

CORY L. SIMPSON, MD, PHD - *Class of 1999*

Dr. Simpson is a board-certified dermatologist, physician-scientist, and Assistant Professor in the Department of Dermatology at the University of Washington.

After graduating from GCHS in 1999 as co-valedictorian and a National Merit Scholar, Dr. Simpson earned his bachelor's *summa cum laude* as a Goldwater Scholar at Washington University in St. Louis, majoring in Biology and minoring in Spanish. In 2003, he joined the Medical Scientist Training Program at Northwestern University in Chicago, where he earned his MD and a PhD in Cell Biology supported by a Presidential Fellowship. His thesis focused on understanding how skin cells stick together and how they fall apart to cause life-threatening skin blistering diseases. This work led him to pursue dermatology training.

In 2013, Dr. Simpson moved to the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia for dermatology residency and served as Chief Resident. Since finishing clinical training, he obtained multiple grants from private foundations and the National Institutes of Health to support his research applying cutting-edge techniques in gene editing and microscopic imaging to a model of human skin grown in his lab.

In 2021, he was recruited to the University of Washington in Seattle, where he runs a specialty clinic for skin blistering diseases and built a lab focused on understanding these rare disorders. His research and publications were recently recognized with a Young Physician-Scientist Award from the American Society for Clinical Investigation and a Rising Star Award from the World Congress on Rare Skin Diseases in Paris.

Beyond research, Dr. Simpson was honored for volunteerism by the American Academy of Dermatology with a Presidential Citation and Patient Care Hero Award. Leveraging his medical Spanish, he has organized clinical outreach to both urban immigrant populations and rural communities in Guatemala including via telemedicine to provide specialist advice to doctors in under-served areas across the globe.