer)
- Signal pathways in the pathogenesis of pemphigus (E. Schmidt)

Genodermatoses

(H. Hamm)

Clinical and genetic characterization of genodermatoses in cooperation with the Ger-
Teaching

The entire realm of dermatology, venereology, allergology and dermatoncology is taught to medical and dental students in lectures and practical courses. The department is also involved in the interdisciplinary education of medical students and in the degree program biomedicine. Main topics of doctoral theses derive from the research projects listed above.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS


