Tiffany C. Scharschmidt, MD is a dermatologist, microbiologist, and immunologist and currently serves as an Associate Professor of Dermatology. She dedicates 80% of her time to research and the remaining time taking care of patients with severe inflammatory skin diseases. The central focus of her laboratory is to investigate the cellular and molecular mechanisms that mediate interactions between bacteria and the developing immune system, with a long-term goal of developing new therapeutic approaches based on this knowledge. Work in her lab leverages access to human samples, including human skin and blood, as well as corresponding microbiome samples to dissect the role of host-microbe crosstalk in normal cutaneous immune development and inflammatory skin disease. The lab also employs a reductionist approach, utilizing sophisticated immunological and microbiological tools in murine models to ask fundamental questions about mechanisms mediating the innate and adaptive immune responses to bacteria in early life.