

EMORY DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE DIVISION OF RHEUMATOLOGY

Rheumatology Fellowship Program



EMORY
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE

The Department of
Medicine at Emory
University offers two-year
fellowships in rheumatology
to qualified, promising
physicians

Why Rheumatology at Emory ?

The Emory University School of Medicine Rheumatology Fellowship Program is a strong program that provides trainees with tremendous clinical exposure across four distinct and unique hospital systems in Atlanta, GA. Our training sites include Emory University Hospital, the Emory Clinic, Emory University Hospital Midtown, Grady Memorial Hospital, and the Atlanta Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital. During the Emory University Hospital and Emory Clinic rotations, fellows have the opportunity to rotate through a tertiary care referral center, where patients with complex pathologies are seen in both the inpatient and outpatient settings. The Emory Clinic is also home to several disease-specific programs and clinics, including lupus clinic, vasculitis clinic, IgG4-related disease clinic, scleroderma clinic, and myositis clinic. Grady Memorial Hospital is the site of the fellows' continuity clinic and the Grady Lupus Clinic. Grady is one of the largest public hospitals in the country, and allows the fellows to care for a largely under-served indigent population. Emory University Hospital Midtown has a mix of both academic and private practice providers. The VA exposes fellows to a traditional VA setting, and the fellows are provided training in musculoskeletal ultrasound and procedures in a dedicated injection clinic.

In addition to the extensive clinical exposure, the fellowship program also provides a comprehensive didactic series, as well as exposure to clinical, translational, epidemiological, and basic science research. The Emory rheumatology fellowship program has trained and successfully launched the careers of successful, compassionate, and skilled clinicians in both private and university academic practices.

GOALS DURING THE TWO YEAR CLINICAL TRAINING PROGRAM:

- Develop an extensive knowledge base of rheumatic disease;
- Develop exemplary clinical history taking and physical examination of patients with rheumatic disease and mimics;
- Become proficient in all diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in rheumatology;
- Develop skills for analysis and integration of current research findings into clinical care;
- Demonstrate excellence in patient care and management;
- Become adept in their ability to critically review the literature;
- Develop the ability to design, implement, interpret, and present research.



The Emory Clinic/ Emory University Hospital:

The Emory Clinic rotation and the Emory University Hospital (EUH) inpatient rotations give the fellows the opportunity to rotate through a tertiary care referral center, where patients are seen in both the inpatient and outpatient settings under the supervision of Drs. Waltuck, Tiliakos, Tsagaris, John, Kaysen, Gandiga, Cozmuta, Ayele, Cassidy, Brandt, Wallis, Khosroshahi, and Law. Fellows spend four months in the outpatient setting at the Emory Clinic over a two year period. The full spectrum of rheumatic disease is seen including complicated and unusual cases that have been referred from physicians throughout the Southeast. Emphasis is placed on thorough evaluations and careful clinical follow up. Fellows become proficient in detailed history taking and physical examination with particular attention to the musculoskeletal system. During the EUH inpatient rotation, the fellow manages a busy and complex inpatient consult service. During these months, the fellows participate in lupus clinic on Mondays with the Division Director, Dr. Ignacio Sanz, instead of their usually scheduled Monday continuity clinic at Grady. The EUH fellow is also responsible for coordinating teaching rounds and for supervising didactic sessions for the internal medicine residents that rotate through rheumatology.

Grady Memorial Hospital:

Grady Memorial Hospital provides care to the under-served residents of Fulton and DeKalb counties as well as the residents of Metro Atlanta. All fellows have one full day of continuity clinic per week on Mondays, staffed by Drs. Gizinski, Wallis, Cassidy, and Brandt. Fellows also attend Grady lupus clinic on Tuesday mornings. The Lupus Clinic is run by the Grady Chief, Dr. Sam Lim, as well as Drs. Jennifer Brandt and Arezou Khosroshahi. The Lupus Clinic was established in 2003. The Lupus Clinic uses a multidisciplinary approach of medical care, education, and support groups. The patients that come to the clinic not only receive the best treatment available for their disease but are also offered many opportunities to participate in translational research led by our world class team of researchers. Inpatient consultation rounds are conducted daily, supervised by the Program Director, Dr. Alison Gizinski as well as Drs. Sam Lim, Arezou Khosroshahi, and Jennifer Brandt. Urgent outpatient consultations are also sometimes seen in a large the urgent care center and in the emergency department. Patients are referred to rheumatology from a large primary care network that includes the medical clinics and community-based practices within the Grady Health Care System. There is a large Spanish-speaking population that is served by the Grady general rheumatology and lupus outpatient clinics. There are opportunities to interface frequently with Internal Medicine residents and to help further their rheumatology education. Ample time is allowed on this clinical rotation for independent study. Fellows are encouraged to participate in ongoing research studies of patients with rheumatic disease and lupus and to initiate their own clinical projects.

Veterans Administration Medical Center :

The Atlanta VA Medical Center is the largest tertiary care VA Medical Center in the Southeast. Fellows have many unique training opportunities at the VA. Fellows on rotation at the VA Medical Center attend five half-day clinics per week. Fellows rotate through general rheumatology clinic, musculoskeletal ultrasound clinic, and injection clinic. Fellows develop proficiency in the evaluation and treatment of patients with a wide spectrum of rheumatologic diseases. Daily consult rounds and didactic sessions are held with Drs. Karen Atkinson, Aesha Iqbal, Jison Sim or Puja Saxena. In addition to Rheumatology responsibilities, fellows spend one half day per week in musculoskeletal Radiology.

Emory University Hospital Midtown:

EUHM is located in the heart of vibrant Midtown Atlanta and is one of Emory's major teaching hospitals. Fellows will care for a diverse patient population. EUHM is a community hospital (540 beds) staffed by both private physicians and full-time faculty of Emory University. EUHM provides primary and some tertiary care for a metropolitan population. During this rotation, fellows will attend Grady lupus clinic on Tuesdays and lupus nephritis clinic with Dr. Jason Cobb on Fridays to enrich their clinical training.



Conferences:

A variety of conferences and seminars are offered throughout the year to enhance the fellow's education, experience and growth as a physician.

Rheumatology Grand Rounds

Grand rounds are held every Wednesday morning and are attended by the entire division. Speakers include fellows and faculty members within the division, experts in other divisions and departments, and invited guest speakers. All fellows will present one grand rounds on the topics of their choice each year of their fellowship.

Case Conference

One fellow presents weekly. Fellows are encouraged to present diagnostic dilemmas and cases with particularly difficult management issues. Members of the division participate via a web-based platform.

Radiology Conference

Radiology conference is held monthly in collaboration with the Department of Radiology, Division of Musculoskeletal radiology at the VA, with Dr. John Payan along with Dr. Leslie Anne Cassidy. A core curriculum covers all aspects of radiology as they relate to musculoskeletal disease. Didactic sessions are presented by the radiology staff on plain radiography, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, arthrography, and nuclear medicine. Radiographs of patients undergoing workups in our clinic are also presented for review.

Journal Club

Fellows participate by reviewing two articles in the recent rheumatologic literature as they pertain to care, management and pathogenesis of rheumatologic diseases.

Pathogenesis of Rheumatic Disease Series

Fellows participate in a longitudinal immunology series to reinforce their understanding of the immune system in relationship to the pathogenesis of the autoimmune disease and to further their understating of current and potential therapeutic of these diseases.

Board Review

Board review sessions are designed to practice board review style sessions in order to practice for their board examinations.

Vacation Schedule Review

Fellows are entitled to three weeks of vacation a year that may be taken at any time during research or outpatient rotation months with approval from the program director and research mentor.

On Call Schedule

The call schedule is organized by the fellows and the PD . In general the fellows can expect to be on call every 6th weekend

Fellow Wellness

The fellows can arrange one half day per month for wellness activities.

Current Fellows:

First Year Fellows:

Madiha Ahmad, MD

Alisha Gupta, MD

Bailey Hunkler, MD

Second Year Fellows:

Xuan Gao, MD

David Maniscalco, MD

Mitali Sen, MD

Leadership

Alison Gizinski, MD , MS

Rheumatology Fellowship Program Director
Associate Professor of Rheumatology

Jennifer Brandt, MD, MPH

Rheumatology Fellowship Associate Program Director
Assistant Professor of Rheumatology

Ignacio Sanz, MD

Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics
Director of Rheumatology
Director, Lowance Center for Human Immunology



Key Teaching Faculty:

Karen Atkinson, MD; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Freyhiwot Ayele, MD; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Jennifer Brandt, MD, MPH; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Leslie Anne Cassidy, MD; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Raluca Cozmuta, MD; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Cristina Drenkard, MD, PhD; Associate Professor of Medicine
Prateek Gandiga, MD; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Alison Gizinski, MD, MS; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Suzana John, MD; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Ayesha Iqbal, MD; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Kelly Kaysen, MD; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Arezou Khosroshahi, MD; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Karen Law, MD; Associate Professor of Medicine
S Sam Lim, MD, MPH; Professor of Medicine
Puja Saxena, MD; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Jison Sim, MD; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Athanasios Tiliakos, DO; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Katina Tsagaris, DO; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Susan Wallis, MD; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Jonathan Waltuck, MD; Associate Professor of Medicine

Contact Information:

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