

PSORIASIS: \$6.37 MILLION GRANT GIVES HOPE

Psoriasis, an autoimmune skin disease, takes a physical, social and emotional toll on its patients, and effective treatment can be elusive. Now there is new hope.

University Hospitals Case Medical Center and Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine have received a \$6.37 million award to establish a Center of Research Translation (Cort) for the skin disease.

The award came from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Skin Diseases (NIAMS), a research center at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The five-year grant will allow the Psoriasis Cort to bring together various physicians, scientists, nurses, community clinicians and laity to create new therapies to provide relief to patients.

“Our goal is to bring safer and more effective ways to restrain this skin disease to patients,” said Kevin D. Cooper, MD, Department Chair of Dermatology at UHCMC and Professor of Dermatology at the CWRU School of Medicine. “Psoriasis has significant impact on patient health, with psychosocial effects and risk for longterm cardiovascular complications and cancers,” he said.

The Cort grant complements a \$5 million gift to UHCMC from the Murdough Foundation for the research and treatment of psoriasis. that gift, received in December 2006, established the Murdough Family Center for Psoriasis, creating a critical base for the Cort research projects.

