



Dhara M. Mac Dermed, MD
Radiation Oncologist
STSI KL2 Scholar

Dr. Mac Dermed attended Stanford University, majoring in Biological Sciences. She continued her education at Stanford University School of Medicine, where she earned her M.D. Her postgraduate clinical training included an internship year in Internal Medicine at UCSF – Fresno (a postgraduate training program of the University of California – San Francisco). She continued her postgraduate training with four years of residency in Radiation Oncology at the University of Chicago. She now practices radiation oncology part-time with the Scripps Clinic Medical Group, with a focus on breast and prostate cancers.

Beginning as an undergraduate and throughout her training, Dr. Mac Dermed has participated in both basic cancer research and clinical outcomes research. She enrolled in the KL2 program in order to enrich her understanding and experience of basic laboratory research in cancer biology and to gain expertise in translating ongoing laboratory findings into clinical applications. The Scripps program in Genomics particularly interested her because she also plans to gain expertise in the burgeoning field of cancer genomics. One of her current projects in the laboratory of Dr. Brunhilde Felding-Habermann consists of carefully characterizing human cell lines obtained from various stages of progressive inflammatory breast cancer and determining the molecular underpinnings of their aggressive behavior. Dr. Mac Dermed is also involved in another project consisting of analysis of the expression and function of an enzyme, hyaluronidase, and other closely related enzymes in human cancers and their potential as therapeutic targets.