



**Dyah Ayu Mira  
OKTARINA**

**Home Country  
Indonesia**

**Degree  
PhD in Dermatology**

**Expertise  
Medicine**

**Research Focus  
Immunofluorescence  
and Ultrastructural  
Study of Pemphigus**

**Host University  
University of  
Groningen,  
The Netherlands**

**Fellowship Awarded  
2008**

Dyah Oktarina, a medical doctor who graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, comes from a simple Indonesian Javanese family. Her father, who is retired, and her mother, who works as a government employee, always supported her educational goals and motivated her to continue her studies at a higher level.

Dyah's research focus is on pemphigus, an autoimmune blistering disease of the skin and mucous membranes caused by antibodies which form against the cell surface of keratinocytes. Her research, conducted at the Centre for Blistering Diseases in the Department of Dermatology at the University of Groningen in The Netherlands, involves observing the in-vivo patterns of immunoglobulin depositions in the skin of patients with pemphigus.

Pemphigus is often fatal for people who are afflicted with it because they suffer from dehydration or infection. Because their skin is covered in blisters, they are at increased risk of infection, but current treatments involve the use of cortical steroids, which can repress the immune system and lower resistance to infection. Dyah hopes to relate the deposition patterns of immunoglobulins in the skin of pemphigus patients to the pemphigus pathogenesis in the hope that this will lead to the invention of new drugs and treatments that can help patients control the disease and receive a better prognosis.

When she finishes her studies, Dyah plans to teach at Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia.