

Rheumatology

Faculty Spotlight:

Dr. Grant Hughes Appointed as Willkens-Henderson Endowed Professor



The Division of Rheumatology is pleased to announce that Dr. Grant Hughes has been selected as the initial holder of the Robert F. Willkens, M.D. - Lucille Henderson Endowed Professorship in Rheumatology. This endowment was created to enhance the University's ability to recruit and retain distinguished faculty in rheumatology, and to pay tribute to the life and work of Dr. Robert Wilkens and Ms. Lucille Henderson who had a strong interest in rheumatoid arthritis. Dr. William Bremner, Department of Medicine Chair has said "This is very appropriate, given Dr. Hughes' outstanding clinical, teaching, scholarly, and administrative roles including his position as Harborview Medical Center Section Head".

Dr. Hughes was also recently promoted to Associate Professor and appointed the Fellowship Program Director. Dr. Hughes was a Fellow with the Division from 2003-2006, Acting Instructor from 2007-2009, and Assistant Professor from 2009-2014. The Division of Rheumatology congratulates Dr. Hughes on his achievements and we thank the donors who have supported this esteemed professorship.

Four New Faculty Recruited:



Dr. James Andrews: Dr. Andrews has just completed his third-year as a Rheumatology Fellow and Clinical Instructor at the University of California, San Francisco. James completed medical school at Stanford University and trained in Internal Medicine at UCSF. His research focuses on the effects of rheumatic disease on muscle strength, body composition, and physical disability. Working under the mentorship of Dr. Patricia Katz, his most recent studies have demonstrated the important contribution of muscle weakness to increased physical disability among women with lupus. His current studies address relationships between chronic inflammation, body composition, and muscle strength in lupus. James will be pursuing a path as a Physician Scientist in clinical research and will also have clinics at the University of Washington Medical Center.

Dr. Alison Bays: Dr. Bays received her Bachelor of Science in biopsychology from the University of Santa Barbara. She then joined the Peace Corps and worked in Malawi as a teacher. Her many experiences there included completing a carpentry skills center for a local orphanage. She returned to the U.S for medical school at Tulane University. While at Tulane she also completed a Masters of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at that very highly regarded School of Public Health. Dr. Bays completed her residency in 2013 with our Internal Medicine Program at the University of Washington. Dr. Bays then did her rheumatology fellowship at UCSF and will complete her fellowship by August 2015. Dr. Bays will be pursuing a path as a Clinician-Educator and will primarily see patients at Harborview Medical Center.



Dr. Erika Noss: Dr. Noss is a former Assistant Professor in Medicine at Brigham & Women's Hospital and Harvard University. She obtained her PhD at Case Western where she worked on antigen processing. After completing her MSTP requirements, she moved to Brigham's for residency and fellowship. Working in Mike Brenner's lab, Erika made a set of highly original observations regarding the role of cadherins in fibroblasts. In studies published in Science and PNAS, she showed that deficiency or blockade of cad 11 resulted in protection from mouse models of arthritis and also showed that ligation of this adhesion molecule leads to induction of pro-inflammatory cytokines. Apart from her translational science projects, Erika has a strong interest in teaching for which she has won awards at

Harvard and is actively participating on ACR educational subcommittees. Erika will be based at South Lake Union but also see patients at the Roosevelt Bone and Joint Center.

Dr. Marat Gadzhiev: Dr. Gadzhiev completed his U.S. residency in internal medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He did a fellowship in Infectious Diseases at the University of Colorado in Denver and a rheumatology fellowship at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Gadzhiev will split his time between the American Lake location and the Seattle VA. In addition to his clinical work, he will assume the educational and supervisory responsibilities for residents and fellows working at the VA.



FACULTY HONORS

SeattleMet

We congratulate **Drs. Natalia Tishkevich** and **Gregory Gardner** for being listed as Top Doctors in the Seattle Met for 2015. This recognition is a tribute to their continuous efforts in providing outstanding patient care.

NEW RHEUMATOLOGY FELLOWS

We are excited to welcome our 2015-2016 Fellows:



Dr. Laura Durcan completed medical school at University College, Dublin School of Medicine. She trained at the Royal College of Physicians, Ireland. Her fellowship training in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) was completed at Johns Hopkins. Her doctorate was awarded from Trinity College, Dublin.



Dr. Hsin-Huan Juo completed medical school at Fu Jen Catholic School of Medicine in Taiwan. She completed her residency at Danbury Hospital in Danbury, CT.



Dr. Jeoghun Moon completed medical school at Yonsei University, Wonju College of Medicine in the Republic of Korea. He completed his residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City, NY.



Dr. Jenna Thomason completed Medical School at Emory University School of Medicine. She completed her residency at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA.

NIH T32 TRAINING GRANT RENEWED

The Division of Rheumatology was awarded a renewal on a T32 training grant from the National Institute of Health for 2015-2020. Drs. Keith Elkon and David Rawlings are joint P.I.s on this project. This training grant supports four fellows per academic year in adult and pediatric rheumatology. The funding provides stipends and benefits for fellows in the research years of their training and, for the first time, this grant will cover tuition for postgraduate studies in clinical research. This new program supports an eight-week summer research program in rheumatology for medical students. Through a competitive review process the following trainees were selected for funding for the 2015-2016 academic year.

- **Holly Akilesh, PhD**- Postdoctoral Fellow working in Dr. Jane Buckner's lab.
- **Eric Allenspach, MD, PhD**- Postdoctoral Fellow working in Dr. David Rawlings' lab.
- **Tal Gazitt, MD, MSc**- Postdoctoral Fellow working in Dr. Keith Elkon's lab.
- **Aaron Misakian**- Predoctoral Short Term Summer Research Program working in Dr. David Rawlings' lab.
- **Joshua Newson**- Predoctoral Short Term Summer Research program working in Dr. Ann Stevens' lab.
- **Elizabeth Dam (nee' Samuelson), PhD**- Postdoctoral Fellow working in Dr. Jessica Hamerman's lab.

DIVISION GRANTS

The Division has been awarded multiple grants:

The Alliance for Lupus Research funded **Dr. Keith Elkon's** project, "The cyclic GAMP Pathway in SLE" for a three year period.

Dr. Keith Elkon received a 5 year grant as co-investigator from the NIH for his collaborative project with Dr. Nicholas Crispe in the Department of Pathology. In this project they will understand the immune side effects of dying liver cells, and test methods to prevent them. This might be useful in hepatitis from any cause, including autoimmune viruses, chemical poisons and biological toxins.

Dr. Keith Elkon was awarded a pilot project funded under the UW CEEH NIH P30 program to examine the effect of ultraviolet light on normal and lupus prone skin.

Jie An, PhD, Acting Instructor was awarded a grant from the Rare Disease Foundation (RDF) for his project, "Evaluation of new therapeutic drugs Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) and Quinacrine (QC) for rare inflammatory disease Aicardi-Goutieres Syndrome (AGS)."

Lucrezia Colonna, PhD, Senior Fellow, has been selected as the recipient of the 2015 Perkins Coie Award for Discovery. Her project "Investigating the Protective Role of Intracellular Complement C3 in the Prevention of Lupus Autoimmunity." The Perkins Coie Discovery Grants have supported translational research at the UW since 2007.

The Division of Rheumatology has established a Fellowship Education fund to help support our fellows during their second year of fellowship. While the hospitals help support our fellows during their first year, we have minimal support for the fellows during their second year of training especially for those interested in a career in clinical rheumatology. Your gifts to the Fellowship Education fund help us sustain the training pipeline full of outstanding clinical rheumatologists! "Having an independent source of funding allows us to craft the second year to meet future clinical practice needs including having fellows coming out of fellowship certified in musculoskeletal ultrasound." - *Greg Gardner, MD*

To learn more about how you can support our fellows, please contact **Abbey Norris**, Director for Philanthropy, at abbeyn@uw.edu or 206.221.8274.

Rheumatology Fellowship Program (2015-2016)

Dr. Grant Hughes (Program Director)

Dr. Gregory Gardner (Associate Program Director)

Left - Right: Anders Peck (Graduated 2015), *Tal Gazitt* (Graduated 2015), *Uche Obih* (2nd Year), *Meghan Greenfield* (2nd Year), *Saima Kamran* (2nd Year), *Yuli McCann* (Graduated 2015)



CLINICAL FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to our recent faculty promotions:



Dr. Verlene Gauthier-*Clinical Associate Professor*
Dr. Natalia Tishkevich - *Clinical Assistant Professor*
Dr. Mary Wemple- *Clinical Associate Professor*

DR. UCHE OBIH NAMED PAULA DE MERIEUX FELLOW



The Division of Rheumatology is delighted to announce **Dr. Uche Obih** as the recipient of the 2016 Rheumatology Research Foundation Paula de Merieux Rheumatology Fellowship Training Award.



The Paula de Merieux fellowship provides support for the training of a promising rheumatology fellow who is an underrepresented minority or a woman. The purpose of this fellowship is to ensure that a diverse and highly-trained workforce is available to provide quality care to people living with rheumatic diseases.

DR. MEGHAN GREENFIELD NAMED 2015 ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION FELLOW

The Division of Rheumatology is pleased to announce that **Dr. Meghan Greenfield** has been selected as this year's **Arthritis Foundation Fellow**. "We are thrilled to be able to help support the next generation of Rheumatologists that will serve patients in our region and the next academic researchers that will find cures for rheumatic diseases," said Scott Weaver, CEO of the Arthritis Foundation Great West Region.



The Arthritis Foundation has some exciting events coming up. The Division invites you to join us in attending these events!

-The Seattle Bone Bash Gala: October 24th at the Four Seasons Hotel. To purchase tickets, and learn more, please visit www.bonebashseattle.com

-Jingle Bell Run & Walk: December 13th at Westlake Center. To join the Seattle Children's/ UW Medicine team, please log on to <http://goo.gl/4U8M6T> or www.seattlejinglebellrun.org – Registration deadline is Dec 4th. If you have questions please contact sriharsha.grevich@seattlechildrens.org or the Arthritis Foundation office at 206-547-2707 ext. 119.





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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

An J, Woodward JJ, Sasaki T, Minie M, Elkon KB. Cutting Edge: Antimalarial Drugs Inhibit IFN- β Production through Blockade of Cyclic GMP-AMP Synthase-DNA Interaction. *J Immunol.* 2015 Mar 27. pii: 1402793.

Lin P, **Bach M**, Asquith M, Lee AY, Akileswaran L, Stauffer P, Davin S, Pan Y, Cambronne ED, Dorris M, Debelius JW, Lauber CL, Ackermann G, Baeza YV, Gill T, Knight R, Colbert RA, Taugro JD, Van Gelder RN, Rosenbaum JT. HLA-B27 and Human β 2-Microglobulin Affect the Gut Microbiota of Transgenic Rats. *PLoS One.* 2014 Aug 20;9(8):e105684. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0105684. eCollection 2014. *co-first author

Gazitt T, Thomason J, **Hughes GC.** A missed opportunity: tophaceous gout. *Am J Med.* 2015 Mar 4. pii: S0002-9343(15)00174-6. doi: 10.1016/j.amjmed.2015.01.039.

Chappell CP*, **Giltiy NV***, Draves KE, Chen C, Hayden-Ledbetter MS, Shlomchik MJ, Kaplan DH, **Clark EA.** Antigen delivery to pDCs through hBDCA2 leads to reduction of effector T-cell activation and Ag-specific Ab responses. *J Immunol.* 2014 Jun 15; 192 (12):5789-801. (*equal contribution)

Tsur, A, **Hughes GC**, Schoenfeld Y. Progestagens and Immunity. In "Progestagens in Obstetrics and Gynecology", Howard Carp, Ed., Springer. 2014 (in press).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS (CONT.)

Hughes GC, Choubey D. Modulation of autoimmune rheumatic diseases by oestrogen and progesterone. *Nat Rev Rheumatol.* 2014 Dec;10(12):740-51. doi: 10.1038/nrrheum.2014.144. Epub 2014 Aug 26.

Park JJ, Roudier MP, Soman D, Mokadam NA, **Simkin PA.** Prevalence of birefringent crystals in cardiac and prostatic tissues, an observational study. *BMJ Open* 2014;4:e005308 doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2014-005308

Simkin PA. The human knee: A window on the microvasculature. *Tissue Barriers.* 2015 Apr 3;3(1-2):e970465. doi: 10.4161/21688362.2014.970465. eCollection 2015.

Becker MA, **Simkin PA**, Sorensen LB. Urate transporters: transforming the face of hyperuricemia and gout. *J Rheumatol.* 2014 Oct;41(10):1910-2. doi: 10.3899/jrheum.141019. Epub 2014 Sep 1.

THE FINE PRINT

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