The Department of Medicine at Emory University offers two-year fellowships in rheumatology to qualified, promising physicians.

Why Rheumatology at Emory?

The Emory University Affiliated Rheumatology Fellowship Training program encompasses four critical rotations: Emory Clinic/Emory University Hospital, Emory Midtown, Grady Memorial Hospital and the Veterans' Affairs Medical Center. During their first year of training fellows spend a total of six months at Emory and two months each at Midtown, Grady and the VA. A full complement of conferences is offered to round out the clinical experience both in clinical and basic science topics. Additionally, opportunities for epidemiologic research exist at each of the four affiliate locations as well as at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.

Goals

During the two-year training program all fellows will:

- develop an extensive knowledge base on rheumatic disease
- develop proficiency in clinical history taking and physical examination
- become familiar with all diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in rheumatology
- become experts in analysis and integration of clinical data
- demonstrate excellence in patient management
- develop the ability to critically review the literature
- develop the ability to design, implement, interpret, and present research

The Emory Clinic/Emory University Hospital

Fellows spend two of their six months in the outpatient Rheumatology practice at the Emory Clinic. The full spectrum of rheumatic disease is seen including complicated and unusual cases that have been referred from physicians throughout the southeast U.S. Under the supervision of Drs. Waltuck and Geletka, fellows become proficient in careful history taking and physician examination with particular attention to the musculoskeletal system. Emphasis is placed on thorough workups and careful clinical follow up. The remaining two months are spent as the inpatient consult fellow. During this inpatient rotation, the fellow is responsible for didactic sessions for the internal medicine residents that are rotating through rheumatology. The fellow also coordinates teaching rounds on the inpatient service.
Grady Memorial Hospital

All fellows have a continuity clinic in the Grady Rheumatology clinic for one full day per week. Fellows typically see three new patients and ten follow-ups each clinic day. The Grady fellow will also see outpatients two half-days per week as part of the Early Arthritis Clinic (EAC) and the Lupus Clinic. In the EAC, patients with early inflammatory arthritis are followed and treated in a uniform regimen. Dr. Athan Tiliakos a number of part time clinical faculty staff the clinic. The Lupus Clinic is run by Dr. Sam Lim and is actively involved in many clinic studies, as well as those derived from his Georgia Lupus Registry.

Inpatient consultation rounds are conducted daily and urgent outpatient consultations are seen in the Urgent Care Center and Emergency Care Center. Patients are referred to Rheumatology from an extensive primary care network that includes the medical clinics and community based practices within the Grady Health Care System. Ample time is allotted on this clinical rotation for independent study. Fellows are encouraged to participate in ongoing research studies of patients with rheumatic disease and lupus and to initiate their own clinical projects.

Veterans Administration Medical Center

Fellows on rotation at the VA Medical Center attend three half-day clinics per week. Two clinics are general Rheumatology sessions and the third is a musculoskeletal ultrasound clinic. Fellows develop proficiency in the evaluation and treatment of patients with a wide spectrum of rheumatologic diseases. Daily consult rounds and didactic sessions are held with Dr. Atkinson, Iqbal, or Tiliakos. In addition to Rheumatology responsibilities, fellows spend one half-day per week in either PM&R or Bone Radiology.

Emory University Hospital Midtown (EUHM)

EUHM is a community hospital (540 beds) staffed by both private physicians and full-time faculty of Emory University. EUHM provides primary and some tertiary care for a metropolitan population. The hospital complex has recently undergone a $270 million renovation. Drs. Karen Law and Aliza Lipson see patients in the clinic at EUHM and staff the inpatient consult service. Additionally, Dr. Sam Lim holds a lupus clinic at Midtown one day per week. Fellows spend two months each year assisting with outpatient and inpatient consultation and follow-up.
A variety of conferences and seminars are offered throughout the year to enhance the fellow’s educational experience and growth as a physician.

**Rheumatology Grand Rounds**
Grand rounds are held every Wednesday morning and are attended by both faculty and fellows. Speakers are drawn from within the division, specialists in other divisions, and invited guest speakers from other institutions. All fellows are expected to present two lectures yearly on topics of their choosing. Staff is encouraged to present diagnostic dilemmas and cases with particularly difficulty management issues.

**Pathology Conference**
A staff pathologist leads didactic sessions as well as slide review. Fellows are encouraged to bring slides of recent interesting or challenging cases for review and discussion.

**Radiology Conference**
Radiology conference is held monthly in collaboration with the Department of Radiology, Division of Musculoskeletal radiology. A core curriculum covers all aspects of radiology as they relate to musculoskeletal disease. Didactic sessions are presented by the radiology staff on plain radiography, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, arthrography, and nuclear medicine. Radiographs of patients undergoing workups in our clinic are also presented for review.

**Journal Club**
Under the guidance of Dr. Drenkard all fellows participate by reviewing recent rheumatologic literature. It is expected that all fellows will read and be current on the contents of “*Arthritis and Rheumatism.*” All of the other major rheumatology journals are reviewed as well as any other pertinent papers from internal medicine, nephrology, pediatrics, radiology, orthopedics and immunology. In addition, first year fellows have a clinical journal club on Monday mornings before continuity clinic.

**Immunology Lecture Series**
Fellows participate in a longitudinal immunology series to reinforce their understanding of the immune system. This strengthens their understanding of autoimmune diseases and the current and potential targets for therapy of these diseases.

**Core Lecture Series**
From the first day of training, fellows function as clinical consultants in rheumatology. Therefore, each summer when new fellows begin their training, the faculty presents a core lecture series to rapidly orient fellows to the clinical practice of rheumatology. These lectures are supplemented with readings from the literature. Core lectures relating to the immune system are integrated into the yearly conference schedule. Topics include cells of the immune system, cytokines, the HLA system and complements.

### Current Fellows

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<th>First Year</th>
<th>Second Year</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Mathew Farbman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine</td>
<td>University of Tennessee Health and Science College of Medicine</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Residency: Mount Sinai Medical Center, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Puja Saxena</td>
<td>University of Florida College of Medicine</td>
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<td>Residency: Wake Forest University School of Medicine, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paula Tanasa</td>
<td>Universitatea de Medicina si Farmacie Carol Davla, Romania</td>
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<td>Residency: Mount Sinai/Englewood Program, NJ</td>
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<td>Eastern Virginia Medical School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katina Christina Tsagaris</td>
<td>Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine</td>
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Leadership

S. Sam Lim, MD
Rheumatology Fellowship Program Director
Grady Health System—Chief of Rheumatology

Athan Tiliakos, DO
Rheumatology Fellowship Associate Program Director
Assistant Professor of Rheumatology

Ignacio Sanz, MD
Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics
Director of Rheumatology
Director, Lowance Center for Human Immunology

Key Rheumatology Faculty

Karen Atkinson, MD.; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Doyt Conn, MD; Professor of Medicine.
Cristina Drenkard, MD; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Ayesha Iqbal MD.; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Karen Law, MD; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Aliza Lipson, MD; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Laura Paxton, MD; Instructor of Medicine
Heather Gladue, DO; Assistant Professor of Medicine
Jonathan Waltuck, MD; Associate Professor of Medicine

Contact Information

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