Division of Rheumatology Fellowship Program

ACGME-Accredited
Division of Rheumatology
Fellowship Program
ACGME-Accredited

Division Chief and Fellowship Program Director: Ali D. Askari, M.D.
Fellowship Program Associate Director: Charles J. Malemud, Ph.D.
Fellowship Selection Coordinator: Johnny G. Su, M.D.
Nurse Supervisor: Cindy Faciana, B.S.N., R.N.
Manager: Carmelene Jefferson
Executive Assistant: Naiemah Davis
Communications Consultant: Lillie Askari

Complete Faculty Roster listed on pages 12-13
Welcome to the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine/University Hospitals of Cleveland Division of Rheumatology Fellowship Program.

Our fellows are trained as investigative diagnosticians, cutting-edge researchers and compassionate clinicians. Our fellowship graduates are highly sought after, and they continuously maintain successful careers in research, patient care, industry and clinical practice settings.

We take a great deal of pride in teaching and training leaders in rheumatology. Division members, who have diverse, collective backgrounds, are themselves noted rheumatologists and published researchers. They are experienced trainers...and esteemed mentors.

Urban and suburban clinical training opportunities plus participation in division agenda-planning – via faculty meetings and continuous faculty interaction – offer fellows a well-rounded, unmatched opportunity in rheumatology education.

As a member of our program, you can look forward to a rich and rewarding experience.

Ali D. Askari

Ali D. Askari, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Chief, Division of Rheumatology
University Hospitals of Cleveland
Director, Rheumatology
University Hospitals Health System
No Limits.

100% of our fellows pass their rheumatology boards

That’s because our outstanding fellows, dedicated faculty and diverse, comprehensive fellowship program curriculum combine to produce highly competent academic and community rheumatologists.

Our success as a post-graduate medical training program has been recognized by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The fellowship program was granted ACGME unconditional approval *with commendation* for the maximum time allotment.
Rheumatology fellows learn the research methodologies and basic science principles that comprise the underpinnings of success in rheumatology practice.

THE TWO-YEAR CLINICAL track teaches the fundamentals of clinical rheumatology, during which fellows are expected to participate in scholarly activities leading to abstract submission for presentation at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the American College of Rheumatology, the publication of manuscripts and several in-depth reviews of rheumatic diseases.

DURING THE THREE-YEAR RESEARCH/PHYSICIAN SCIENTIST track, much time will be spent on basic research. Fellows in this track also will obtain clinical experience with inpatient and outpatient training as defined by the ACGME.

The curriculum consists of a systematic review of rheumatology texts and current literature, along with quarterly open-book exams, in addition to:

- Weekly Grand Rounds – discussions with Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine faculty, visiting faculty or guest speakers
- Weekly Professor Rounds – collaboration with director of fellowship and other faculty
- Monthly Journal Club – presentations by fellows, supervised by faculty
- Monthly Case Presentations – overviews of interesting cases seen in inpatient service
- Outpatient / Inpatient Clinics – patient care at University Hospitals of Cleveland and the Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of VAMC
- Campus and Suburban Medical Outreach – practice at University Hospitals Health System sites

PLUS: Weekly radiology (Spring) and orthopaedic lectures, weekly board review, biweekly immunology lectures, monthly rheumatic topic review and quarterly Cleveland Society of Rheumatology meetings with area rheumatologists.

***Applicants who apply to the fellowship program through ERAS may contact (216) 844-2289 to confirm receipt of their application.***
FACILITIES

RHEUMATOLOGY FELLOWS ENGAGE IN PATIENT CARE AND RESEARCH AT University Hospitals of Cleveland, the Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and University Hospitals Health System campus affiliate medical centers.

Foley Building
Offices of the chief, chief fellow, fellows and teaching faculty

UHC Mather Pavilion
Rheumatology clinics at UHC, the tertiary medical center of UHHS that specializes in adult/pediatric medical and surgical specialties; UHC is the primary affiliate of Case Western Reserve University

UHHS Medical Centers
Including Chagrin Highlands Medical Center and other suburban rheumatology center sites dedicated to community care

Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC)
Inpatient service and clinics, specializing in a rheumatic chemo-therapeutic clinic; provides care to 71,000 veterans in northern Ohio each year

Richard D. Celeste Biomedical Research Building
Office of the research director and bench research laboratories

The Sjögren’s Syndrome Center
A physician conglomerate of Sjögren’s syndrome experts; only one of its kind in Ohio

Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital
Pediatric rheumatology facility and clinics for inpatient care, plus the ACGME-Certified Pediatric Rheumatology Fellowship Program; one of the nation’s leading pediatric hospitals

MacDonald Women’s Hospital
The only Ohio hospital dedicated to women’s health
PATIENTS ARE TREATED WITH THE UTMOST CARE AND CARING, FACILITATED BY:

- Biologic Infusion Centers, at the Chagrin Highlands and the VA Medical Centers and UHHS clinical sites
- Chagrin Highlands Osteoporosis Center, including densitometry, bone scan interpretation and patient education
- In-house laboratory and X-ray services
- Active clinical trial centers at UHC and Case
- Physical Therapy and rehabilitative medicine resources
WHAT TO EXPECT

Division of > Rheumatology

YEAR ONE:
Most time is spent on inpatient consults at University Hospitals of Cleveland and the Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, plus outpatient continuity clinics two half-days per week. Attending rounds are at least three times per week. There are also brief, procedure-oriented consults from the VAMC Urgent Care Center and the UHC Emergency Department. Fellows review basic musculoskeletal pathophysiology by instructing in the musculoskeletal integument section for 2nd-year medical school students.

YEAR TWO:
The second year focuses on outpatient clinics, including continuity clinics – five half-days per week, at UHC Mather Pavilion, the VAMC and the suburban University Hospitals Health System Chagrin Highlands Medical Center – plus research and scholarly activities. There are two months of inpatient consult responsibilities. Fellows also participate in an Introduction to Biostatistics course at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, an annual review for the rheumatology boards (at either New York University or the University of California, San Francisco), the Annual Scientific Meeting of the American College of Rheumatology and an International Society for Clinical Densitometry (ISCD) course for DXA scan interpretation and training.

YEAR THREE:
Research track fellows may combine clinical and research activities during three years, or focus years one and two on clinical and year three on research work.

HOURS:
8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
OUTPATIENT CLINICS ALSO INCLUDE:

- Special treatment clinic at the VAMC to monitor DMARD efficacy
- General rheumatology clinics with a one-to-one attending-to-fellow ratio
- Half-day biologic infusion clinic at the VAMC

ELECTIVES:
Elective time is dispersed throughout the program. Fellows have six weeks of elective time divided into two-week blocks. Second-year fellows have additional time to pursue electives concurrent to their outpatient responsibilities. Electives include:

- Muscle Disease Clinic
- EMG Lab
- Orthopaedic Surgery/Physical Therapy/Rehabilitation
- Pediatric Rheumatology, through Rainbow Babies & Children’s ACGME-accredited pediatric rheumatology fellowship program
- Pathology
- Radiology
- Research

ON CALL:

- Nightly home calls – Monday through Thursday – once every four-to-five months (based on number of fellows, up to five)
- Rotating weekend call schedule – Friday night through Monday morning – once every four-to-five weekends (based on number of fellows)

TIME OFF:
Each fellow is granted four weeks of vacation per academic year – two weeks off every six months.
Case Western Reserve University is a leading independent research university and the largest private research university in Ohio. The Case School of Medicine and its primary affiliate, University Hospitals of Cleveland, help form the largest biomedical research and academic center in Ohio, as measured by National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding: Case receives more NIH funding than all other Ohio medical schools combined.

THE CASE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE,
FACTS AT A GLANCE:

:: Founded in 1843
:: At least 11 Nobel Laureates are connected to the medical school (15 laureates are connected to the university in general)
:: The only medical school to have graduated two U.S. surgeons general
:: Pioneered the M.D./Ph.D. program and now is uniting medicine and public health
:: Graduated six of the first seven women who received medical degrees from recognized allopathic medical schools, 1850-56
:: Part of the university’s 150-acre campus in Cleveland’s University Circle

“Having the opportunity to be involved in and participate in research projects has broadened my appreciation for the academic and basic sciences roots from which clinical medicine springs.”

– Heather Gillespie, M.D.
2007 Graduate
Residency: Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York
Affiliate: Mount Sinai School of Medicine / State University of New York School of Medicine – Downstate

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The clinical spectrum of rheumatologic diseases treated at University Hospitals of Cleveland is unparalleled, ranging from traditional rheumatology – such as osteoarthritis and gout – to more difficult and fascinating cases, including refractory Behcet’s disease and Wegener’s granulomatosis.

Upon completing my fellowship, I felt prepared to become a practicing rheumatologist, having the utmost confidence in the skills and knowledge that I gained during my training.

The collegial atmosphere of the rheumatology program was what attracted me most to University Hospitals of Cleveland. The attendings allowed the fellows the freedom to manage patients as independently as possible in both the inpatient and outpatient settings, while providing unobtrusive guidance.”

– Johnny G. Su, M.D.
2002 Graduate and Current Faculty Attending

Residency: University Hospitals of Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio
Affiliate: Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
**DIVISION OF RHEUMATOLOGY FELLOWS** are taught by prominent rheumatologists: Each of the 16 full- and part-time faculty members, several of whom are nationally recognized and/or have been noted for advanced rheumatologic research, is board certified in rheumatology by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM).

**FACULTY ROSTER**

Donald D. Anthony, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Fellow Research and Scholar Adviser
Research interests: Basic research – Hepatitis C/HIV/immune responses
Medical education: Co-chair, Musculoskeletal Integument Committee

Ali D. Askari, M.D.
Professor of Medicine, Division Chief, Director of Rheumatology Fellowship Training
Research interests: Clinical research – Sjögren’s syndrome, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, Ohio Dysautonomia Study Group (ODYSA), fibromyalgia, diseases of the muscles, collaborative investigations on rheumatoid arthritis and periodontal disease

Elizabeth B. Brooks, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Departments of Pediatrics and Medicine
Research interests: Cardiovascular risks in and treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus in adult and pediatric patients, systemic vasculitis
Other interests: Medical errors and quality control in medicine

Tariq M. Haqqi, Ph.D.
Professor of Medicine, Director of Division Research
Research interests: Basic research – Inhibition of cartilage degradation; signal transduction; Nationally recognized for his work on the use of botanicals as anti-inflammation therapy

Raymond Hong, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Special interests: Rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis
M.B.A. Health Systems Management, Candidate 2007

“Knowledgeable and experienced teaching attendings and research faculty, plus an excellent environment for learning, helped prepare me well for clinical practice.”

– Mikael Lagwinski, M.D.
2002 Graduate
Residency: Summa Health System, Akron, Ohio
Affiliate: Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine (NEOUCOM)
Lawrence T. Kent, M.D.  
*Clinical Professor*

**Special interests:** Internal medicine, rheumatology

Charles J. Malemud, Ph.D.  
*Professor, Associate Director of Rheumatology Fellowship Training*

**Research interests:** Basic and clinical research – Induction of chondrocyte apoptosis, role of growth hormone/IGF-1 in rheumatic diseases, anti-TNF inhibitors, tissue engineering, ODYSA Investigator and study coordinator for rheumatology component

M. Edward Medof, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.P.  
*Professor, Departments of Pathology and Medicine; Professor of Ophthalmology and Professor of General Medical Sciences (Ireland Cancer Center)*

**Research interests:** Basic research – Molecular biology of complement and decay acceleration factor (DAF)

**Other interests:** General rheumatology/internal medicine; special expertise in connective tissue diseases and immunology

Mathilde (Mattie) Pioro, M.D.  
*Assistant Professor, Rheumatology Section Director, Cleveland VAMC*

**Research interest:** Pain management, rheumatology physical exam skills

Elizabeth Roter, M.D.  
*Senior Clinical Instructor*

**Special interests:** Reactive arthritis, seronegative arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis

Lisabeth Scalzi, M.D.  
*Assistant Professor, Departments of Pediatrics and Medicine*

**Research interest:** Clinical research – Cardiovascular disease in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)

**Other interests:** SLE: Adult and pediatric rheumatology

Michael G. Sheahan, M.D.  
*Clinical Professor*

**Special interests:** Internal medicine, general rheumatology

Nora G. Singer, M.D.  
*Associate Professor, Departments of Pediatrics and Medicine*

**Research interests:** Basic and clinical research – Tissue-specific autoimmunity; translational research; use of DMARDs in juvenile rheumatic diseases therapy

Co-Chair, Musculoskeletal and Integument Committee, Case School of Medicine

**Other interests:** Adult and pediatric rheumatology

Johnny G. Su, M.D.  
*Assistant Professor, Coordinator of Rheumatology Fellowship Selection*

**Research interests:** Health services and outcomes research, osteoporosis

M.S., Clinical Investigation, Candidate 2008

Van D. Warren, M.D.  
*Assistant Professor*

**Research interest:** ODYSA investigator

**Other interests:** Clinician educator

Terry Wolpaw, M.D.  
*Associate Professor, Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs, Case School of Medicine*

**Research interest:** Learner-centered methods for medical education

Roland W. Moskowitz, M.D.  
*Professor and Former Division Chief*

Paul Vignos, M.D.  
*Professor Emeritus and Former Division Chief*
CLEVELAND AT A GLANCE
Population: More than 2.25 million in the Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor combined Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) – Census, 2000

CULTURE
- The Cleveland Orchestra – One of the finest in the world; one of America’s “Big 5” orchestras; housed at Severance Hall.*
- The Cleveland Museum of Art – A renowned art museum that is undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation.*
- Playhouse Square Center – The nation’s second-largest theater complex, second only to New York City’s Lincoln Center; hosts Broadway musicals, concerts, shows, the Cleveland Opera and the Great Lakes Theater Festival.
- The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum – The I.M. Pei-designed structure houses some history of rock and roll in the city where “Rock and Roll” was coined and first promoted as a music genre.
- The Crawford Automotive-Aviation Museum*
- The Western Reserve Historical Society*
- The Cleveland Botanical Gardens*
*Within walking distance from Case & UHC

SPORTS
- NFL – Cleveland Browns – AFC North; Cleveland Browns Stadium (home of the “Dawg Pound”)
- MLB – Cleveland Indians – American League, Central Division; Jacobs Field (“The Jake”)

RECREATION
- Hike, bike, picnic, golf, toboggan or more in the 20,000-acre Greater Cleveland Area Metroparks nature preserves, dubbed the “Emerald Necklace.”
- Visit the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, home of the Center for Zoological Medicine
- Enjoy the Cleveland National Air Show – one of the oldest air shows in the country
- Ride roller-coasters and more at Geauga Lake Amusement Park in Aurora, Ohio, or Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio
- Ride roller-coasters and more at Geauga Lake Amusement Park in Aurora, Ohio, or Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio
- Ski in Cleveland: Choose from Boston Mills-Brandywine and Alpine Valley slopes
- Stroll along the Lake Erie shoreline, complete with campgrounds, wineries and caves
- Entertain in the Warehouse District, Tremont, Coventry, Ohio City and more

LIVING:
- Affordable housing
- UHC is just a walk, drive or bike ride away from Shaker Heights, Cleveland Heights and University Heights
- There is a park within five miles of every Greater Cleveland home
- Leading hospitals, banks and law firms are centered in Cleveland

ADVANTAGE CLEVELAND

Enjoy the best Cleveland has to offer during your Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine/University Hospitals of Cleveland Fellowship, in the heart of University Circle – a 550-acre concentration of arts, culture and education.

The “Forest City”/“C-Town”/“The City of Bridges” offers affordable living, a wealth of cultural activities, world-class dining and a vast array of recreational opportunities and has been voted one of the country’s most livable cities!
“I picked this program because I had friends who went through it and highly recommended it. My husband and our friends always find fun things to do around here. I look forward to settling down in Cleveland.”

– Nikita Hegde, M.D.
2007 Graduate
**Residency:** Summa Health System, Akron, Ohio
**Affiliate:** NEUCOM
“My rheumatology experience at University Hospitals of Cleveland has exceeded my expectations of what a fellowship training program should encompass. The pathology is diverse and exciting, and the interaction between fellows and faculty is invigorating.”

– Carlos Zevallos, Jr., D.O.
2006 Graduate

Residency: Summa Health System, Akron, Ohio
Affiliate: NEOUCOM