Rheumatology

DIVISIONAL OVERVIEW
The Division of Rheumatology provides comprehensive care for children with rheumatic diseases. The ambulatory clinics have approximately 5,000 patient visits per year at The Hospital for Sick Children and Bloorview Kids Rehab sites and the outreach clinic in Sudbury. In addition to the general rheumatology clinics, there are unique multidisciplinary subspecialty clinics for children with dermatomyositis, morphea, systemic JIA and systemic lupus erythematosus. A new clinic for children with central nervous system vasculitis has been initiated. The division makes extensive use of the medical day care unit, where children receive joint injections under anaesthesia, therapeutic infusions or undergo investigations which would otherwise require inpatient admission. An increasing number of children have benefited from treatment with biologic agents on the medical day care unit.

The Division of Rheumatology has the largest paediatric rheumatology fellowship training program in North America and is fully accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. This academic year, our fellows originated from Czechoslovakia, Israel, Turkey, India and Canada. Paediatric Rheumatology graduates have done extremely well in obtaining academic placements across Canada and around the world and trainees have been productive in the research arena.

Research foci include the development of trial design for the study of rare diseases, outcome, prognosis and treatment studies in juvenile arthritis, SLE, neonatal lupus, scleroderma, dermatomyositis and vasculitis. Basic research focuses on the immunopathogenesis of Kawasaki disease using an animal model.

Dr. Susanne Benseler was appointed as a full-time faculty member in the Division of Rheumatology. Dr. Benseler is a clinician-investigator with a major research interest in central nervous system vasculitis.

The Paediatric Rheumatology Training Program had an extremely positive review by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Accreditation team and was recommended full approval for the next six years.

Division Head
Dr. Rayfel Schneider

Full-Time
Dr. Susanne Benseler
Dr. Brian Feldman
Dr. Ronald Laxer
Dr. Shirley Tse
Dr. Rae Yeung

Major Part-Time
Dr. Earl Silverman
Dr. Lynn Spiegel

Part-Time
Dr. Bonnie Cameron

Cross Appointees
Dr. Vivian Bykerk
Dr. Hans-Michael Dosch
Dr. Paul Fortin

Clinical Fellows
Dr. Yonatan Butbul
Dr. Serdar Cantez
Dr. Linda Hiraki
Dr. Roman Jurencak
Dr. Sathish Kumar
Dr. Heinrike Schmeling
Dr. Elizabeth Stringer

Administrative Staff
Sandra Bergeron
Shona Magee
Roseanne Richard
HONOURS AND AWARDS
Feldman B: Canada Research Chair in Childhood Arthritis, Tier II, 2007.
Feldman B: Department of Paediatrics Research Achievement Award, June 2007
Feldman B: Winner of the Arthritis Foundation (Alabama Chapter) Outstanding Speaker Award for Rheumatology on the Beach, 2007.
Silverman E: Advisor, Arthritis Panel, U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
Tse S: Promoted to Program Director in the Division of Rheumatology.
Stringer E: Tied for third place at the May 2007 Department of Paediatrics Annual Research Day for her Oral Presentation: Predicting the disease course of juvenile dermatomyositis – significance of early and clinical laboratory features.
Stringer E: Winner of the Canadian Rheumatology Association Paediatric Research Prize.
Stringer E: Runner up for the Department of Paediatrics 2007 CanMeds Award.
Tyrrell P: IMS, PhD candidate at the University of Toronto under the supervision of Dr. Earl Silverman, was one of six finalists in the University of Toronto, Institute of Medical Science Annual Laidlaw Manuscript Competition. The title of his presentation was Atherosclerosis & lipid abnormalities in paediatric systemic lupus erythematosus.

PUBLICATIONS


BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS


FUNDING
