Introduction

The Division of Rheumatology of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, under the directorship of Dr. Chaim Putterman, offers a two or three year ACGME-approved fellowship program that provides comprehensive training in clinical and investigative Rheumatology and related areas of basic science research. The third year of training is available for those fellows interested in a more intensive research experience. Currently two fellows are admitted to the program each year. The goal of the program is to prepare Rheumatologists for careers in clinical practice and/or investigative Rheumatology. We aim to produce physicians who 1) are clinically competent Rheumatologists, 2) are capable of working in a variety of settings, 3) possess habits of life-long learning that enable them to build upon their knowledge, skills and professionalism, 4) are capable of teaching the principles of clinical Rheumatology to primary care physicians and medical house officers, and 5) have the option to acquire a basic investigative experience in preparation for a career in independent scientific research.

The program covers four hospitals with varying types of patient populations. The East Campus includes the Bronx Municipal Hospital Center (City) and the Weiler Hospital of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (Private and Service). The West Campus includes Montefiore Hospital (Private and Service) and North Central Bronx Hospital (City). Over 5000 outpatient visits are recorded annually at the adult arthritis clinics of these hospitals. Children with rheumatic diseases are seen on the consultation services at all four hospitals. Clinical research is conducted on both campuses, and the basic research laboratories are situated at the College of Medicine on the East Campus where faculty have access to multiple shared facilities and students from the MD PhD program and the Graduate program.

The first year of the program is devoted to clinical training, with six months spent at each of the campuses and weekly Grand rounds that includes all fellows and faculty from both campuses. The aim of the educational program for this year is to provide the groundwork for a firm understanding of the principles of clinical Rheumatology. The training period includes various teaching methods including didactics, clinical and basic science, small group and individual instruction on the wards and in clinic and discussion of research methods in twice-weekly journal clubs. These sessions include case presentations, case-based topic reviews by the fellows and pathology conferences. Invited speakers give Grand Rounds once weekly on topics of clinical or basic science interest. An orientation course runs during the first three months of each academic year. It serves to cover basic concepts in immunology, muscle, connective tissue and bone biology, and an overview of rheumatic disease.

First year fellows attend four clinics per week, three of which are continuity clinics (including a specialized SLE clinic at Montefiore Hospital) and one of which is a triage clinic that provides an initial evaluation of individuals with musculoskeletal complaints. They also provide an inpatient consultation service and supervise residents and students rotating through the Rheumatology service on elective. In-patient rounds take place several times weekly. Some fellows have elected to obtain additional training in Pediatrics from Dr. Norman Ilowite at our affiliate Long Island Jewish Hospital.

The second year of the training program is largely devoted to a clinical or basic research project intended to provide the fellow with an opportunity to explore a particular area of clinical or basic scientific interest in depth under the close supervision of a full-time faculty member. Second-year fellows continue to participate in the Lupus clinic and a single Arthritis clinic per week, as well as conferences of the Division. Fellows have the opportunity to attend the national ACR meeting and to take the Advanced Rheumatology Course offered by New York University during the second year.

The faculty involved in the training program currently includes 8 full-time members (4 Professors, 1 Associate Professor, 3 Assistant Professors). Most of the faculty is based at the East Campus but supervise fellows at the West campus in the capacity of Clinic Attending or Attending of the month. Additional voluntary faculty Rheumatologists in private practice bring their clinical expertise to the teaching program on both campuses. Each Arthritis clinic has at least two attending physicians and all clinics have dedicated preceptors each week. Fellows present each case to the preceptor and discuss differential diagnosis and/or management. Clinical competencies are evaluated according to ACGME requirements and each fellow performs 4 observed patient interviews per year.

A clinical research program has been in existence in SLE for several years. There is a well-established serum bank for use in research studies by the members of the division.
There is a very strong basic research component to the program with 4 independent physician-scientist investigators (Drs. Peeva, Hardin, Porcelli and Putterman) who all have appointments in Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Medical School. Most of the second year fellows elect to do a laboratory year and some proceed to a third year. The program is capable of training basic scientists and has established a successful mentoring program that allows progression to independence.

There is a strong emphasis on education and fellows act as team leaders for residents and medical students. In the last 5 years two of our fellows have elected to become Physician Educators at community hospitals.

**Additional Information**

1. **Patient population**

The patient population encountered by the fellows during their training is very diverse and they are exposed to Private Practice as well as to Hospital Clinic settings. Over 200 active patients with SLE are followed in the Lupus Clinic at Montefiore Hospital and about 100 in the Jacobi Hospital Arthritis Clinic. Fellows acquire extensive experience in dealing with the full gamut of disease manifestations. The Arthritis Clinics expose the fellows to a broad range of Rheumatic Diseases and the triage clinic exposes them to acute musculoskeletal problems and soft tissue problems referred from the primary care clinics. Pediatric patients are seen either in clinic or in the hospitals on a consultation basis. Approximately 60-80% of the patients are from minorities, either Hispanic or African-American.

2. **Procedures**

Fellows learn joint aspiration and soft tissue injection techniques from faculty and senior fellows and most of the second year fellows attend a soft tissue injection clinic run by the Rehabilitation Department for at least 4-5 sessions. Second year fellows also gain experience in bone radiology and in osteoporosis screening from the Bone Radiologists and from the Bone Densitometry screening service.

3. **Current Full-time Faculty**

**Dr. Chaim Putterman**  
Associate Professor  
Chief, Division of Rheumatology

Dr. Putterman is the Director of the Rheumatology Division, and is responsible for overall administration of the Division.

Dr. Putterman is Jacobi Hospital Arthritis Attending 1 month per year. He is the Director of the West Campus Arthritis Clinic. He teaches at the Fellow Orientation Course and the Medical Student Rheumatology Course. He also supervises fellows in his laboratory. See link for additional information about Dr. Putterman’s research activities.

**Dr. Harold D. Keiser**  
East Campus  
Professor

Dr. Keiser is Arthritis Attending at Jacobi Hospital 3 months per year. He sees patients at the East Campus biweekly at the Joint Pain and the Arthritis Clinics on Mondays and Thursdays. He lectures at the Fellow Orientation Course and at the Medical Student Rheumatology Course. He is responsible for all consultations at Weiler Hospital and makes rounds at Weiler with the East Campus Fellow twice per week. He attends all academic activities of the Division. He spends the rest of his time in Private Practice.

**Dr. Steven Porcelli**  
East Campus  
Professor

Dr. Porcelli is Jacobi Hospital Arthritis Attending 1 month per year. He teaches at the Fellow Orientation Course and at the Medical Student Rheumatology course. He is an Irene Diamond Fellow in Immunology and spends the rest of his time in basic research. See link for additional information about Dr. Porcelli’s research...
Dr. Peter Barland
West Campus
Professor
Dr. Peter Barland is a former Rheumatology Division Chief at Montefiore, and has been in the faculty for many years. He is a clinic educator base at the West Campus. Dr. Barland also is the Director of the Immunodiagnostic laboratory.

Dr. Elena Peeva
East Campus
Assistant Professor
Dr. Peeva is Montefiore Arthritis Attending one month per year. She runs the Fellow Orientation Course, and is Director of the Montefiore Tuesday Arthritis Clinic. She is an independent investigator in the Division, with a focus on basic and transitional research in SLE.

Dr. John Hardin
East Campus
Professor
Dr. Hardin joined our Division full-time as of January 2003. After several years in administration, Dr. Hardin has resumed laboratory research and is participating as Attending at the Jacobi Campus and at the Jacobi Clinics.

Dr. Clement Tagoe
West Campus
Assistant Professor
Dr. Clement Tagoe is a full time clinic educator based in the West Campus. He works as a rheumatologist in the faculty practice, and supervises fellows at Montefiore Hospital.

Dr. Hong Xu
West Campus
Assistant Professor
Dr. Hong Xu is a recent graduate of the Rheumatology fellowship program at the NIH. She is a full time clinic educator based at Jacobi Hospital, and sees patients at NCB as well.

The Division has a ratio of 3 faculty per fellow.

4. Research Projects for second and third year fellows:


Please see under description of individual faculty members (Dr. Meggan Mackay and Dr. Cindy Aranow), and clinical trial protocols.

b. Basic Science Projects
Fellows are encouraged to undertake a basic science project during the second and optional third or more years of fellowship. In addition to the faculty in the Division of Rheumatology who direct active basic science research laboratories, the Albert Einstein College of Medicine has a large group of faculty with primary appointments in the basic science departments who are ready to accept rheumatology fellows as trainees in their laboratories. The College of Medicine has been awarded an NIH-funded program grant in autoimmunity and has training grants in geriatrics and immunoncology. Fellows who are interested in research training as preparation for a career in academic medicine are generally expected to commit themselves to spend at least two years in the basic science laboratory setting of their choice.

Please see description of faculty interests and publications under the following individual faculty members: Dr. Peeva, Dr. Putterman, Dr. Porcelli, Dr. Hardin.

c. Additional Basic Science Faculty

This is a partial list of faculty members in the basic science departments who have interests related to the rheumatic diseases:

- Dr. Joan W. Berman (Pathology)
- Dr. Barbara K. Birshtein (Cell Biology)
- Dr. Harris Goldstein (Pediatrics and Microbiology & Immunology)
- Dr. Stanley G. Nathenson (Microbiology & Immunology)
- Dr. David L. Rosenstreich (Medicine and Microbiology & Immunology)
- Dr. Matthew D. Scharff (Medicine and Cell Biology)

Recent Publications by Fellows


Li, M., Keiser, H., Peeva, E. Hyperprolactinemia in SLE patients (in revision), 2005.
Li, M., Hardin, J., Zee, S. Leukocytoclastic vasculitis and arthritis as predominating symptoms of ulcerative colitis (in preparation), 2005.

Hojaili, B., Barland, P. Trigeminal neuralgia as as the first manifestation of mixed connective tissue disorder: case report and review of literature (submitted), 2005.


6. Recent Fellows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fellows</th>
<th>Residency</th>
<th>Currently</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Allison Beitler</td>
<td>Montefiore</td>
<td>Private Practice Arthritis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David Kadmon</td>
<td>Montefiore</td>
<td>Center of Rhode Island</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Yelena Chuzhin</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>St. Barnabas Ambulatory</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meggan Mackay</td>
<td>NY Medical</td>
<td>Care Center, Jacobi</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Elena Peeva</td>
<td>SUNY, Stonybrook</td>
<td>Faculty, AECOM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Irene Tan</td>
<td>MMC</td>
<td>Faculty, Queens</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Iftikar Chowdhry</td>
<td>Cabrini Med. Ctr.</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Erik Beger</td>
<td>Carney Hospital</td>
<td>Northwest, Private Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Juan Lichauco</td>
<td>Englewood Med Ctr.</td>
<td>Private Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jayashree Sinha</td>
<td>LI Col. Hosp., Bklyn</td>
<td>Private Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Nazia Hussain</td>
<td>Beth Israel Med Ctr.</td>
<td>Private Practice Seacoast</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sonita Estrada</td>
<td>Montefiore Med. Ctr.</td>
<td>Arthritis &amp; Osteoporosis Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Konstantine Konstantinov</td>
<td>Jacobi Medical Ctr.</td>
<td>2nd year fellow</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Antar</td>
<td>Prince George,</td>
<td>2nd year fellow Maple Medical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Affiliation</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Elena Weinstein  MD</td>
<td>Emory Univ, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aly Cohen, John Gomez</td>
<td>Beth Israel, NY Jacobi Medical Ctr.</td>
<td>Atlantic Coast Rheumatology Beebe Medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Margaret Li</td>
<td>Stony Brook School of Medicine</td>
<td>Kaiser Permanente</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anju Varghese</td>
<td>Mt. Sinai School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Liliane Min</td>
<td>Temple University Medical Center, PA</td>
<td>2nd year fellow</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bernard Hojaili</td>
<td>Staten Island University Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Manuela Marinescu</td>
<td>North Shore University Hospital, Forest Hills NY</td>
<td>1st year fellow</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mohammad Kamran</td>
<td>Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Benjamin Levine</td>
<td>UMDNJ New Jersey Medical School</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Maryann Lee</td>
<td>UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson University</td>
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**Application Procedure**

For the fellowship beginning July 2006, we will be participating in the ERAS fellowship match. For more information about ERAS and the match, see [http://www.aamc.org/audienceeras.htm](http://www.aamc.org/audienceeras.htm), [http://www.nrmp.org](http://www.nrmp.org) and the PDF file.

Selected applicants will be asked to visit the training sites and interview with current fellows and faculty members of the Division.

**Inquiries and applications should be directed to:**
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Email: putterma@aeom.yu.edu