



CENTER FOR
DERMAL RESEARCH

Rutgers' Center for Dermal Research (CDR)
Seminar Series

GUEST SPEAKER: Gopi Menon

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Life Sciences Building
September 24, 2018 at 5:30 pm

Stratum Corneum: Why a "Dead" layer should elicit such fascination ?

BIOGRAPHY



Gopinathan K. Menon obtained his MS and PhD Degrees from the University of Baroda, India ; and held a Faculty position there. In 1979, he spent an year as a Homi Bhabha Fellow and a Visiting Professor at Michigan State University where he trained in Electron Microscopy of skin. In a subsequent sabbatical at the Elias lab in UCSF (1982-84) he started to focus on skin barrier, and in 1988 he moved to San Francisco as a full time Research Faculty in Dermatology at UCSF. From 1993 to 2017, he held various research positions in the personal care industry in the USA, including Principal Research Fellow & head, Skin Biology research at Avon Products ,and Senior Research Fellow at the International Specialty Products & Ashland,Inc. Presently he is a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.

His Honors include being awarded a Homi Bhabha Fellowship, elected as a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences, chair of the Gordon Research Conference on Barrier Function of Mammalian Skin (2011) , and induction to the GRC Chairs' Hall of Fame (2012) . He has been an invited speaker at several national and International meetings, and has over a hundred publications that include peer reviewed research papers, reviews and book chapters.

ABSTRACT

This paper thin, flaky layer has attracted so much attention in the past 4 decades or so, that it has 3 regular; major international conferences (a GRC and the Stratum Corneum meeting) devoted to its structure and functions, and the ISBS focused on measuring its various properties. Our fascination comes from the fact that this seemingly "dead" layer is what stands between life and death in the terrestrial habitat, is the interface of primary medical care and diagnostics; a pesky problem to be solved for trans dermal drug delivery. For those in cosmetic industry; SC is a vast canvas to practice our art: be it color cosmetics, anti-aging products or skin lightening or tanning. As we are aware, the 10-15 micrometer thick SC is a composite material with a "brick and mortar" organization and exhibiting many attributes of a smart or intelligent polymer that senses an unfriendly environment and adapts for coping and even thriving there.

I will touch upon some of the above aspects, including what adaptive modifications of SC are displayed by animals (other than man and the mighty mouse), that question our conventional views on SC.

Further details michniak@pharmacy.rutgers.edu and also on our CDR website. Our seminars are free and open to the public.

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