

Danuta Gutowska-Owsiak

Dr Danuta Gutowska-Owsiak qualified from the Medical University of Gdańsk and then undertook a PhD programme at the University of Liverpool, where she investigated Natural Killer T cell responses in rheumatoid arthritis. Currently she is a senior postdoctoral immunologist in the Cutaneous Immunology Group of Prof Graham Ogg, at the Human Immunology Unit, Radcliffe Department of Medicine within the University of Oxford.

Her research interests focus on epidermal barrier formation and skin barrier function, especially with the relevance to atopic dermatitis and allergy as well as communication between the barrier and immune system during inflammation and tolerance induction. Previously, she described the effect of histamine and cytokines (IL-17/IL-22) on the expression of filaggrin and other key epidermal proteins, as well as identified over-reactivity of antigen-specific T cells in the context of insufficient skin barrier. Following this, Dr Gutowska-Owsiak determined the role of inflammatory stimuli on histamine expression by keratinocytes and the implications for the wound healing process. More recently, Dr Gutowska-Owsiak applied high- and super-resolution microscopy to investigate keratinocyte biology and recognized the role of cytoskeleton in controlling keratinocyte differentiation and cornification during epidermal barrier formation.

She is also a founder and chairman of the charity “Pokonać Alergię” (“Beat Allergy”), which supports access to quality education for allergy sufferers and promotes the need for basic and translational research on the subject. Dr Gutowska-Owsiak is a member of British Society of Immunology, British Society of Investigative Dermatology, Polish Society of Experimental and Clinical Immunology, Polish Society of Allergology as well as European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology.