University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville
Rheumatology Fellowship Program
Overall Educational Goals

## MISSION OF THE PROGRAM

The mission of this rheumatology fellowship training program is to produce physicians that: (1) are competent to act as consultants in the field of rheumatology, (2) are capable of working in a variety of settings, (3) possess habits of life-long learning to build upon their knowledge, skills and professionalism.

## COMPETENCY-BASED GOALS

### Patient care:

Fellows must be able to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.
Fellows will be able to develop and carry out patient management plans by making informed decisions on diagnostic and therapeutic interventions, counseling and educating patients and their families, and preventing health problems or maintaining health based on patient information and preferences, up-to-date scientific evidence, and clinical judgment with special attention to the following illnesses or conditions:

PGY 4

- Antiphospholipid syndrome
- Axial syndromes
- Crystal-associated diseases
- Degenerative joint disease
- Endocrine-associated rheumatic syndromes
- Entrapment neuropathies
- Fibromyalgia
- Hematologic-associated rheumatic syndromes
- Infectious arthritides: gonococcal & non-gonococcal
- Inflammatory myopathies
- Large vessel vasculitides: giant cell (temporal) arteritis, Takayasu's arteritis
- Lupus erythematosus
- Medium vessel vasculitides: polyarteritis nodosa, Kawasaki's disease, Buerger's disease
- Metabolic bone diseases
- Occupational/sports-related overuse syndromes
- Osteoarthritis
- Osteomyelitis
- Other systemic connective tissue dieseases: Behcet's syndrome, adult-onset Still's disease, familial Mediterranean fever
- Polymyalgia rheumatica
- Regional musculoskeletal disorders: bursitis, tendonitis, or enthesitis; other disorders occurring around each joint
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Scleroderma
- Seronegative spondyloarthritides: ankylosing spondylitis, reactive arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, enteropathic arthritis

- Small vessel vasculitides: Wegener's granulomatosis, Churg-Strauss syndrome, microscopic polyangiitis, Henoch-Schonlein purpura, essential cryoglobulinemia vasculitis, cutaneous leukocytoclastic vasculitis
- Sports medicine: injuries, sprains, strains

PGY 5

- Advanced pharmacotherapeutics – tailor therapeutic regimens according to patient co-morbidities, manage severe side effects of therapeutic agents.
- Basic Pediatric Rheumatology – eg Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis, Kawasaki Disease, macrophage activation syndrome
- Cardiovascular co-morbidities of rheumatic diseases eg RA, SLE, Spondyloarthropathy
- Organ complications of systemic rheumatic syndromes eg SLE, Scleroderma
- Rheumatologic Emergencies – evaluating acute organ failure and managing differential diagnoses

Also, fellows must competently perform and interpret the results of all diagnostic and therapeutic medical and invasive procedures considered essential (joint arthrocentesis and synovial fluid examination) after obtaining informed consent, with confidence and minimal discomfort to patients.

Medical Knowledge

Fellows must demonstrate knowledge about established and evolving biomedical, clinical, and cognate (e.g. epidemiological and social-behavioral) sciences and the application of this knowledge to patient care. They must demonstrate an investigatory and analytical thinking approach to clinical situations. They must know and apply the basic and clinical supportive sciences applicable to Rheumatology with special attention to:

PGY 4

- Synovial fluid analysis
- Acute phase reactants, including ESR, CRP
- Pharmacology of NSAIDs
- Pharmacology of hypouricemic drugs
- Immunologic basis of Rheumatologic disease
- Autoantibody testing & interpretation
- Diagnostic imaging techniques
- Pharmacology of glucocorticoids
- Pharmacology of disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs

PGY 5

- HLA typing
- Assays for complement activity
- Pharmacology of cytotoxic drugs
- Pharmacology of immunomodulating drugs
- Basic Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

Interpersonal and Communications skills

Fellows must communicate effectively and demonstrate caring and respectful behaviors when interacting with patients and their families. Fellows should be fully competent at:

PGY 4

- Delivering diagnoses, prognoses, and treatment options.
- Explaining rationale for and results of diagnostic laboratory and imaging tests.

PGY 5

- Demonstrating the ability to write consultations and letters to referring physicians.
- Demonstrating the ability to present cases and literature reviews to peers in conference type of setting.
- Effectively communicate with nurses, Physiatrists, Orthopedists, physical therapists, and occupational therapists to provide care for the Rheumatology patient.

Professionalism

Fellows must work effectively with other health care professionals including those from other disciplines, to provide patient-focused care.

PGY 4

- Demonstrate humanistic qualities and altruism
- Demonstrate ethical behavior

PGY 5

- Understand the roles of nurses, Physiatrists, Orthopedists, physical therapists, and occupational therapists.
- Demonstrate accountability and responsibility

Systems-based practice

Fellows must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system health care as well as the ability to call effectively on other resources in the system to provide optimal health care.

PGY 4

- Demonstrate an understanding of, and the ability to access and utilize the resources, providers, and systems necessary to provide optimal care.
- Advocate for patients, including assisting with disability, completing preauthorization documents for the use of certain medications, and appealing to insurance carriers regarding denial of authorization for high-cost immunomodulatory drugs.

PGY 5

- Collaborate with other members of the health care team to assist patients in dealing effectively with complex systems and to improve systematic processes of care.
- Demonstrate the ability to use cost-conscious strategies, which are evidence-based in prevention, diagnosis, and disease management (eg: screening for osteoporosis)

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Fellows must be able to investigate and evaluate their patient care practices, appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and improve their patient care practices.

Fellows are expected to:

- identify and improve deficiencies in one's knowledge, skills and attitudes in the care of the patient with rheumatic disease.
- demonstrate strategies for correcting deficiencies in one's knowledge, skills and attitudes in the care of the patient with rheumatic disease.
- access and critically evaluate current medical information and scientific evidence relevant to patients' medical illnesses.
- analyze outcomes of patients cared for by the Rheumatology consult service and identify areas of practice strength and improvement through systematic methodology
- obtain and use information about their own population of patients and the larger population from which their patients are drawn
- apply knowledge of study designs and statistical methods to the appraisal of clinical studies and other information on diagnostic and therapeutic effectiveness
- use information technology to manage information, access on-line medical information; and support their own education
- facilitate the learning of students and other health care professionals

Fellows will be expected to use an improvement project to foster and assess practice-based learning and improvement.

### Methods of achieving objectives

- Direct patient care under the supervising attending on each rotation.
- Didactic (teaching) sessions with the attending physician.
- Self-study using any one of several recommended basic textbooks of clinical Rheumatology
- Select handouts and journal articles on pertinent topics.
- Core conference series.
- Electronic databases and computerized resources (UF databases, Up To Date).

### Assessment tools

- Global assessment
- Multisource assessment
- In-training examination
- Direct observation
- Rheumatology MKSAP questions
- Faculty –based quizzes
- ACR questions

### Evaluation process

- Goals and Objectives will be reviewed with the fellow at the beginning of each rotation.
- Verbal feedback throughout and at the completion of the rotation from the attending.
- Evaluation form completed by the attending at the conclusion of the rotation, and reviewed with the fellow.
- 360-degree evaluation.
- Evaluation submitted to the Administrative Office for review by the PD.