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## Psoriasis: the future

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## Abstract

The aetiology of psoriasis is still unclear but our knowledge of the psoriatic process has grown substantially over the last two decades. The future will undoubtedly bring advances in our understanding of the pathogenesis of psoriasis and, as a consequence, new therapies. Defining the molecular genetics of psoriasis will enhance our understanding of the disease process and hopefully facilitate the development of a representative animal model. This in itself will be a key step in the development and testing of new therapies. Precise identification of the immunological events involved in psoriasis will allow specific T-cell- and cytokine-targeted, and perhaps less toxic, immunotherapies. Anti-angiogenic agents that are in development for use in oncology may also be effective in psoriasis. The adaptation of current topical therapies such as retinoids and vitamin D analogues to produce more effective and better-tolerated formulations will also play a significant role in our future first-line management of patients. The increased recognition and better management of environmental trigger factors such as psychological distress will become an important factor in future psoriasis care. The development of physical therapies including photodynamic therapy and excimer lasers has the potential to expand the remit of psoriasis therapy. There is little doubt that the future for our patients with psoriasis is bright. However, this will only be achievable by a concerted research effort to understand all facets of this enigmatic disease ranging from the molecular to the environmental.

[genetics](#), [immunotherapy](#), [pharmacogenetics](#), [psoriasis](#), [psychology](#)

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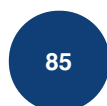
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