

TAMANO, CLINICAL SPECIALTY

Clinical Specialty

Towako Tamano

Secondary

Chapter #75129

Timberline High School

Idaho

Dermatologist

KOH (Potassium hydroxide) Preparation

## **Career Summary**

Dermatologists are specialized medical professionals focused on preventing, diagnosing, and treating various conditions that affect the skin, hair, and nails. They work in diverse settings such as private clinics and hospitals, managing a demanding yet rewarding schedule. Strong interpersonal skills, effective communication, and continuous learning are integral to success in this field. Dermatologists play a crucial role in improving skin health, addressing cosmetic concerns, and enhancing overall patient quality of life.

The general job duties of a dermatologist include:

- Conducting patient skin consultations, examinations, and evaluations
- Assessing skin conditions to determine the appropriate treatment
- Prescribing medication and creating personalized treatment plans
- Performing essential surgeries such as Mohs surgery
- Tracking patient progress, updating medical history and symptoms
- Educating patients on treatments and preventative care such as sunscreen, nutrition, etc.
- Remaining current on new medical advancements through conferences, seminars, and training programs
- Referring patients to specialists in other fields as needed

### *Employment characteristics:*

Dermatologists typically navigate demanding, fast-paced 40-hour weeks in healthcare institutions such as hospitals and personal clinics. This medical specialty is

highly competitive but offers strong salaries, work-life balance, and fulfillment.

Dermatologists use the latest technological and research advancements to be able to conduct the best practice on their patients. Their work involves accurate diagnoses and precise procedures, emphasizing communication with patients.

*Personal Characteristics:*

Dermatologists' success is often tied to their interpersonal skills. Effective communication is crucial to understanding patient concerns, explaining complex medical topics, and building trust. They must collaborate well with other healthcare professionals and demonstrate attention to detail, concern for others, and dependability. Additionally, being quick and efficient is essential; dermatologists need to manage their time well, make prompt decisions, and perform procedures swiftly, balancing speed with accuracy to ensure thorough and compassionate care.

*Technological Needs:*

Technological proficiency can increase efficiency, and increase time spent on patient care. Some basic skills include:

- Basic software skills in calendar, word processing, and video conferencing, Office suite, and spreadsheet software
  - Proficiency in medical software: Bizmatics PrognoCIS EMR; eClinicalWorks EHR software; GE Healthcare Centricity Practice Solution; Greenway Medical Technologies PrimeSUITE

### **Education, Credentialing, Career-related Data, etc.**

Dermatologists follow an extensive educational path spanning over a decade, starting with undergraduate education. Prospective dermatologists obtain a Bachelor's degree while completing the necessary prerequisites such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, and anatomy. To be a competitive applicant for medical school, students should aim for a B or higher in all classes as well as engage in other opportunities such as leadership, volunteering, and job shadowing. This process continues with the MCAT, a standardized exam necessary for admission into medical school. The MCAT tests knowledge in the science fields as well as critical thinking.

After acceptance to medical school, prospective dermatologists complete another 4 years of education. The initial two years are focused on classroom learning to cover essential knowledge while the last two years emphasize clinical skills and procedures across various specialties. During medical school, all students must pass both Steps 1 and 2 of the United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE).

After graduating from medical school, aspiring dermatologists must complete a year-long internship which provides experience in patient care and an opportunity to prepare for residency. Dermatology residency typically takes 3 years and is highly competitive to enter. During residency, graduates gain broad educational experience in dermatopathology, surgery, research, and more. Step 3 of the USMLE is also completed during this period. After completing residency, students can continue to pursue a fellowship for one year, in specialties such as dermatopathology, pediatric dermatology, or Mohs surgery.

*Certification Requirements:*

## Medical License:

- Obtained after completing steps mentioned above, additional requirements can vary in every state
  - State exam, medical school, etc.
- Required license for every state dermatologist intends to practice in
- License renewal is mandatory every year in Idaho
  - ranges from 1-3 years depending on the state

## American Board of Dermatology (ABD):

- Obtained after medical license and passing the board exam
  - Renewal of license every 10 years
- A crucial credential that establishes professional expertise and credibility

*Professional associations:*

## American Academy of Dermatology (AAD):

- Members titled FAAD (Fellow of AAD), and required to be ABD certified
- Largest dermatology group in the United States
- Offers resources for continuing education, networking opportunities, and access to the latest advancements in dermatology.

*Employment Statistics:*

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of 2022, there are 12,400 employed dermatologists. In Idaho, there are an estimated 111 dermatologists. The average salary for a dermatologist in the United States is \$381,100, with a salary range

typically falling between \$327,300 and \$444,600. The lowest 10% of salaries average \$278,318, while the highest 10% averages \$502,413.

The dermatology specialty exhibits a demographic profile with only 3% of dermatologists being African American, and 4.2% being Hispanic. The overall percentage of African Americans is 12.8% and the percentage of Hispanics is 16.3% in America. However, Female representation is notable, with 61.7% of dermatologists being female.

#### *Occupational Outlook:*

The field of dermatology holds a relatively positive outlook. The growth in jobs is projected to be 3% over the next ten years. Factors contributing to this growth include an aging population, increased awareness of skin health, and a growing interest in cosmetic dermatology. Dermatologists may play a crucial role in preventative care, such as skin cancer diagnosis and treatment as well as cosmetic procedures, reinforcing the importance of their expertise in the future.

#### *Additional Career Data:*

- Top 3 conditions treated by dermatologists: Acne, atopic dermatitis, and hair loss
- Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the U.S.
- Dermatologists are the primary influencers for patient cosmetic procedures and skin care decisions
- Approximately one-third of dermatologists are private practitioners.

## Interview Summary

Dr. Randall Burr, a board-certified dermatologist and founder of Ada West Dermatology, brings 36 years of experience. He completed his undergraduate degree at Brigham Young University, medical school at the University of Utah, and his residency at Geisinger School of Medicine. He gained inspiration to be a dermatologist because he would go to the dermatologist with his mother for her postpartum acne, and the dermatologist would ask him, “How is my little dermatologist doing?” After that, he always claimed he was going to be a dermatologist later on.

In his younger years, he faced poverty, struggling to afford basic necessities and often resorting to placing cardboard in his shoes. Despite facing adversity in his youth, Dr. Burr's unwavering work ethic propelled him forward. He has been working hard since the beginning of his dermatology career, claiming, “hard work gets you a long way”, and “I had to work for everything I got, and that’s why I still have that work ethic.” This determination and resilience ultimately led him to establish his own clinic, driven by a desire to have complete control over patient care and treatment practices. He describes himself as a “Maverick”, and doesn’t want anyone to change his way of practice. As of now, Ada West Dermatology is the largest private clinic in Idaho and has 17 providers covering all phases of dermatology.

As the founder of Ada West Dermatology, he manages 140 employees across 3 different clinic locations. He hires the dermatologists at his clinic, “not only by their personality, which is critical, but also by their ability.” Now, 14 M.D. dermatologists trained at top institutions worldwide such as Mayo Clinic (2), Duke (2), Dartmouth (2), and the University of Southern California work at his clinics.

Dr. Burr's favorite aspect of dermatology is that he can "see all phases of life," and "[he] becomes friends, [he] becomes family of [his] patients." Another enjoyable aspect of the career is that "if [he] sees a problem, then [he] can fix it." He receives unbelievable amounts of gratification from treating patients he has seen for over twenty to thirty years. He is constantly fascinated by the field of dermatology.

However, Dr. Burr has faced challenges from his increasing age in recent years. He puts his all into every patient he sees, and this can be difficult when he sees around 60 patients every day. It can be difficult to maintain his energy compared to his younger years when he saw around 110 patients a day. However, he has no intention of retiring, and he aims to continue his practice as many employees and patients depend on him and his practice.

Dr. Burr has a constant desire for knowledge as he continues his education by reading journals from the American Academy of Dermatology that arrive every month helping him stay on the cutting edge. He also has his younger physicians keep him up to date with the most recent practices and technologies. He is in constant communication with his coworkers, striving to build a healthy work environment to build cooperation between his people.

He shared valuable advice with me, as a prospective dermatologist, stressing the importance of hard work and wholehearted dedication to each patient. He emphasized the significance of making patients feel valued and forging personal connections with them. Furthermore, he underscored that success in dermatology transcends mere skill, highlighting the importance of genuine compassion and interpersonal relationships, which distinguish outstanding dermatologists from merely competent ones.

**Work-Based Learning Form**

**HOSA CLINICAL SPECIALTY: Work-based Learning Form**

Competitor Name: Towako Tamano School: Timberline High School

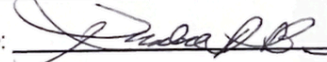
HOSA Advisor Name: Michele Loftis Contact Info: 

Date(s) of Experience	Time Checked-In:	Time Checked-Out:	Total Hours:	Host Signature:
1/23	6:45 AM	4:30 PM	8.75 hrs	<i>Randall D. Burr</i>

Thank you for taking this time to host a HOSA-Future Health Professionals Competitor! Please help them improve by providing the following feedback. HOSA members are responsible for this form as part of their event requirements, so please return it to them at the end of their learning experience. Thank you!

Objectives to Evaluate	Exceeds Expectation	Met Expectation	Needs Improvement
Competitor effectively explained HOSA to host	✓		
Competitor communicated professionally and effectively to set up experience (email, phone, in person, etc...)	✓		
Competitor demonstrated punctuality	✓		
Competitor was professionally/appropriately attired for experience(s)	✓ yes!		
Competitor conducted themselves professionally (positive attitude, engagement, prepared with strong questions, not on phone, etc...)	✓		
Additional Information (optional advice for this future health professional)	Wonderful student (A+)		

Host Name: RANDALL BURR Title: M.D.

Host Signature:  Company Name: ADA WEST DERMATOLOGY

### **Learning Outcomes Summary**

On January 23, 2024, I shadowed Dr. Randall Burr, a board-certified dermatologist and founder of Ada West Dermatology, one of the largest independent dermatology clinics in the northwest. Ada West has consistently won the "Idaho's Best" award in dermatology and offers specialties in pediatric dermatology, Mohs surgery, and dermatopathology across three locations in Idaho.

On this day, I shadowed Dr. Burr for his entire workday, 8 hours 45 minutes. Gaining a realistic perspective of a day as a dermatologist was an incredibly valuable experience. In the rigorous workday, we saw 53 patients, moving from patient to patient constantly without rest. Dr. Burr examined skin lesions on patients' bodies to differentiate between actinic keratosis (AK), seborrheic keratosis (SK), and cancerous growths. Dr. Burr immediately identified the malignant spots after taking one look at a patient's back, out of the hundreds, or even thousands of other skin lesions.

The first thing that stood out was his incredible kindness with every patient interaction. He treated every patient like family, but also asked for the necessary information to make a precise diagnosis. He valued every minute he had with every patient even when his schedule was packed. From Dr. Burr, I learned the importance of balancing professionalism with service to his patients. Expertise in dermatology was only a starting point. Empathy, kindness, and resilience were crucial to establishing patient trust and understanding, ultimately improving patient care.

Working my chosen career, Dr. Burr is one of the best dermatologists in the state of Idaho with 36 years of experience. I was extremely honored and grateful to spend a day shadowing him, where I gained invaluable insight and experience in the field.

### Skills Checklist

Reference:

McKay, M. (1990). Chapter 109: Office Techniques for Dermatologic Diagnosis. In *Clinical methods: The history, physical, and laboratory examinations. 3rd edition.* (pp. 541–542). essay, Butterworth Publishers.

Competitor # \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Skill: KOH Preparation to diagnose fungal skin infections	<b>JUDGE USE ONLY Comments</b>
1. Place gloves on hands, and gather materials: a. PPE, microscope slides, 10% KOH, flame source, and microscope	
2. Scrape skin from the affected area onto a microscope slide, using the edge of a slide or scalpel.	
3. Use a coverslip to move the scales toward the center	
4. Place 2-3 drops of 10% KOH onto the slide	
5. Place the cover glass carefully on top of the slide, making sure there are minimal air bubbles	
6. Heat the slide with a flame to speed up the process	
7. Place the slide on the microscope stage, and start with low power (10X)	
8. Look for clusters of fungal elements such as hyphae or pseudohyphae. Scan at least 10 fields. a. Chains of elongated cells: Pseudohyphae b. Clusters of small uniform circular cells: Yeast	
9. If any structures look abnormal, use high power (40X) to identify morphologic characteristics. a. Use the fine focus frequently on high power because hyphae are three-dimensional.	
10. If yeast forms or pseudohyphae are seen, record results based on laboratory criteria.	

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McKay, M. (1990). Chapter 109: Office Techniques for Dermatologic Diagnosis. In *Clinical methods: The history, physical, and laboratory examinations*. 3rd edition. (pp. 541–542). essay, Butterworth Publishers.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2023, September 6). *Physicians and surgeons: Occupational outlook handbook*. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physicians-and-surgeons.htm#tab-1>

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