I. **Course Objectives:**

The student will be taught how to examine and evaluate pediatric patients with collagen vascular disease. The focus will be on the importance of detailed history and musculoskeletal examination in the diagnosis of connective tissue diseases. The elective will demonstrate the importance of continuity of care and a multidisciplinary approach in the case of chronic patients and enhance students’ ability to logically perform differential diagnosis. The student will be exposed to the physical findings in all major collagen vascular diseases including juvenile arthritis, lupus, dermatomyositis and scleroderma.

II. **Course Goals and Objectives** (based on ACGME competencies for resident education and modified for medical student education.)

*Patient Care*

Students, together with supervising faculty, must be able to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and promotion of continuity of care.

**Objectives:** Students are expected to

- Evaluate their own patients and be responsible for these patients at a level commensurate with their training.
- Collect, assemble and interpret relevant history and physical findings.
- Present the above information to the attending in an oral presentation for dictation by the attending physician.
- Make informed recommendations about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions based on patient information.
• Counsel and educate patients and families about the disease process, further evaluation and therapy
• Provide health care services aimed at preventing health problems or maintaining health. Discuss importance of compliance and follow-up.
• Work with health care professionals, including those from other disciplines such as occupational therapy and physical therapy to provide patient-focused care.

**Medical Knowledge**

Students must become familiar with the major rheumatologic diagnoses requiring subspecialty care, which promote the development of clinical problem-solving skills.

**Objectives:** Students are expected to

- Demonstrate knowledge that would allow for independent assessment and appropriate problem solving skills of outpatient pediatric rheumatology patients.
- Demonstrate knowledge in the management of inpatients with common rheumatic diseases. *For Example:* juvenile idiopathic arthritis, dermatomyositis, systemic lupus, scleroderma

**Practice-Base Learning and Improvement**

Students must be able to assimilate scientific evidence to improve their patient care practices.

**Objectives:** Students are expected to

- Demonstrate proper evidence based decisions.
- Demonstrate appropriate use of educational resources for self-education, including medical literature and on-line medical information.

**Interpersonal and Communication Skills**

Students must be able to demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective information exchange with healthcare professionals and families.

**Objectives:** Students are expected to

- Give case presentations in a clear, concise, organized and relevant manner.
- Communicate appropriate information to the family (and patient) concerning management.
- Be an integral member of the medical care team and exchange information effectively with other health care professionals.

**Professionalism**
Students must demonstrate attitudes and professional behavior appropriate for clinical practice, which encompass professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles and sensitivity to diverse patient populations.

Objectives: Students are expected to demonstrate

- Accurate representation of data
- Ethically sound decisions
- Professional appearance
- Attendance at clinics and conferences on time
- Respect for patients’ confidentiality
- Mature behavior
- Sensitivity to culture, genders and disabilities

IV. Method of Instruction:

A) Didactic (schedule, topic, faculty)

Attendance at the weekly Pediatric Rheumatology Team Conference meeting and weekly Rheumatology Grand Rounds are required. These meetings include journal clubs, guest speakers and presentations by rheumatology attendings/fellows on topics pertinent to the field.

A notebook of pediatric rheumatology curriculum is provided for each student. This notebook includes recent review articles on all major collagen vascular diseases as well as information on the differential diagnosis of arthritis in children and physical examination of collagen vascular disease patients. This curriculum is evaluated and revised on an annual basis.

B) Clinical

Students attend three all day Arthritis Clinics at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Students attend clinic at Children’s Medical Center on Thursday from 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM. An additional clinic for adult patients is held at Parkland Hospital on Tuesdays from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm and is optional.

Student responsibilities

Students are expected to attend all clinics and the weekly conference. The student will be assigned a patient load appropriate for prior experience and report directly to the attending rheumatologists. The student will also present a brief conference (15-30") on a rheumatologic topic approved by the course director at the end of the rotation.
V. Method of Evaluation of Students:

Overall performance in the clinic and assessment of the students presentation are discussed on an individual basis at the conclusion of the rotation. Students are given the opportunity to offer suggestions for improvement in the course structure and content. Formal evaluations of the course will also be provided.