

ARTICLE INFORMATION

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Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Dr Avram serves as a member of the medical advisory board for Zeltiq Aesthetics, Inc, and of the scientific advisory board for Cytrelis Biosystems, Inc. He has served as a consultant for Unilever, Zeltiq Aesthetics, Inc, and Allergan within the past 12 months. No other disclosures were reported.

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NOTABLE NOTES

The Men or Women Behind Nevi: Alfred Guido Miescher

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The man behind Miescher nevus is Alfred Guido Miescher. He was born on November 4, 1887, in Naples, Italy. His mother was Marietta Berner, and his father, Max Eduard Miescher, was a businessman. He was the nephew of Johannes Friedrich Miescher (1844-1895), professor of pathophysiology at the University of Basel, Switzerland, and discoverer of nucleic acids. After the father's death, he followed his mother to Basel, her hometown, where Guido completed his school.

He started his studies in engineering at the *Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule* in Zurich, Switzerland, and then switched to medicine, studying in Basel, Zurich, and Munich, Germany.¹ Working as an assistant of the dermatologist Bruno Bloch, he wrote his thesis on a case of mycetoma. In 1933, after the death of his mentor, Miescher become professor and director of the University Dermatology Clinic in Zurich. Miescher was an excellent clinician, and he was passionate about clinical dermatology and Dermatopathology. Indeed, he said that "Dermatology is more than morphology."¹

In his original landmark work, *Histologie de 100 cas de naevi pigmentaires d'après les methods de Masson*, published in 1935, Miescher studied 100 hemispherical naevi found mostly on women's faces. They are dome-shaped papules in which melanocytes are distributed mostly endophytically, often in a wedge, and they reach the deep reticular dermis.^{2,3} Miescher was a pioneer in the treatment of skin diseases with phototherapy and of cutaneous tumors with ionizing radiation. Indeed, he helped to improve dermatological radiotherapy, through determining the safest doses and innovative frac-

tionation schemes to reduce the toxic effects. Miescher was skilled in identifying new aspects of already known diseases. He reclassified granulomatosis disciformis chronica et progressiva, and, in 1945, he was the first to describe the cheilitis granulomatosa, subsequently also called Miescher cheilitis.

His students said that he cared about only 3 things: dermatology, music, and mountains. Miescher was a gifted cellist and a lover of mountaineering, as well as an illustrious dermatologist. He bravely climbed numerous Swiss peaks. But his most important venture was an expedition to the Caucasus Mountains. Miescher was the first person to climb Mount Elbrus (5629 m) and ski down. After a life full of medical and sporting achievements, he fought against the cancer and died in 1961.

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