Division of Rheumatology

The Division of Rheumatology has over 30 years of excellence in treating patients and educating fellows who have gone on to successful practices. The Division cares for patients at the University Physicians Medical Specialties clinic, at the Harry S Truman VA Hospital and at Women’s and Children’s Hospital in Columbia. Our patients receive infusions at the brand-new Ellis Fischel Cancer Center. Musculoskeletal ultrasound and microscopy is available in the outpatient clinic.

Deanna Davenport, RN-CS, MSN, FNP: Clinical nurse practitioner, works independently and along with fellows and faculty. Her clinical interests include rheumatoid arthritis and fibromyalgia.

Darcy Folzenlogen MD, FACP: Professor of Clinical Medicine and Child Health, Medical Director of ANA lab, Clinical Professor Emeritus.

Helen Mullen PhD: Professor of Internal Medicine, Molecular Microbiology and Immunology. Investigator of autoimmune thyroiditis in animal models, member of the Internal Medicine research council, NIH grant recipient for over 30 years, and author of numerous immunology peer-reviewed articles.

Chokkalingam Siva MD, MS, FACP: Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, Fellowship Program Director, member of the Internal Medicine quality assurance committee, Medical Director of ANA lab.

Celso Velázquez MD: Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, Interim Division Director, co-creator and facilitator of the ROSCE, Medical Director of ANA lab, member of the Internal Medicine research council, Director of Problem-Based Learning case development at the medical school.
Division History

**Gordon Sharp MD**: Professor Emeritus, provided decades of leadership as scientific director of the ANA lab with clients all over the US. Over the years his work has resulted in describing the clinical and serologic syndrome of mixed connective tissue disease with numerous publications. He remains an advisor to the lab.

**Sara Walker MD, MACP**: Professor Emeritus continues as Senior Scientific Advisor for the MU institute for clinical and translational science. She formerly served as ACP president.

**James Cassidy MD**: Professor Emeritus considered one of the “fathers” of pediatric rheumatology, served as an advisor to the division until he passed away in 2012. He co-authored the most commonly used pediatric rheumatology textbook.

The Rheumatology Objective Structured Clinical Examination (ROSCE) is an educational exercise in which rheumatology fellows rotate through different stations demonstrating a different history and physical examination skill in each. The Highway I-70 ROSCE group consists of faculty from Washington University in St. Louis, University of Kansas, and University of Missouri-Columbia. The ROSCE has been held at Mizzou for the last three years. The ROSCE is a unique enterprise and Mizzou is one of the few programs in the country that hold OSCE regularly.
Fellowship Program

The primary mission of the rheumatology fellowship program at the University of Missouri-Columbia is to train outstanding clinical rheumatologists. Our fellows get extensive exposure to a broad spectrum of rheumatic diseases during the two years of clinical training. Fellows learn the presentation, natural history, pathophysiology, diagnosis and treatment of common and uncommon rheumatic diseases. Graduates of our training program are fully prepared to enter independent clinical and academic practice and are in private practice and academic programs throughout the country.

Overview of the Educational Program
Our program has been structured to ensure that the fellows enhance their competencies in all the six ACGME domains of Patient Care, Medical Knowledge, Practice-Based Learning and Improvement, Systems-Based Practice, Professionalism, and Interpersonal Skills. The comprehensive curriculum offers learning opportunities through outpatient and inpatient care, divisional and departmental conferences, participation in research, and independent learning.

Clinical Training
The fellowship program consists of two years of clinical training. Each year the fellows have three continuity clinics at the university hospital and one at the VA hospital. Each fellow does four months of inpatient consult service per year. Electives are available in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Orthopedics, Podiatry, and Pediatric Rheumatology. An ultrasound machine is available and fellows get hands-on experience in the use of ultrasound in the diagnosis and treatment of rheumatic diseases.

Conferences
Case-based clinical conferences are conducted every week where the fellows and faculty present patients with interesting clinical problems. At the QICDS conference (Quality Improvement Case Discussion Series), complex cases involving medical errors, complications, and difficult decision making processes are presented. The conference schedule includes regularly scheduled core curriculum lectures by the faculty, basic science review sessions, board review sessions, journal clubs and seminars given by fellows. Each fellow gives four seminars per year where they present an in-depth discussion of a particular clinical problem and review relevant research literature. In general, fellows get opportunities to attend two or more national or regional conferences during their training.

Research
Every fellow is expected to complete at least one research project resulting in a publication or a poster presentation. Fellows also participate in the divisional QI projects and pharmaceutical clinical trials.

Application Process
Applications for the University of Missouri - Columbia Rheumatology Fellowship program are accepted through the Electronic Residency Application System (ERAS). We participate in the NRMP match. We currently have three fellows. One or two fellows are accepted per year, the number alternates each year.
“I had a wonderful experience as a fellow! The faculty have diverse interests and committed to the education of the residents and fellows. The clinical experience was quite broad and the didactic sessions were extremely engaging. Overall the rheumatology program at Mizzou is outstanding!”

Shantanu Bishwal, MD, MPH
Geisinger Health System, Pennsylvania
Fellow 2007-2009

“I had excellent training. I learned a lot from the immunology round table discussions and from the weekly grand rounds.”

Sriya Ranatunga, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Medicine,
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine,
Springfield, Illinois
Fellow 2000-2002

“We get to see a very diverse mix of patients”

Dedri Ivory, MD
Private practice at Street Clinic
Vicksburg, Mississippi
Fellow 2009-2011
Fellow Benefits

- Competitive salary
- Life insurance options
- Medical, dental, vision, and prescription plans
- Flexible spending plan
- Tax deferred investment program
- Disability insurance options
- 20 vacation days each year
- 5 CME days each year
- Membership in American College of Rheumatology (ACR) paid by division
- Health and Wellness discount plans
- Employee discounts at cafeterias, pharmacies, and the campus bookstore
- Opportunities to attend national and regional conferences
- Annual ACR In-Training Exam fees paid by division
- Annual educational book funds

You can see our full benefits summary by visiting our Human Resources website at: www.muhealth.org.

Clinical Trials in the Division

- A Phase 3, randomized, double-blind, multi-center, active-controlled trial to evaluate efficacy and safety of Celecoxib and Indomethacin in the treatment of moderate to severe acute gouty arthritis. (2008-2009)

- A Phase 2A, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel group study of CE-224,535 in the treatment of the signs and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis in subjects who are inadequately controlled on methotrexate. (2008)


- A Multicenter, randomized, double-blind, long term study of the safety of subcutaneous administration of Tanezumab in patients with osteoarthritis of the knee or hip (2009-2011)

- Phase 3 randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of the efficacy and safety of 2 doses of CP 690,550 in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis on background methotrexate (2009-2010)


- A randomized, double blind, placebo controlled Phase 2 study to assess the immune response following administration of influenza and pneumococcal vaccines to subjects with rheumatoid arthritis receiving CP-690,550 or placebo with and without background methotrexate (2011-2012)
Scholarly Activities


University of Missouri Hospital

University Physicians Medical Building

Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital
Columbia offers small-town friendliness with big city features and a high quality of life for people of all ages and interests. Columbia is a great place to live due to excellent school systems, outstanding healthcare facilities, abundant entertainment opportunities, extensive network of parks and trails, clean environment, and a low cost of living. Columbia consistently ranks below the national average for the cost of living. There is also an abundance of affordable housing in safe, friendly neighborhoods. For additional information on Columbia Missouri, visit their website at:

www.gocolumbiamo.com
We accept fellowship applications via ERAS and participate in the NRMP match program.
For fellowship inquiries contact:

Crystal Arellano  
Fellowship Coordinator  
One Hospital Drive, CEC 302  
Clinical Support & Education Building  
Columbia, MO 65212  

Phone: 573-882-0494  
Fax: 573-882-1380  
Email: immufellowshipcoordinator@health.missouri.edu