Why Rheumatology at Emory?

The Emory University School of Medicine Rheumatology Fellowship Program 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 Medical Center (VAMC). During the Emory University Hospital and The Emory Clinic rotations, fellows 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 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 busiest public hospitals in the country and allows the fellows to care for a largely under-served indigent population. Emory University Hospital Midtown is a leading, community based academic medical center. The VA is a teaching hospital that provides care to the third largest veteran population in the United States where the fellows are provided training in musculoskeletal ultrasound and procedures.

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 compassionate and skilled clinicians in both private and university academic practices.

OUR MISSION: SERVICE, INNOVATION AND EDUCATION:

- **Service**: Rheumatologic care is a limited and precious resource. We help fellows develop & provide the skills needed to provide service to their patients, peers and their community.

- **Innovation**: Utilizing innovative thought and research to assess and address healthcare disparities to improve healthcare outcomes for our patients and communities.

- **Education**: In addition to training our fellows as rheumatologists, we give them the resources to become educators themselves.
Rotation Sites

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, Ayele, Brandt, Khosroshahi, and Law. Fellows spend eight 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.

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. Madiha Ahmad, Aesha Iqbal, Puja Saxena or Jison Sim. In addition to rheumatology responsibilities, fellows spend one half day per week in musculoskeletal radiology.

Grady Memorial Hospital

Grady Memorial Hospital provides care to the underserved 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. Brandt, Gizinski, Kaysen, Lim, and Qiu. 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. Arezou Khosroshahi, Yoon, and Qiu. The Lupus Clinic was established in 2003 and work done in this clinic has changed how lupus is treated around the world. 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 Dr. Sam Lim. 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.

EUHM is 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.
RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Fellows have the opportunity to work on clinical, translational, or basic science research projects with any of our faculty. At the beginning of each academic year, the division holds a “research meet-and-greet” session for the fellows to learn about ongoing potential projects. Fellows with approved projects can take four weeks of research block time each year during any outpatient rotation.

Our Division Director, Ignacio Sanz, MD, is Mason I. Lowance Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics and serves as Director of The Lowance Center for Human Immunology at Emory University and the Children’s Health Care of Atlanta. He is also a Georgia Research Alliance Distinguished Scholar in Human Immunology.

Dr. Sanz’s research interest is in understanding how the immune system goes awry in autoimmune diseases and ends up attacking our own tissues rather than concentrating on fighting infections. His research concentrates on systemic lupus erythematosus, but he is also investigating other autoimmune diseases such as Sjogren’s syndrome, rheumatoid arthritis, and type 1 diabetes. His work also has applications to the enhancement of vaccine responses and cancer immunotherapy.

For candidates further interested in research training and experience, we also can provide an additional fully funded training year. This OPTIONAL 3rd year is not currently ACGME accredited as it does not fall under the 2-year required training. This third year provides further insight into a career as a research-based physician-scientist.

GME Fellowship Tracks

These experiences complement the fellowship experience and are not mandatory. Upon completion of a track, fellows will be awarded a Certificate of Distinction from Emory University School of Medicine.

Tracks Offered:
- Ethics
- Global Health
- Healthcare Management
- Health Equity, Advocacy and Policy
- Medical Education
- Medical Innovation
- Quality Improvement & Patient Safety
- Simulation Track

VACATION SCHEDULE

Fellows are entitled to three weeks of vacation a year that may be taken at any time during outpatient rotation months.

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.

DIDACTIC SCHEDULE

A variety of conferences and seminars are offered throughout the year. The weekly conferences consist of:
- Rheumatology Grand Rounds
- Case Conference
- Radiology Conference
- Journal Club
- Pathogenesis of Rheumatic Disease Series
- Board Review
Our Current Fellows and Program Leadership

FIRST YEAR FELLOWS

Monazza Azam, MD
Jacqueline Baikovitz, MD
Samiha Karim, MD

SECOND YEAR FELLOWS

Vartika Kesarwani, MD
Sheela Sheth, MD
Amar Suwal, MD

Leadership

Kelly Kaysen, MD
Rheumatology Fellowship Program Director
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Marcela Santamaria Long, MSCRA
Mgr, Programs & Research

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

Key Teaching Faculty:

Madiha Ahmad, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
USSONAR certified

Karen Atkinson, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Freyhiwot Ayele, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Jennifer Brandt, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Doyt Conn, MD
Professor Emeritus

Cristina Drenkard, MD, PhD
Professor Emeritus

Prateek Gandiga, MD
Associate 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
USSONAR certified

Kelly Kaysen, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Program Director

Arezou Khosroshahi, MD
Professor of Medicine

Karen Law, MD
Professor of Medicine

S Sam Lim, MD, MPH
Professor of Medicine

Forrest Powers, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Yoon Qiu, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Puja Saxena, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Jison Sim, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Athan Tiliakos, DO
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Katina Tsagaris, DO
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Jonathan Waltuck, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine

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