



### **Nicole Ward, PhD**

Nicole Ward is a professor and vice-chair of basic research in the Department of Dermatology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN, USA. Dr. Ward trains, teaches, and mentors undergraduate, graduate, medical students, residents, post-doctoral fellows, and junior faculty. Dr. Ward's lab is "small but mighty."

Her research focuses on understanding psoriatic disease pathogenesis and psoriasis comorbidities. Her lab specializes in generating and studying unique mouse models of psoriasis. Her group has published several seminal findings, including being the first to show that chronic skin-initiated inflammation can drive the development of cardiovascular disease and that suppressing it reverses disease and that cutaneous sensory nerve interactions with dendritic cells are critical for eliciting and sustaining psoriasis pathogenesis, thus explaining the cellular mechanisms underlying psoriasis disease remission following skin denervation.

Dr. Ward's paradigm-shifting work in psoriasis resulted in her being awarded the Eugene M. Farber Lecture at the 2016 Society for Investigative Dermatology (SID) meeting. She was the first non-MD, first woman, and youngest person to be awarded this honor.

In 2019, the American Skin Association acknowledged her scientific contributions and honored her accomplishments in psoriatic disease at their Commit to Cure Gala.