



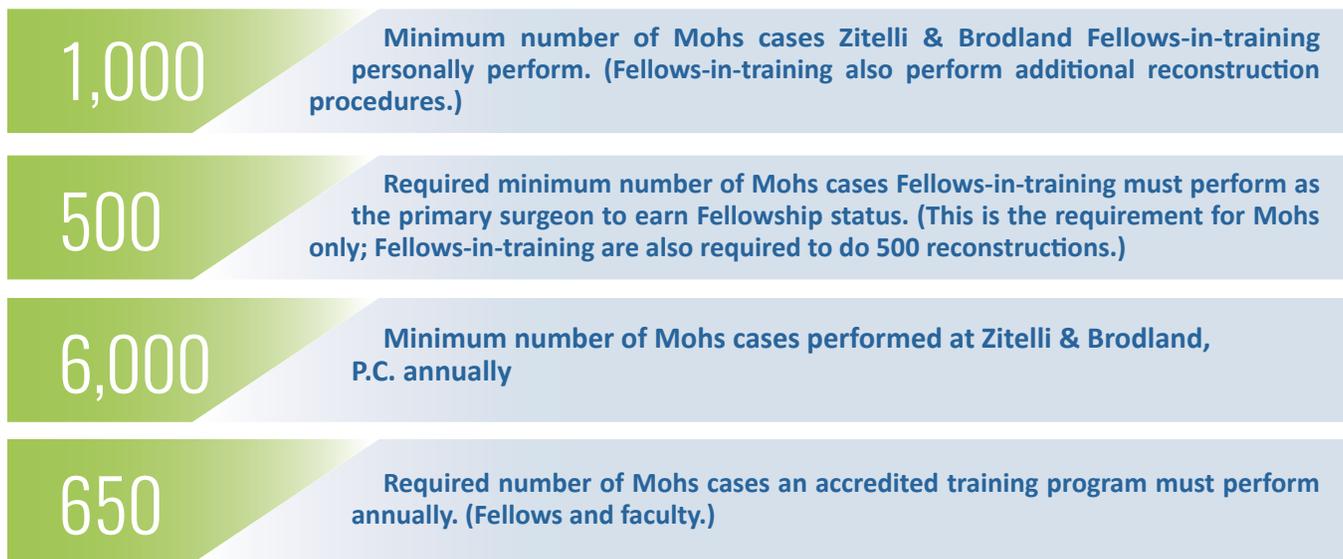
Advancing the Specialty of Dermatology Through High-level Training:

Zitelli & Brodland's Mohs Fellowship Program Helps
Enhance Quality of Care Throughout the QualDerm
Network and Beyond

Skin Cancer is on the Rise

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States. In fact, each day almost 10,000 Americans are diagnosed with some form of skin cancer. According to multiple estimates, incidents of this disease will continue to rise.

A study recently published in the International Journal of Cancer, reported melanoma is one of the most rapidly increasing cancers in the U.S. Between 2005 and 2015 melanoma cases increased by 2% annually. There were just over 96,000 cases in 2019. Based on the current trend, it is projected that there will be 151,000 melanoma cases each year by 2030.



The Need for Highly-trained Surgeons

As the demand for quality skin cancer care increases, so does the need for well-trained Mohs surgeons.

Mohs micrographic surgery, developed in the 1930s by Dr. Frederic Mohs, is today considered the most effective treatment for a variety of skin cancer. According to the American College of Mohs Surgery, Mohs surgery offers superior outcomes for skin cancer patients, with cure rates up to 99% for primary tumors and up to 94% for recurrent tumors.

As with many medical procedures, Mohs outcomes can be dependent upon the surgeon's level of training. A Mohs Fellowship-trained designation indicates that a physician has completed 1-2 years of additional hands-on training under the guidance of an accredited, experienced Mohs surgeon. To qualify as an accredited Fellowship Training Center, an organization must submit to a rigorous application and review process. Training centers are re-evaluated every 1-5 years to ensure ongoing adherence to the ACMS and Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) of the American Medical Association's academic and clinical requirements.

Zitelli & Brodland, P.C. was an Early Leader

QualDerm-affiliated Zitelli & Brodland, P.C., was one of the earliest Mohs Fellowship Training Centers. In fact, the Zitelli & Brodland Training Center has been operating for 37 years. Training in a medical practice setting allows Fellows to learn best practice procedures for providing effective, efficient care and an optimal patient experience.

The Zitelli & Brodland program is unique in the fact that it goes beyond the standard requirements of a Fellowship-training program. In addition to its commitment to patient care, the Zitelli & Brodland program also focuses on research and physician leadership. Each Fellow-in-training is directed by both Dr. John Zitelli and Dr. David Brodland. Few other programs offer the same volume and complexity of Mohs cases and their reconstructions.

“The Fellowship program keeps us as providers on top of new medical knowledge and stimulates us to be innovators and leaders rather than followers.”

– John Zitelli, MD, FAAD, FACMS

Question Everything

The Zitelli & Brodland training method emphasizes evidence-based learning. Throughout the program, participants work together with the training physicians to review the advances in all related fields of medicine, study the evidence, weigh the evidence, and decide if the evidence is valid enough to influence how to practice. The program includes an extensive reading schedule and a monthly Journal Club, which emphasizes how to keep up with and evaluate the literature properly.

Fellows-in-training are encouraged to question everything, and believe nothing without knowing the evidence to support or refute it. This process fosters the discipline to learn both during the program and throughout the physician’s entire career.

Elbow-to-Elbow

Zitelli & Brodland, P.C. performs at least 6,000 Mohs cases each year. Patients are referred to Zitelli & Brodland from around the world for treatment of difficult cases. The practice treats all types of cutaneous tumors including the more rare cases of melanoma, DFSP, Merkel cell tumors, extramammary Paget’s disease, sebaceous carcinoma, and AFX. There is also a special interest and expertise in treating melanoma, using MART-1 immunoperoxidase stains for margin examination.

The Fellow’s surgical experience is extensive, with hands-on training beginning on the first day of the Fellowship. The Zitelli & Brodland program utilizes an apprenticeship-like approach. Fellows work elbow-to-elbow with the training surgeons each day.

Throughout the training period, each Fellow observes at least 3,000 Mohs cases, many of which are the largest and most difficult cases. Further, program fellows perform approximately 1,000 Mohs cases on their own as well as additional reconstruction procedures.

Research Contributions

Fellows-in-training are required to complete an original research project that is suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Zitelli & Brodland Fellows' research has impacted how the practice treats patients and has helped advance dermatology as well as other specialties.

One such Fellowship project, which studied alternatives to prescribing post-surgical narcotics, was later replicated by another group. That study's findings were utilized by the federal government to communicate with medical providers on how to help rein in the opioid crisis.

Evan Stiegel, MD, a QualDerm-affiliated Mohs surgeon, completed his Fellowship training under Drs. Zitelli and Brodland. He was named the 2019 winner of the coveted Theodore Tromovitch Award for his work "Mastering Mohs Histopathology Over a 1-year Fellowship."

Dr. Stiegel's study quantified and analyzed the number of cases and amount of time required to achieve a satisfactory level of expertise in the reading and interpretation of Mohs histopathology for a collective group of past fellows at a single MSDO fellowship program. His findings emphasize that a significant amount of time and number of cases are required for a Fellow to become adept at reading and interpreting Mohs histopathology.

"The Fellows we have trained are making a difference across their communities and their research is impacting how medicine is practiced."

– David Brodland, MD, FAAD, FACMS

Enhancing the QualDerm Network and the Specialty

To date, 49 Mohs surgeons have completed the Zitelli & Brodland Fellowship-training Program. Upon completion of the program, those physicians have gone on to practice in private settings, chair departments of dermatology in academic settings, and serve as leaders of industry organizations and editors-in-chief of major journals.

Several of the Zitelli & Brodland Fellows practice within the QualDerm network. These Mohs surgeons have helped expand patient access to high-quality skin cancer care, some in underserved regions. They also help enhance quality of care throughout the 7-state QualDerm network by collaborating on cases with their colleagues.

Zitelli & Brodland, P.C. affiliated with QualDerm in 2018, largely due to the organization's core focus on quality. Ninety-one percent of QualDerm-affiliated Mohs surgeons are Fellowship-trained and 100% of its general dermatologists are board-certified. The average Mohs Layer per Case for QualDerm-affiliated surgeons is 1.54; better than the 1.7 national benchmark. The high standards of Zitelli & Brodland, P.C. and its Fellowship-training Program perfectly align with QualDerm's mission and culture.

As skin cancer rates continue to rise, the need for high-quality Mohs surgeons will become even more important. The QualDerm and Zitelli & Brodland, P.C. partnership will help meet this growing need and enhance patient outcomes throughout the U.S.

About QualDerm Partners

QualDerm Partners helps top-tier dermatologists position their practices for sustainable growth and profitability. The company creates market-leading practice partnerships through affiliations and de novo development. QualDerm provides the management support, capital, and guidance for growth. Under QualDerm's True PartnershipSM model, physicians are partners, not employees, and retain their own practice brand. This physician-driven model is designed to maintain physicians' clinical autonomy and ensure the highest-quality patient care. QualDerm offers physicians tailored partnership structures to meet their needs, as well as the option to sell their practices.

QualDerm currently has affiliated practices in North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, Georgia and Pennsylvania, with plans to expand further.

About Zitelli & Brodland, PC

Zitelli & Brodland, P.C. provides highly-professional and experienced skin cancer and surgical dermatological care. The practice, accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, is a Mohs training center with one of the nation's most prestigious Fellowship programs. The practice has locations in Pittsburgh and Clairton.

Dr. John Zitelli trained under the direction of Frederic Mohs, MD, and has authored over 100 articles and chapters on skin cancer surgery and reconstruction. He has been recognized with the Distinguished Service Award by the American College of Mohs Surgery and The Stegman Award of the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery. Dr. David Brodland served on the faculty at the Mayo Clinic where he was also the Co-director of Dermatologic Surgery and The Mayo Cutaneous Laser Center. He has earned The Skin Cancer Foundation Fellowship Award. Combined, Drs. Zitelli and Brodland have performed over 120,000 Mohs surgeries. For more information, visit www.mohs.md.

To learn more about partnership opportunities or to discuss selling your practice, contact Ashley Johnson, Sr. Vice President of Growth and Operations at ashley.johnson@qualderm.com or 615.250.6736.

QualDerm-affiliated Mohs Surgeons trained through the Zitelli & Brodland Fellowship Program

Gerardo Marrazzo, MD

Hickory Dermatology
Hickory, NC

Landon E. Stigall, MD

The Dermatology & Skin Surgery Center
Wilmington, NC

Evan Stiegel, MD

Wilson Dermatology Clinic
Wilson, NC

Joy Kunishige, MD

Zitelli & Brodland, PC
Pittsburgh, PA

Brandon Beal, MD

Fellow in Training
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Teo Soleymani, MD

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