



David C. Reid, MD, FAAD

The Clark Wylie Finnerud, MD, Professor
of Dermatology

Advancement of Medicine

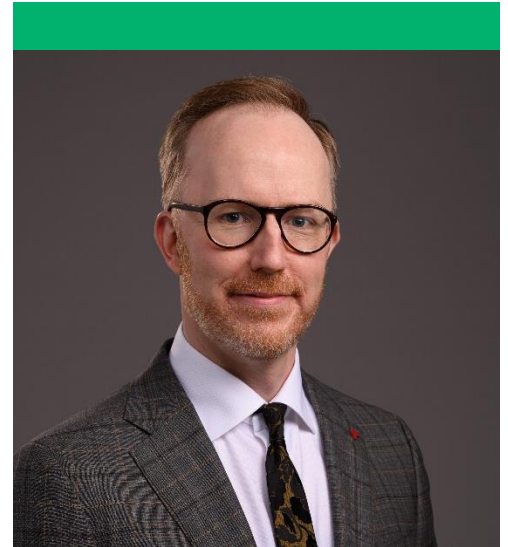
As chairperson of the Department of Dermatology at Rush and residency program director, I lead efforts to expand the department's impact, advance care for patients with complex dermatologic conditions and harness new technologies to shape the future of the field.

In 2025, my work focused on strengthening Rush Dermatology as a high-performing academic department while expanding access to high-quality dermatologic care. This included growth of clinical services, continued improvement in care delivery, mentorship of faculty and trainees, and the development of a durable academic infrastructure to support research and education.

A major milestone this year was the development and launch planning of the Epithelial Progenitor and Organoid Core, or EPOC. This new shared research resource enables patient-derived skin and organoid research that was previously not feasible at Rush. EPOC provides investigators with advanced laboratory capabilities that support translational studies, collaboration, and future external funding, directly advancing innovation in skin biology and disease.

In parallel, we expanded internal faculty scholarship through the Finnerud Catalyst Awards, which support early-stage academic projects and help faculty generate the preliminary data necessary for publications and competitive grant applications. In 2025, faculty in the Department of Dermatology produced more than 20 peer-reviewed publications, along with numerous national meeting abstracts, reflecting a growing culture of scholarship supported by mentorship and research infrastructure.

Together, these efforts strengthen patient care, education and research while positioning the department for sustained academic leadership and national visibility.





Research

The endowment has played a critical role in building the infrastructure, mentorship and collaborative environment necessary for successful external funding. Through support for shared resources such as EPOC and seed funding provided by the Finnerud Catalyst Awards, faculty can develop early-stage projects, generate preliminary data and establish multidisciplinary collaborations.

Endowment support has also enabled strategic research investments, including the development of novel experimental models that are foundational for competitive National Institutes of Health grant submissions. These investments are designed to support multiple future grant applications and publications and to maximize the likelihood of sustained external funding.

In addition, the endowment has supported investigator-initiated clinical research, including the development and execution of an HPV vaccine-related clinical trial, allowing faculty to launch clinically meaningful studies and position them for future external funding.

Support for publication fees and faculty presentations at national and international meetings has further enabled the dissemination of Rush dermatology scholarship to a broad academic audience.

The Year Ahead: 2026 and Beyond

In the coming year, my priorities include fully operationalizing EPOC as a shared research resource, expanding participation in the Finnerud Catalyst Awards, and continuing to strengthen research infrastructure across the department. I also plan to further expand subspecialty clinical services and invest in faculty development and training to support excellence in patient care, education and scholarship.



With Gratitude

I believe the work we do changes lives. It changes the lives of our patients, our teammates and staff, and our students. When you change people's lives, you change the world. And you give others the chance to change it, too. That's what this endowment means to me.

I am deeply grateful to the Finnerud family, whose generosity made the Clark Wylie Finnerud Professorship possible. Your support enables sustained academic leadership and provides the foundation to build programs that will benefit patients, learners and faculty for years to come. It is an honor to hold a position supported by such a meaningful commitment to the future of academic medicine at Rush.