

## Faculty Spotlight: Northwest Chiefs Dr. Julie Carkin & Dr. Phil Moberg



**Julie Carkin, MD** and **Phillip Moberg, MD** have served as Rheumatology chiefs at Northwest Hospital since 2017 where they led The Seattle Arthritis Clinic (TSAC). Since the merger TSAC is now called UWMC – Northwest and still under the leadership of Dr. Carkin and Dr. Moberg. Currently they are

collaborating with the Division to enhance existing strengths of UWMC-NW, integrate with other UW Rheumatology clinical sites to continue providing outstanding patient care, and increase access to Rheumatology services across UW Medicine.

In addition to 7 Rheumatologists and 3 ARNPs providing consultative and ongoing chronic disease care, TSAC/UWMC-NW provides on-site infusion services. Dr. Moberg is the free-standing Infusion Center's Director. With the assistance of 3 UW Rheumatology Fellowship trained alums working at UWMC-NW it, has also recently begun to expand ultrasound use at the clinic. Dr. Moberg says this is indicative of how he and Dr. Carkin have worked to build a "community accessible clinic" with "academic level expertise in rheumatology."



Dr. Carkin leads the Strong Bones Program along with a team of 3 other Rheumatologists and 3 ARNPs with specialized expertise in Osteoporosis management. The goal of the Strong Bones program is to prevent all low-trauma fractures. Fracture prevention is especially important in patients with Rheumatologic disease since inflammation and some medications cause bone loss and bone fragility. If a person suffers a low trauma fracture, they are at high risk for another fracture in the near future and need evaluation urgently. For these patients the UWMC-NW multidisciplinary team of Hospitalists, Nurses, Orthopedic Surgeons, and Physical Therapists work together to treat patients.

## Research Spotlight: COVID-19 Impact on Rheumatic Disease

The Division continues to be active in the COVID-19 Global Rheumatology Alliance (GRA) with **Namrata Singh, MD** and **Katherine Wysham, MD** leading involvement. They participate in the Clinical Advisory & Scientific Subcommittee (CASC) for the GRA. Our faculty also plan to continue COVID-19 specific research by investigating associations of COVID-19 outcomes in lupus patients and other patients with rheumatic disease as well as assisting clinics across the country to contribute data to the GRA. Dr. Wysham is also a co-investigator on a recently VA-funded study where she will evaluate frailty as an outcome in Veterans infected with SARS-CoV-2.

Additionally **James Andrews, MD** is Principal Investigator for the NIH funded study "Sarcopenia as a Predictor of Hospital-Associated Disability in Older Adults" which will investigate links between COVID-19 and physical disability in COVID-19 survivors or "long haul" patients who experience ongoing complications from COVID-19.

This study will work with a cohort of 200 COVID-19 survivors to measure physical function outcomes such as frailty, mobility, and sarcopenia. Participants will be monitored through phone interviews with a subset of participants being selected for in person assessment including body composition monitoring using DXA and ultrasound as well as physical performance assessments.

Dr. Andrews' work is a continuation of a NIH K23 award investigating sarcopenia as a predictor of hospital associated disability. The study identifies a critical question amid the COVID-19 pandemic of how to monitor and treat survivors of COVID-19, especially those with rheumatic disease. Dr. Andrews summarizes: "Addressing this key knowledge gap is critical in identifying key clinical risk factors for adverse outcomes, informing understanding of pathogenesis of physical disability after COVID-19, and ultimately developing interventions to prevent or rehabilitate physical disability in these patients."

## Dr. Kennedy Ukadike Awarded Diversity Academic Development Scholarship Award



**Kennedy Ukadike MD, MS**, was an inaugural recipient of the UW Department of Medicine Diversity Academic Development Scholarship Award (DADSA), receiving \$100,000 over 2 years.

This award is designed to help the Department of Medicine retain and recruit outstanding URM (underrepresented minority) fellows and junior faculty interested in academic careers.

Dr. Ukadike is a third year Senior Fellow with the Division. Currently he works in the Mustelin lab researching lupus and autoimmunity. Dr. Ukadike completed medical school at Ross University in Dominica and also obtained an MS degree in Biotechnology & Bioinformatics at California State University Channel Islands.

## Fellowship Program Awarded \$10,000 for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion from Arthritis Foundation

**Grant Hughes, MD** was awarded a supplementary grant of \$10,000 to be dedicated to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives by the Arthritis Foundation. This supplement is attached to the previously awarded Arthritis Foundation "Cultivating a New Generation of Rheumatologists" Award of \$150,000 to support a new rheumatology fellowship training slot.

In addition to supporting ongoing DEI activities within the fellowship program, the funds will be used to support medical student programming for students from the UW Indian Health and Latinx Health pathways to complete rheumatology clinical and research focused rotations. This award will also support hosting visiting speakers focused on DEI issues.

## Dr. Elkon presenting at March 2021 DOM Grand Rounds

**Keith Elkon, MD** will be presenting at the [UW Department of Medicine Grand Rounds](#) on Friday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 12:00-1:00pm. The talk will be titled "Solar power: why sunlight exposure may help prevent some autoimmune diseases (multiple sclerosis) but precipitate others (systemic lupus erythematosus)". The talk is based on a [recent article](#) that was published in Proceedings of the National Academic of Sciences of the United States.

## 2021 James L. Lane Lecture & Reception Postponed

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 James L. Lane Lecture & Reception, usually held annually each March will be postponed. We hope to host this event in Summer 2021.

## Division Awards & Grants

### James Andrews, MD

- \$257,300 from Grifols Inc. for "Gamunex in Anti-HMG-CoA Reductase Antibody Positive (HMGR) Myopathy"

### Keith Elkon, MD

- \$300,000 from the Lupus Research Alliance (LRA) for "cGAMP as an Immune Transmitter of the Interferon Response"
- \$705,500 from Janssen Research & Development, LLC for "Investigation of Nucleic Acid Sensing Pathways in Systemic and Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus"

### Bobby Han, MD

- \$6,900 from Corrona for "Corrona Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) Drug Safety & Effectiveness Registry"
- \$113,270 from Bristol-Myers Squibb for "A Phase 2, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Evaluation of the Safety and Efficacy of BMS-986165 with Background Treatment in Subjects with Lupus Nephritis"
- \$14,580 from Gilead Sciences, Inc. for "A Phase 3, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo and Adalimumab-controlled Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Filgotinib in Subjects with Active Psoriatic Arthritis Who Are Naive to Biologic DMARD Therapy"

### Christian Lood, PhD

- \$437,756 from the NIH for "Mitochondrial Calcification in Juvenile Dermatomyositis"
- \$177,132 from the Eli Lilly & Company for "Neutrophil Biomarkers in Monitoring of Treatment Response in Rheumatoid Arthritis"

### Tomas Mustelin, MD, PhD

- \$485,375 from the NIH for "HERV-K Immunity, a Trigger of Citrullination in Rheumatoid Arthritis?"

### Bernard Ng, MD

- \$69,879 as Co-Investigator for "COVID-19 era Care for Autoimmune Rheumatic Diseases (CARED) in Older Veterans by using Appropriate form of Telemedicine" by the Veteran Health Administration Central Office
- \$87,764 as Co-Investigator for "Improving Medication Management with Nurse/Pharmacist-led telemedicine program for Older Veterans with Gout (G-IMPROVE) during COVID-19" by the Veteran Health Administration Central Office

### Erika Noss, MD

- \$388,300 from the NIH for "Investigating how Platelet-Derived Growth Factor Receptors Direct synovial fibroblast-mediated pathology in Inflammatory Arthritis"

## Seattle Met Top Doctors

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

Dr. Carkin and Dr. Gardner have been honored almost every year for the past 20+ years Seattle Magazine has been polling Doctors and Healthcare workers.

## Thank You to Our 2020 Donors

Jacqueline Lynelle Cabe, April M. Collier, John & Janis Baldwin, Christopher A. D'Arcy M.D., Anne Vetto Dolan M.D., Justus Fiechtner M.D., Phillip Gladfelter, Helen Donnelly Goehring, Alan Otto Haakenstad M.D., Daniel Hunt, Kirkwood A. Johnston, Janet M. Karr, Stephen Koehler, James Lane Jr.,

M.D., Susan Lane, Charlotte Lindsey, Herbert Lindsey M.D., David Martin M.D., Kenneth Perko M.D., Anne Rees, Therese Reule, Anthony Schaff, Peter Simkin M.D., Shawn Lee Slack M.D., Fernanda Spratt, Gordon Starkebaum M.D., Kent Ta M.D., Irene Takeuchi, Natalia Tishkevich M.D., Wayne Tsuji M.D., Wayne Wallis M.D., David Wisner M.D., and Nancy Lee Wright.

## 2020 Jingle Bell Run

On Saturday December 12th, the Division of Rheumatology partnered with Seattle Children's Rheumatology for the 2020 Jingle Bell Run organized by the Arthritis Foundation.

This year's Jingle Bell Run was held virtually and a small group planned a socially distant walk in the UW arboretum. Our team, UW/Children's Joint Forces, recruited over 20 members and raised \$1,340.

## Division Publications

Clinical Images: An unusual case of proximal limb muscle weakness. **Michailidou D, Chung S, Andrews JS, Starkebaum GA, Chew FS, Latimer CS.** *Arthritis Rheumatol.* 2020 Dec 16. doi: 10.1002/art.41626. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33331087.

Frequency of Allopurinol Dose Reduction in Hospitalized Patients With Gout Flares. **Huang IJ, Bays AM, Liew JW.** *J Rheumatol.* 2020 Oct 15;jrheum.201142. doi: 10.3899/jrheum.201142. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33060310.

The U.S. Veterans Health Administration national giant cell arteritis (GCA) database cohort: incident ophthalmic complications in biopsy-negative GCA patients. **Chung SH, Morcos MB, Pollock PS, Ng B.** *Clin Rheumatol.* 2021 Jan 8. doi: 10.1007/s10067-020-05543-0. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33417014.

Determinants of Positive Temporal Artery Biopsies in the Veterans Health Administration National Database Cohort. **Chung SH, Morcos MB, Ng B.** *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken).* 2020 May;72(5):699-704. doi: 10.1002/acr.23897. Epub 2020 Apr 8. PMID: 30932359.

Acute skin exposure to ultraviolet light triggers neutrophil-mediated kidney inflammation. **Skopelja-Gardner S, Tai J, Sun X, Tanaka L, Kuchenbecker JA, Snyder JM, Kubes P, Mustelin T, Elkon KB.** *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2021 Jan 19;118(3):e2019097118. doi: 10.1073/pnas.2019097118. PMID: 33397815; PMCID: PMC7826360.

The (Orf)ull truth about IRF5 and type I interferons in SLE. **Elkon KB, Briggs TA.** *Nat Rev Rheumatol.* 2020 Oct;16(10):543-544. doi: 10.1038/s41584-020-0472-7. PMID: 32709997.

The early local and systemic Type I interferon responses to ultraviolet B light exposure are cGAS dependent. **Skopelja-Gardner S, An J, Tai J, Tanaka L, Sun X, Hermanson P, Baum R, Kawasumi M, Green R, Gale M Jr, Kalus A, Werth VP, Elkon KB.** *Sci Rep.* 2020 May 13; 10(1):7908. doi: 10.1038/s41598-020-64865-w. PMID: 32404939; PMCID: PMC7220927.

Polymyalgia Rheumatica: a Common Disease in Seniors. **Gazitt T, Zisman D, Gardner G.** *Curr Rheumatol Rep.* 2020 Jun 19;22(8):40. doi: 10.1007/s11926-020-00919-2. PMID: 32562020.

Not so elementary: Uncommon inflammatory, autoimmune, and infectious diseases encountered by the rheumatologist. da Mota LMH, **Hughes GC.** *Best Pract Res Clin Rheumatol.* 2020 Aug;34(4):101599. doi: 10.1016/j.berh.2020.101599. PMID: 33129441.

Disseminated Mycobacterium haemophilum With Tenosynovitis in a Liver Transplant Recipient. Chang YM, **Liew JW, Gallego DF, Compton N, Hughes GC,** Limaye AP. *J Clin Rheumatol.* 2021 Jan 1;27(1):e36-e37. doi: 10.1097/RHU.0000000000001232. PMID: 31880608.

Role of Neutrophils in Systemic Vasculitides. **Michailidou D, Mustelin T, Lood C.** *Front Immunol.* 2020 Dec 17;11:619705. doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2020.619705. PMID: 33391289; PMCID: PMC7774018.

A neutrophil signature is strongly associated with increased cardiovascular risk in gout. Vedder D, Gerritsen M, Nurmohamed MT, van Vollenhoven RF, **Lood C.** *Rheumatology (Oxford).* 2020 Nov 14;keaa712. doi: 10.1093/rheumatology/keaa712. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33188698.

Neutrophil Activation and Neutrophil Extracellular Trap Formation in Dialysis Patients. Bieber S, Muczynski KA, **Lood C.** *Kidney Med.* 2020 Sep 22;2(6):692-698.e1. doi: 10.1016/j.xkme.2020.06.014. PMID: 33319194; PMCID: PMC7729232.

FcyRIIA expression accelerates nephritis and increases platelet activation in systemic lupus erythematosus. Melki I, Allaeyis I, Tessandier N, Mailhot B, Cloutier N, Campbell RA, Rowley JW, Salem D, Zufferey A, Laroche A, Lévesque T, Patey N, Rauch J, **Lood C, Droit A, McKenzie SE, Machlus KR, Rondina MT, Lacroix S, Fortin PR, Boilard E.** *Blood.* 2020 Dec 17;136(25):2933-2945. doi: 10.1182/blood.2020004974. PMID: 33331924.

How Retroviruses and Retrotransposons in Our Genome May Contribute to Autoimmunity in Rheumatological Conditions. **Mustelin T, Ukadike KC.** *Front Immunol.* 2020 Nov 13;11:593891. doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2020.593891. PMID: 33281822; PMCID: PMC7691656.

Multiparameter Analysis Identifies Heterogeneity in Knee Osteoarthritis Synovial Responses. **Labinsky H, Panipinto PM, Ly KA, Khuat DK, Madarampalli B, Mahajan V, Clabeaux J, MacDonald K, Verdin PJ, Buckner JH, Noss EH.** *Arthritis Rheumatol.* 2020 Apr;72(4):598-608. doi: 10.1002/art.41161. Epub 2020 Mar 12. PMID: 31702112; PMCID: PMC7113107.

Trends in Hospitalization Rates, Major Causes of Hospitalization, and In-Hospital Mortality in Rheumatoid Arthritis in the United States From 2000 to 2014. Iyer P, Gao Y, Field EH, Curtis JR, Lynch CF, Vaughan-Sarrazin M, **Singh N.** *ACR Open Rheumatol.* 2020 Dec;2(12):715-724. doi: 10.1002/acr2.11200. Epub 2020 Nov 20. PMID: 33215872; PMCID: PMC7738807.

FcyRIIA expression accelerates nephritis and increases platelet activation in systemic lupus erythematosus. Melki I, Allaeyis I, Tessandier N, Mailhot B, Cloutier N, Campbell RA, Rowley JW, Salem D, Zufferey A, Laroche A, Lévesque T, Patey N, Rauch J, **Lood C, Droit A, McKenzie SE, Machlus KR, Rondina MT, Lacroix S, Fortin PR, Boilard E.** *Blood.* 2020 Dec 17;136(25):2933-2945. doi: 10.1182/blood.2020004974. PMID: 33331924.

Predictors of maternal-origin microchimerism in young women in the Philippines. Pan TD, Kanaan SB, Lee NR, Avila JL, **Nelson JL, Eisenberg DTA.** *Am J Phys Anthropol.* 2021 Feb;174(2):213-223. doi: 10.1002/ajpa.24191. Epub 2020 Dec 9. PMID: 33300155.

Cord blood maternal microchimerism following unrelated cord blood transplantation. Kanaan SB, Delaney C, Milano F, Scaradavou A, Besien KV, Allen J, Lambert NC, Cousin E, Thur LA, Kahn E, Forsyth AM, Sensoy O, **Nelson JL.** *Bone Marrow Transplant.* 2020 Dec 1. doi: 10.1038/s41409-020-01149-x. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33257776

Erdheim-Chester disease. **Starkebaum G, Hendrie P.** *Best Pract Res Clin Rheumatol.* 2020 Aug;34(4):101510. doi: 10.1016/j.berh.2020.101510. Epub 2020 Apr 15. PMID: 32305313.

## Division Publications – continued

Bone Lesions in Erdheim-Chester Disease. **Liew JW, Starkebaum G.** Arthritis Rheumatol. 2019 Jul;71(7):1206. doi: 10.1002/art.40845. Epub 2019 May 16. PMID: 30688414.

Immunoglobulin G4-related disease of the urinary bladder. Gehring C, **Starkebaum GA**, Voelzke BB, **Liew JW.** Rheumatology (Oxford). 2020 Apr 1;59(4):907-908. doi: 10.1093/rheumatology/kez459. PMID: 31598708.

Enterochromaffin Cell-Enriched Monolayer Platform for Assaying Serotonin Release from Human Primary Intestinal Cells. Wang Y, **Sims CE**, Allbritton NL. Anal Chem. 2020 Sep 15;92(18):12330-12337. doi: 10.1021/acs.analchem.0c02016. Epub 2020 Sep 1. PMID: 32819098; PMCID: PMC7722340.

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Is gene expression among women with rheumatoid arthritis dysregulated during a postpartum flare? Wright M, Smed MK, **Nelson JL**, Olsen J, Hetland ML, Zoffmann V, Jawaheer D. Arthritis Res Ther. 2021 Jan 18;23(1):30. doi: 10.1186/s13075-021-02418-w. PMID: 33461591; PMCID: PMC7812735.

The rheumatoid arthritis gene expression signature among women who improve or worsen during pregnancy - a pilot study. Pathi A, Wright M, Smed MK, **Nelson JL**, Olsen J, Hetland ML, Zoffmann V, Jawaheer D. J Rheumatol. 2020 Dec 15;jrheum.201128. doi: 10.3899/jrheum.201128. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33323535.

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Acute respiratory viral adverse events during use of antirheumatic disease therapies: A scoping review. Kilian A, Chock YP, **Huang IJ**, Graef ER, Upton LA, Khilnani A, Krupnikova SDS, Almaghouth I, Cappelli LC, Fernandez-Ruiz R, **Frankel BA**, Frankovich J, Harrison C, Kumar B, Monga K, Vega JAR, **Singh N**, Sparks JA, Sullo E, Young KJ, Duarte-Garcia A, Putman M, Johnson S, Grainger R, Wallace ZS, **Liew JW**, Jayatilke A. Semin Arthritis Rheum. 2020 Oct;50(5):1191-1201. doi: 10.1016/j.semarthrit.2020.07.007. Epub 2020 Jul 22. PMID: 32931985; PMCID: PMC7832282.

Sex differences in frailty and its association with low bone mineral density in rheumatoid arthritis. **Wysham KD**, Shoback DM, Andrews JS, Katz PP. Bone Rep. 2020 May 22;12:100284. doi: 10.1016/j.bonr.2020.100284. PMID: 32509932; PMCID: PMC7264043.

Positive effect of hydroxychloroquine on lipid profiles of patients with rheumatoid arthritis: A Veterans Affairs cohort. Guevara M, **Ng B.** Eur J Rheumatol. 2020 Nov 5. doi: 10.5152/eurjrheum.2020.20193. Epub ahead of print.

Management of Rheumatic Diseases During the COVID-19 pandemic: A National Veterans Affairs Survey of Rheumatologists. Singh, J.A., Richards, J.S., Chang, E., Joseph, A. and **Ng, B.** (2021), Arthritis Care & Research. Accepted Author Manuscript.  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/acr.24487>