

# Rheumatology

## Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Gregory Gardner



In October 2017, Dr. Gregory Gardner was awarded the Department of Medicine Bruce C. Gilliland Award for Excellence in Teaching of Residents and Fellows. This award is named for the late Dr. Bruce Gilliland who was also a faculty member in the Division of Rheumatology and a professor of Laboratory Medicine. Dr. Gilliland was known for his compassion for patients, clinical acumen, and dedication to teaching, as well as his service as an administrator in the School of Medicine. The Gilliland Award is awarded annually to a faculty member who is actively engaged in clinical and didactic training. The winner must show evidence of excellence over time and must have served within the University of Washington School of Medicine as a teacher of residents and fellows.



Dr. Gardner has been teaching at the University of Washington since his appointment as an Acting Instructor in 1989. He served as the Program Director of the Rheumatology Fellowship Program for over 10 years. In addition, Dr. Gardner is an adjunct professor in the Division of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine as well as the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. Dr. Gardner has pioneered the development of rheumatology multi-disciplinary clinics with Dermatology, Neurology, Pulmonology, and Nephrology that fellows now rotate through on an annual basis. He is also a leading member of local and national rheumatology organizations such as the American College of Rheumatology. Division Head, Dr. Keith Elkon, had this to say about Dr. Gardner. "Bruce Gilliland was a singular clinician. Greg is unquestionably his equal."

## Research Spotlight: Noss Lab



Dr. Erika Noss is a basic science researcher and rheumatologist at the University of Washington. Dr. Noss completed her fellowship in rheumatology at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston before joining the UW faculty in 2015.

Dr. Noss' research interest is to understand how connective tissue fibroblasts interact with the immune system to promote local inflammation and damage. Fibroblasts play an important role in many rheumatic diseases, including amplifying inflammation in rheumatoid arthritis and driving fibrosis in systemic sclerosis. These roles suggest fibroblasts should be targeted for disease treatment. However, development of fibroblast-targeting drugs is limited by our poor understanding of how fibroblasts function in different tissues, a problem that Dr. Noss' research group is working to overcome.

Recent studies from Dr. Noss' lab show that synovial fibroblasts regulate IL-6 expression differently from other types of joint cells, leading to sustained production of this pathogenic cytokine. Her recently published paper in *Immunity* demonstrates that IL-6 production is amplified in fibroblasts by a feed-forward loop involving STAT4 and the LIF receptor. The Noss Lab is now collaborating with Dr. Anne Stevens at Seattle Children's Hospital and Dr. Jane Buckner at Benaroya Research Institute to examine IL-6 responses in human synovial tissues. Her research group is also investigating how signals through platelet-derived growth factor receptors contribute to rheumatoid arthritis pathology and how the cell adhesion molecule, cadherin-11, regulates fibroblast function in colitis.

### Inside:

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## KEITH ELKON NAMED ACR MASTER & ACR 2017



Division Head Dr. Keith Elkun was recently elected to the status of American College of Rheumatology Master. Recognition as a Master of the American College of Rheumatology is one of the highest honors the College bestows to members who have made outstanding contributions to the field of rheumatology through scholarly achievement and service to their

patients, students, and profession. Dr. Elkun was recognized at this year's annual conference in San Diego.

The Division of Rheumatology also had over 15 abstracts accepted for the American College of Rheumatology 2017 Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.



## 2018 LANE LECTURE SERIES & RECEPTION



The annual James J. Lane, Jr, MD Endowed Lecture Series will take place on Thursday March 22nd and 23rd 2018. This year's visiting speaker is Dr. Iain McInnes, MD, PhD, Muirhead Professor of Medicine, Arthritis Research UK Professor of Rheumatology, and Director for the Institute of Infection, Immunity, and Inflammation at the University of Glasgow.

Dr. McInnes will present at the Department of Medicine Grand Rounds on Thursday March 22nd in Health Sciences Building T-625 from 8:00-9:00 am. The Lane Lecture Reception will be held later that evening at the South Lake Union Building, C-5 at 6pm.

The topic for Dr. McInnes' Department of Medicine Grand Rounds will be *Rheumatology: Leading the molecular revolution in medicine?* Dr. McInnes will also present on Friday March 23rd in Health Sciences RR-110 at the Rheumatology Grand Rounds on *Soft tissue rheumatism meets the molecular age: Tendinopathy revisited.*

### Thursday March 22nd:

UW Department of Medicine Grand Rounds, 8:00-9:00am, UW Health Sciences Building, T-625

Lane Lecture Reception, 6:00pm – 8:00pm, Building C, South Lake Union Campus

### Friday March 23rd:

Rheumatology Grand Rounds, 9:00am-10:00am, UW Health Sciences Building RR-110

For more information or to RSVP for the reception email [rheum@uw.edu](mailto:rheum@uw.edu).

## GIANT CELL ARTERITIS FAST TRACK CLINIC

In November 2017, Drs. Scott Pollock, Ingeborg Saksen, Elizabeth Jernberg, and Alison Bays opened the University of Washington's Fast Track Clinic for Giant Cell Arteritis. The purpose of the clinic is to expedite referrals, both internal and external to our clinic to help evaluate patients with suspected Giant Cell Arteritis in a timely manner, ideally within 24 hours. Over time, we hope to study this population in order to better care for our Giant Cell Arteritis patients and reduce the risk of blindness.

Referring doctors can page the designated GCA rheumatologist on call at 206-597-4700. The patient will be expeditiously scheduled for a rheumatology consultation followed by a vascular ultrasound and temporal artery biopsy at the University of Washington or Harborview Medical Center.

**Website:** [www.uwmedicine.org/locations/rheumatology-uwmc/gca-fast-track-clinic](http://www.uwmedicine.org/locations/rheumatology-uwmc/gca-fast-track-clinic)

**Pager:** 206-597-4700



## 2017 ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION JINGLE BELL RUN

In December 2017 faculty and staff from the University of Washington and Seattle Children's Hospital came together to participate in the Arthritis Foundation's 2017 annual Jingle Bell Run in Downtown Seattle.

The 27 participants of the "Joint Forces" team raised \$1,585. Team members ran or walked with festive bells or rheumatology themed joint and bone themed costumes. You can support the work of the Arthritis Foundation with a donation any time of year at [www.arthritis.org/giving/donate.php](http://www.arthritis.org/giving/donate.php).



## 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://depts.washington.edu/rheum>

## 2018 ACGME FELLOWS



**Dr. Brittany Frankel** joins us from the UCSD Internal Medicine Residency program. She completed medical school at Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Buffalo.

**Dr. Joanna Marco** joins us from the

University of Cincinnati Internal Medicine Residency Program. She completed medical school at Ohio State University College of Medicine.



**Dr. Kennedy Ukadike** joins us from the Englewood Hospital & Medical Center Internal Medicine Residency Program. He completed medical school at Ross University School of Medicine and also earned an MS in Biotechnology & Bioinformatics at California

State University Channel Island.

## DIVISION PUBLICATIONS

TLR7/8 activation in neutrophils impairs immune complex phagocytosis through shedding of FcγRIIA. **Lood C, Arve S, Ledbetter J, Elkong KB.** *J Exp Med.* 2017 Jul 3;214(7):2103-2119. doi: 10.1084/jem.20161512. Epub 2017 Jun 12.

Cell Death, Nucleic acids and Immunity: Inflammation beyond the Grave. **Elkong KB.** *Arthritis Rheumatol.* 2018 Feb 13. doi: 10.1002/art.40452. [Epub ahead of print] Review. PMID: 29439290

Association of Chondrocalcinosis in Knee Joints With Pain and Synovitis: Data From the Osteoarthritis Initiative. **Han BK, Kim W, Niu J, Basnyat S, Barshay V, Gaughan JP, Williams C, Kolasinski SL, Felson DT.** *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken).* 2017 Nov;69(11):1651-1658. doi: 10.1002/acr.23208. Epub 2017 Sep 21. PMID: 28129488

## DIVISION GRANTS

**Dr. Jie An** received a \$10,000 award through the Institute of Translational Health Sciences Research Scholars Program. The one-year program supports research and career development.

**Dr. Keith Elkong** was awarded a grant from the Rheumatology Research Foundation. The Innovative Research Award Program is a two year project period with \$400,000 in funding support. His project is titled cGAS-STING and Mitochondrial DNA in Lupus.

**Dr. Keith Elkong** and **Dr. Jie An** were awarded a \$107,000 contract from Celgene Corporation for a collaborative SLE research project.

**Dr. Natalia Giltiy** was awarded a \$50,000 contract from Kiniksa Pharmaceuticals for her pilot B Cell Activations Studies.

The Washington Research Foundation awarded \$39,897 to **Dr. Christian Lood** for his project entitled, "Neutrophil extracellular traps in acute respiratory distress syndrome". Dr. Lood will collaborate with Dr. William Altemeier, Dr. Carmen Mikacenic, and Dr. Conrad Liles of the Department of Medicine on this project.

**Dr. Erika Noss** was awarded the ITHS Collaboration Innovation Award for her project with Dr. Anne Stevens, MD, PhD in the Department of Pediatrics. Their project is titled Understanding how genetic markers of synovial fibroblast IL-6 expression predict local inflammation in juvenile idiopathic arthritis. This is a one year study with a total budget of \$50,000.

## CLINICAL TRIALS

**Dr. Keith Elkong** and **Dr. Bobby Han** received a third year of infrastructure support for clinical trials from the Lupus Clinical Investigators Network (LuCIN). Funding will continue through May 2019 with a commitment of \$80,000.

**Dr. Bobby Han** and **Dr. Natalia Giltiy** were awarded an Investigator-Initiated Clinical Trial from Bristol-Myers Squibb for their Orencia RA Study.

The Division currently has three open clinical trials led by **Dr. Bobby Han**.

- "A Phase II, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Dose-Ranging Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of M2951 in Subjects with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)." Sponsored by EMD Serono Research & Development Institute, Inc.

- "Validation of a Mobile Phone Based ePRO Tool in Subjects with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus." Sponsored by LuCIN

- "A Phase II, Randomized, Double-Blind, Multi-Center Study Evaluating the Safety and Efficacy of Filgotinib and GS-9876 in Subjects with Lupus Membranous Nephropathy (LMN)." Sponsored by Gilead.

The Division of Rheumatology Newsletter is published 2 times a year. For information regarding any content in this issue please contact the Division Office at 206-543-3414 or email [rheum@uw.edu](mailto:rheum@uw.edu). Editors: Keith Elkon MD, Jenna Thomason MD, Peter Simkin MD, Jessica Bertram, and Kathryn McGhee.

**Be green!**

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RECENT DIVISION PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

Ultrasound of Subtalar Joint Synovitis in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis: Results of an Omeract Reliability Exercise Using Consensual Definitions [abstract]. Bruyn GAW, Siddle H, Hanova P, Costantino F, Iagnocco A, Delle Sedie A, Gutierrez M, Hammer HB, **Jernberg E**, Loeuille D, Pineda C, Micu MC, Moller I, richards B, Stoenoiu MS, Suzuki T, Terslev L, Vlad V, Wonink R, D'Agostino M, Wakefield RJ. *Arthritis Rheumatol*. 2017; 69 (suppl 10).

Endothelial dysfunction is associated with activation of the type I interferon system and platelets in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus. *RMD Open*. 2017 Oct 25;3(2):e000508. doi: 10.1136/rmdopen-2017-000508. eCollection 2017. Tydén H, **Lood C**, Gullstrand B, Nielsen CT, Heegaard NHH, Kahn R, Jönsen A, Bengtsson AA.

Comment on: Decreased platelet size is associated with platelet activation and anti-phospholipid syndrome in systemic lupus erythematosus: reply. *Rheumatology (Oxford)*. 2017 Aug 1;56(8):1437-1438. doi: 10.1093/rheumatology/kex216. **Lood C**, Bengtsson AA.

Posttraumatic stress disorder and correlates of disease activity among veterans with ankylosing spondylitis. **Liew J**, Lucas Williams J, Dobscha S, Barton JL. *Rheumatol Int*. 2017 Oct;37(10):1765-1769. doi: 10.1007/s00296-017-3801-7. Epub 2017 Aug 24. PMID: 28840348

Synovitis acne pustulosis hyperostosis osteitis (SAPHO) - paradoxical reactions and different responses to tumour necrosis factor inhibitors. **Liew J**, Xu TH, Chu CQ. *Rheumatology (Oxford)*. 2017 Dec 1;56(12):2239-2241. doi: 10.1093/rheumatology/kex309. No abstract available. PMID: 28977552

Preeclampsia and scleroderma: a prospective nation-wide analysis. *Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand*. 2018 Jan 18. doi: 10.1111/aogs.13296. [Epub ahead of print] Kamper-Jørgensen M1, Gammill HS, **Nelson JL**.

Persistence of the losing cord blood unit following double cord blood transplantation: finding the unseen. *Blood*. 2017 Sep 21;130(12):1480-1482. doi: 10.1182/blood-2017-06-788513. Epub 2017 Aug 1. Milano F, Gammill H, Oliver DC, Kanaan SB, **Nelson JL**, Delaney C.

Marrow fat may distribute the energy of impact loading throughout subchondral bone. **Simkin PA**. *Rheumatology (Oxford)*. 2018 Mar 1;57(3):414-418. doi: 10.1093/rheumatology/kex274. PMID: 28977578

Prevalence and correlates of hepatitis C virus-associated inflammatory arthritis in a population-based cohort. *Semin Arthritis Rheum*. 2017 Dec;47(3):445-450. doi: 10.1016/j.semarthrit.2017.04.004. Epub 2017 Apr 24. **Ferucci ED**, Choromanski TL, Varney DT, Ryan HS, Townshend-Bulson LJ, McMahon BJ, **Wener MH**.

Myeloablative Autologous Stem-Cell Transplantation for Severe Scleroderma. *N Engl J Med*. 2018 Jan 4;378(1):35-47. Sullivan KM, Goldmuntz EA, Keyes-Elstein L, McSweeney PA, Pinckney A, Welch B, Mayes MD, Nash RA, Crofford LJ, Eggleston B1, Castina S, Griffith LM, Goldstein JS, Wallace D, Craciunescu O, Khanna D, Folz RJ, Goldin J, St Clair EW, Seibold JR, Phillips K, Mineishi S, Simms RW, Ballen K, **Wener MH**, Georges GE, Heimfeld S, Hosing C, Forman S, Kafaja S, Silver RM1, Griffing L, Storek J, LeClercq S, Brasington R, Csuka ME, Bredeson C, Keever-Taylor C, Domsic RT, Kahaleh MB, Medsger T, **Furst DE**.