

Rheumatology Fellowship Goals and Objectives

- To provide training and experience in the diagnosis and management of patients with rheumatic conditions. A key component of this training involves the comprehensive understanding of the clinical findings and pathophysiology of rheumatic diseases, as well as current therapeutic principles.
- To afford the intellectual environment in the form of didactic lectures, journal clubs, research conferences, and interactive sessions for acquiring the knowledge, skills, clinical acumen, and professionalism that is vital for the practice of rheumatology.
- To offer training in an atmosphere that emphasizes outstanding clinical care delivery, and compassion for patients and their families.
- To provide this training in a pure academic environment that promotes and emphasizes basic, clinical, and translational research to ensure our trainees master the skills to remain current with the forefront of the field.
- Most importantly, to provide the foundation for training the future academic leaders, physician scientists, and clinical educators in rheumatic disease.
- The fellows are an essential part of the division and our faculty committed to training the academic leaders of tomorrow. These Columbia-trained thought leaders in rheumatology will play an essential role in bringing new ideas, energy, and perspective to a specialty whose importance will only increase as the population ages.

Rheumatology Fellowship Curriculum

The emphasis of the program's first year is on clinical proficiency; in the ensuing year(s) the focus is on clinical investigation or basic science research. A third year of research training may be offered to fellows who distinguish themselves during the program.

The goals of the first year curriculum are:

- To teach how to diagnose, treat, and manage patients with rheumatic disease.
- To teach the trainee the role of the consultant and how to effectively consult.
- To teach basic immunology and concepts for understanding the pathophysiology of autoimmune diseases in general and rheumatologic diseases in particular.
- To teach basic principles for the treatment of these diseases.
- To expose the trainee to current research in autoimmunity and rheumatology through journal clubs and grand rounds.
- To learn the fundamentals of orthopedic approach to musculoskeletal disease.
- To further our trainees' education in quality assurance, cost containment and ethics.

The goals of the second year are:

- To further the education of the trainee relevant to the diagnosis of and care and treatment of patients with rheumatic diseases.
- To further expose the trainee to current research in treatment, diagnosis, and etiology of autoimmune and rheumatologic diseases. This is accomplished through the fellow's direct involvement in a research project in addition to continued involvement in selected patient care activities including rheumatology clinics.

- Fellows in the second years are encouraged to participate in laboratory or clinical research; opportunities for research are detailed in the Research section of this website.

For fellows that have a strong interest in developing a career in research, they may elect to do a third year.

The goals of the third year (if elected in discussion with the Division Director) are:

- To further the education of the trainee in basic science or clinical research related to autoimmune and rheumatologic diseases. This is accomplished through the fellow's continued direct involvement in a research project.
- To provide an opportunity for the trainee to pursue additional training in research methods.
- To continue the fellow's clinical exposure to autoimmune and rheumatologic diseases through selected rheumatology continuity clinics.

During all years of the training program, fellows participate in regularly scheduled teaching exercises. These include a weekly conference covering basic pathophysiology and clinical topics, journal club, and research conferences. Fellows also attend the Lupus clinic, Special Arthritis clinic, and Faulkner General Arthritis clinic on a weekly basis.

Other outpatient rotations include pediatric rheumatology clinic, dermatology clinic, uveitis clinic, EMG, and orthopedic clinics. There is also a rheumatology ultrasound clinic that fellows can elect to attend as well.