A. Personal Statement

I have an ongoing research program of more than 20 years investigating the inflammatory events that occur during sensitization and elicitation of allergic contact dermatitis to hapten application in mouse models. The NIAMS SDRC has been instrumental in supporting other up and coming researchers in the area of cutaneous biology. Under the direction of Dr. Kevin Cooper, the SDRC has increased the prominence of skin research at Case and the Cleveland Clinic. One area of my research is to identify critical factors that regulate the development and the function of antigen-primed CD8+ T cells to defined antigens deposited in the skin. Definition of these factors will expose new strategies to limit the magnitude, duration and histopathology of T cell mediated inflammation in the skin. As an investigator with an interest in the immunobiology of the skin, I am in full support of an SDRC that functions as a resource for skin specific research and provides infrastructure in the form of Core facilities that support all cutaneous research.