



## Division Involvement in Global Registry for COVID-19 Rheumatology Patients

The Division of Rheumatology is participating in the COVID-19 rheumatology patient registry, developed by the COVID-19 Global Rheumatology Alliance.

This is a multinational group of clinicians, researchers, and patient advocates led by Drs. Jinoos Yazdany and Philip Robinson, who have been collaborating to collect and disseminate quality data for the rheumatology community during this pandemic.

One of the main goals is to create a freely accessible registry where clinicians can add details of their patients with a COVID-19 infection who either (1) have a rheumatic disease, or (2) are on a drug used in rheumatology. The registry organizers are interested in all cases, from asymptomatic to severely affected. The aim is to be able to provide information back to doctors, patients, and researchers about how rheumatic disease patients and those treated with rheumatology drugs fare when they get infected. It will potentially provide valuable information going forward to help make decisions about how to treat rheumatology patients.

Within the UW Division of Rheumatology, **Dr. Jean Liew** is the Administrative Lead working on the registry. **Dr. Katie Wysham** is part of the data analytics team and **Dr. Namrata Singh** provides additional support.

The registry is accessible on the website: <https://www.rheum-covid.org>

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our clinics have made extensive use of telemedicine to deliver quality care while keeping patients and staff safe. After COVID-19, we plan to continue offering telemedicine services to our patients and the WWAMI region.

## UW Rheumatology Research Pioneers: Dr. Peter Simkin

On February 18th, **Dr. Peter Simkin** presented for the



Division of Rheumatology as a Grand Rounds speaker. His talk was titled, "A New View of the Hip" and focused on the differences between convex and concave structure and function in load-bearing joints. This lecture also acted as the kick-off event in the Division's new series, "UW Rheumatology Research Pioneers". Through this lecture series, the Division will honor individuals who have

made notable contributions to Rheumatology research at UW throughout the years.

Dr. Simkin first joined the Division of Rheumatology as a fellow in 1966. At the time the Division of Arthritis, as it was known, had just two fellows and one faculty member. Dr. Simkin saw patients at UWMC and Harborview Medical Center up until his retirement in 2006. In addition, Dr. Simkin conducted research in clinical physiology. His research focused on gout and osteoarthritis. He continues to stay involved with the Division through his role as Professor Emeritus.

During his introduction for Dr. Simkin's lecture, Dr. Mark Wener had this to say, "Peter Simkin has been one of the pillars of the University of Washington Rheumatology Division and the greater rheumatology community for decades. He has had a distinguished career studying the physiology of gout and the joint, and always brings a creative, thoughtful, and deeply analytical perspective to his work and publications. He has the knack and insights to bring a range of perspectives and diverse fields together to help us understand the physiologic and anatomic basis of arthritis and joint disease."

The Division is honored to serve as the home institution to an accomplished pioneer such as Dr. Peter Simkin.

## UW Rheumatology Research Pioneers: Remembering Dr. William Phelps Arend

**William Phelps Arend, MD**, aged 82, passed away on January 14, 2020.



Dr. Arend received his MD from Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons in 1964. He was an intern and resident at the University of Washington (1964-68) and was one of the first fellows (1969-71) of Dr. Mart Mannik who had just been recruited to the UW. Drs.

Mannik and Arend published a number of papers describing the behavior of soluble immune complexes and their role in causing disease in rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus. Dr. Arend became Chief of Arthritis at the Seattle VA Hospital in 1971, replacing Dr. Bruce Gilliland who moved to the UWMC.

Dr. Arend lived a life of professional teaching, dedication to research, and care to patients and those afflicted with arthritis and other inflammatory diseases.

A tribute to Dr. Arend and his work will take place on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in the second lecture of the series UW Rheumatology Research Pioneers. The speakers will be Gordon Starkebaum (a former fellow of Dr. Arend) and John Sims, PhD, co-discoverer of IL-1.

## With UW-Northwest merger complete, Division welcomes 10 new faculty members

On January 1, 2020 Northwest Hospital officially became the second campus of the University of Washington Medical Center. This integration was initiated in 2009 when Northwest Hospital first affiliated with the UW Medicine health system.

Through this merger, the Division of Rheumatology is excited to welcome 10 new Faculty members based at the Northwest Campus. Many of the Northwest faculty received their fellowship training at UW. The new members of the Division are:

- Julie Carkin, MD, Clinical Associate Professor
- Kori Dewing, ARNP, Teaching Associate
- Nicole Kieffer, DO, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Heather Kramm, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Yuli McCann, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Philip Moberg, MD, Clinical Instructor
- Myla Morales-Tomas, ARNP, Teaching Associate
- Anders Peck, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Megan Shaw, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Susan Williams-Judge, ARNP, Teaching Associate

The merger has increased the number of faculty in the Division to more than 30 and will provide the

community with greater access to UW Rheumatology. In addition, this growth will contribute to the Division's commitment to research and education.

## Dr. Christopher Sims appointed Professor in the Division of Rheumatology

**Christopher Sims, MD**, was appointed Professor in the Division of Rheumatology effective March 1, 2020.



Dr. Sims received his MD from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 1984. He went on to complete his residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in 1987, followed by two fellowship programs at Stanford University in General Internal Medicine and Rheumatology

between 1988-1993. He then pursued a research fellowship in Physiology & Biophysics at the University of California, Irvine. Dr. Sims has held Faculty positions at Harvard Medical School, UC Irvine and most recently at the University of North Carolina.

His current research is aimed at the development of cell-based biochemical assays, microfabricated technologies for clinical and biomedical applications, and stem-cell based organ-on-chip platforms, with a particular focus on the intestine and its microbiome. Dr. Sims is the scientific co-founder of four companies based on developments of his research program: Protein Simple, Intellego, Cell Microsystems, and Altis Biosystems. He is a fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

Dr. Sims holds joint appointments in the Division of Rheumatology and the Department of Bioengineering. He sees patients at UWMC/Roosevelt Clinic.

## 2019 Jingle Bell Run

On Sunday December 8th, the Division of Rheumatology partnered with Seattle Children's Rheumatology at the 2019 Jingle Bell Run organized by the Arthritis Foundation.

As stated on their website, The Arthritis Foundation's mission is to

"boldly pursue a cure for America's #1 cause of disability, while championing the fight against arthritis



with life-changing resources, science, advocacy and community connections."

Our team, UW/Children's Joint Forces, recruited 47 members and raised \$2,201. The event itself had over 4,000 attendees and was a fantastic opportunity for staff and faculty to connect with the community and discuss the Division's dedication to patient care, research and education.

## Postponed: 2020 Lane Lecture & Reception

Due to COVID-19 and the restrictions on large group meetings, the 2020 Lane Lecture by Dr. Keishi Fujio, University of Tokyo, has been postponed to 2021. This annual event honors James J. Lane Jr, M.D., who was the first fellowship trainee in the UW Division of Rheumatology in 1958.

## Dr. Julie Carkin, Dr. Gregory Gardner, Dr. Grant Hughes and Dr. Jenna Thomason receive Top Doc Awards

Please join us in congratulating **Dr. Julie Carkin, Dr. Gregory Gardner, Dr. Grant Hughes and Dr. Jenna Thomason** for being awarded the Top Doc honor by Seattle Magazine and the Seattle Met.

Dr. Carkin and Dr. Gardner have been honored almost consecutively over the 20+ years Seattle Magazine has been polling Doctors and Healthcare workers.

The Division is excited to have our faculty recognized in this manner.

## Division Awards & Grants

### Bobby Han, MD:

- \$721,170 from AbbVie Inc for his clinical trials study, "A Multicenter, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Upadacitinib in Subjects with Giant Cell Arteritis"

### Christian Lood, PhD:

- \$15,000 by the Rheumatology Research Foundation (RRF) Resident Research Preceptorship Award to study "Mitochondrial contribution to inflammation and autoimmunity in systemic sclerosis"
- \$50,000 by the Washington Research Foundation for the project, "Analysis of circulating immune complex levels in autoimmune conditions"

### Tomas Mustelin, MD, D. Med. Sci.:

- \$388,300 from the National Institutes of Health for his project titled, "Role of protein citrullination in rheumatoid arthritis"

### Namrata Singh, MD:

- \$375,000 from the Rheumatology Research Foundation for her project titled, "Impact of early therapy with tumor necrosis factor inhibitors on

lymphoma risk in patients with rheumatoid arthritis"

- \$200,000 from the American Heart Association for her project titled, "Hydroxychloroquine use and the risk of incident major cardiovascular events"

**Keith Elkon, MD and Christian Lood, PhD** along with the P.I. Jonathan Himmelfarb, MD (Nephrology):

- \$525,000 by the Department of Defense for their project, "Modeling Lupus Nephritis in a Human Kidney Microphysiological System"

## Thank You to our Donors

John Baldwin, MD, Alexander Blood, Richard Cabe, April Collier, Barbara Daniels, Christopher D'Arcy, MD, Anne Vetto Dolan, MD, Justus John Fiechtner, Phillip Gladfelter, Helen Goehring, Alan Haakenstad, Edward Harstein, Karr Family Trust, Stephen Koehler, Thomas Kofler, MD, James J. Lane, MD, Leap for Lupus Foundation, Charlotte, Lindsay, Herbert Lindsley, MD, John MacKenzie, David Martin, MD, Medtronic Inc, Thuc Phung Nguyen, MD, Anne Diehl Rees, Anthony Schaff, Peter Simkin, MD, Fernanda Spratt, Gordon Starkebaum, MD, Kent Ta, MD, Irene Takeuchi, Natalia Tishkevich, MD, Wayne Tsuji, MD, Washington Research Foundation, David Wisner, MD, Nancy Lee Wright, and William Yount.

## Division Publications

A rush to judgment? Rapid reporting and dissemination of results and its consequences regarding the use of hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19. Kim AHJ, Sparks JA, **Liew JW**, Putman MS, Berenbaum F, Duarte-Garcia A, Graef ER, Korsten P, Sattui SE, Sirotich E, Ugarte-Gil MF, Webb K, Grainger R. *Ann Int Med*. Accepted. PMID: 32227189

Treat-to-target in axial spondyloarthritis: Pros, cons, and future directions. **Liew JW** and Dubreuil M. *Best Pract Res Clin Rheumatol*. Accepted.

Association of arthritis and anti-hypertensive medication use among individuals with hypertension: A cross-sectional analysis of the 2017 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. **Liew JW**, Cannon CA, Ji Y, Littman A, Hawes SE. *J Clin Rheumatol*. Accepted.

Refractory, Recurrent Idiopathic Pulmonary Capillaritis Successfully Treated With Tacrolimus. **Huang IJ**, Pugh T, Xu H, Collins BF, Gardner G, **Liew JW**. *J Clin Rheumatol*. Accepted.

High Prevalence and Disease Correlation of Autoantibodies Against p40 Encoded by Long Interspersed Nuclear Elements in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. **Carter V**, LaCava J, Taylor MS, Liang SY, Mustelin C, **Ukadike KC**, Bengtsson A, **Lood C**, **Mustelin T**. *Arthritis Rheumatol*. 2020; 72(1):89–99. doi: 10.1002/art.41054. PMID: 31342656

"Immunologic adverse events from immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy." **Richter MD, Hughes GC, Chung, SH**, Ezeanuna M, **Singh N, Thompson JA**. *Best Practice & Research Clinical Rheumatology*, Apr 2020.

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## Division Publications – continued

Complement Deficiencies Result in Surrogate Pathways of Complement Activation in Novel Polygenic Lupus-like Models of Kidney Injury. **Skopelja-Gardner S**, Colonna L, **Hermanson P**, **Sun X**, **Tanaka L**, **Tai J**, Nguyen Y, Snyder J, Alpers C, Hudkins K, Salant D, Peng Y, **Elkon KB**. *J Immunol* April 1, 2020, ji1901473; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4049/jimmunol.1901473>. PMID: 32238460

Georgia Abortion Law and Our Commitment to Patients. Craft JE, Crow MK, Lockshin MD, Salmon JE, Diamond B, **Elkon KB**, Flood J, Fox DA, Gabriel SE, Gilkeson GS, Hahn BH, Hardin J, Koopman WJ, Seaman WE, Wofsy D, Sergent JS, Uknis AB, Weinblatt ME. *Arthritis Rheumatol*. 2020 Feb;72(2):377-378. doi: 10.1002/art.41143. Epub 2019 Dec 29. PMID: 31637878

High *TLR7* Expression Drives the Expansion of CD19<sup>+</sup>CD24<sup>hi</sup>CD38<sup>hi</sup> Transitional B Cells and Autoantibody Production in SLE Patients. **Wang T**, **Marken J**, Chen J, Tran VB, Li QZ, Li M, Cerosaletti K, **Elkon KB**, Zeng X, **Giltiay NV**. *Front Immunol*. 2019 Jun 4;10:1243. PMID: 31231380

Neutrophil Extracellular Traps in Tissue and Periphery in Juvenile Dermatomyositis. **Duvvuri B**, Pachman LM, Morgan G, Khojah AM, Klein-Gitelman M, Curran ML, Doty S, **Lood C**. *Arthritis Rheumatol*. 2020;72(2):348-358. doi:10.1002/art.41078. PMID: 31403247

The Plasticity of Newly Formed B Cells. **Giltiay NV**, **Giordano D**, Clark EA. *J Immunol*. 2019 Dec 15;203(12):3095-3104. PMID: 31818922

## Opportunities for Giving

You can support programs and initiatives in the Division of Rheumatology. We have established four Professorships and eight endowments through generous donations. In addition, several gift funds target specific programs such as the Rheumatology Fellowship Fund, the Rheumatology Discretionary Fund, and the Rheumatology Research Fund for Junior Faculty.

Send Checks to:

Division of Rheumatology, Campus Box 356428,  
1959 NE Pacific St, Seattle, WA 98195

To learn more about these opportunities for giving, please visit: <http://rheumatology.uw.edu>

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Spinal Tophi Causing Cord Compression and Mimicking Epidural Abscess in a Young Man With Lesch-Nyhan Variant. **Liew JW**, Struthers SA, Cormack FC, **Bays AM**, **Han BK**. *J Clin Rheumatol*. 2020 Apr;26(3):e64. doi: 10.1097/RHU.0000000000000894. PMID: 30222628

BAFF Produced by Neutrophils and Dendritic Cells Is Regulated Differently and Has Distinct Roles in Antibody Responses and Protective Immunity against West Nile Virus. **Giordano D**, **Kuley R**, Draves KE, Roe K, Holder U, **Giltiay NV**, Clark EA. *J Immunol*. 2020 Mar 15;204(6):1508-1520. PMID: 32034064

Autoantibodies against citrullinated serum albumin in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Hefton, A, Liang, S.Y., **Ni, K**, **Carter, V**, **Ukadike, K**, **Lood, C**, **Mustelin, T**. (2019). *J. Transl. Autoimm.*, DOI information: 10.1016/j.jtauto.2019.100023.

A Neutrophil Activation Biomarker Panel in Prognosis and Monitoring of Patients With Rheumatoid Arthritis. **Bach M**, Moon J, **Moore R**, Pan T, **Nelson JL**, **Lood C**. *Arthritis Rheumatol*. 2020;72(1):47-56. doi:10.1002/art.41062. PMID: 31353807

Neutrophil extracellular traps identify patients at risk of increased disease activity and cardiovascular comorbidity in systemic lupus erythematosus [published online ahead of print, 2019 Dec 15]. Moore S, Juo HH, Nielsen CT, Tyden H, Bengtsson AA, **Lood C**. *J Rheumatol*. 2019;jrheum.190875. doi:10.3899/jrheum.190875. PMID: 31839592