

## **Division Introduction**

Under the direction of Division Chief Tracey B. Wright, M.D., the Division of Pediatric Rheumatology at UT Southwestern Medical Center remains the major center for pediatric rheumatology in North Texas. The faculty, fellows, and clinical and administrative staff are committed to excellence in clinical care, transformative research, and quality education with the following mission:



**Tracey B. Wright, MD**  
**Associate Professor**  
**Division Chief**

- We provide outstanding care for children with rheumatic disease.
- We foster the inquiry and discovery of new knowledge to advance our field and improve outcomes for all children with rheumatic disease.
- We develop the next generation of leaders in Pediatric Rheumatology.
- We advocate for children with rheumatic disease with compassion to improve patient outcomes and to ensure all have access to the best care.

The Division maintains a busy clinical practice spanning three locations: Scottish Rite Hospital for Children Dallas, Scottish Rite Hospital for Children Frisco, and Children’s Medical Center Dallas. The Division operates the largest and longest established multispecialty clinic for children with rheumatic diseases in the region at Scottish Rite Hospital for Children Dallas. We serve a diverse patient population and have a broad referral base from throughout Texas and surrounding states. Faculty has a wide array of clinical and research interests, including juvenile idiopathic arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, juvenile dermatomyositis, and scleroderma.

The Division is actively involved in both translational and clinical research endeavors directed toward improving pathophysiologic understanding, treatment options, and outcomes in a variety of pediatric rheumatic diseases. Collaborative research with leading pediatric rheumatology translational scientists has garnered grant funding from the National Institutes of Health and most importantly, significantly improved the understanding of the pathophysiology of Systemic-Onset Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. The Division also participates in the Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance (CARRA), the investigator-led collaborative pediatric rheumatology research network.

Pediatric Rheumatology has a significant commitment to medical education, offering a rheumatology elective for pediatric residents and fourth-year medical students. The fellowship training program is one of only 37 ACGME-accredited programs for pediatric rheumatology; it has continuously trained fellows from all over the world for more than 30 years.

## Faculty

Currently the Division is comprised of 5 faculty members with diverse clinical and research interests, who provide care to patients with rheumatic disease, including inpatient, outpatient, and infusion services.



Tracy Wright, MD  
Associate Professor  
Division Chief



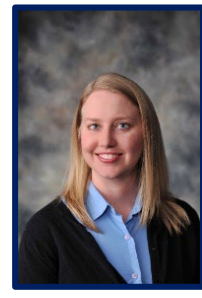
Julie Fuller, MD  
Assistant Professor



Lorien Nassi, MD  
Assistant Professor



Elizabeth Sloan, MD  
Instructor



Katie Stewart, MD  
Assistant Professor

One new faculty joined the Division in 2021.

### **Elizabeth Sloan, MD**

Instructor



#### **MD**

UT Southwestern, 2015

#### **Postdoctoral Training**

Residency, Pediatrics

UT Southwestern, 2015 – 2018

Fellowship, Pediatric Rheumatology

UT Southwestern, 2018 – 2021

#### **Interests:**

Antiphospholipid Syndrome, Lupus

## Honors / Awards

### **Best Doctors/Pediatric Specialists in Dallas, *D Magazine***

- Julie Fuller
- Lorien Nassi
- Katie Stewart
- Tracey Wright

### **Texas Super Doctors, Texas Monthly**

- Julie Fuller
- Katie Stewart

## Invited Lectures

### **Julie Fuller**

- Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Dallas, TX, April 2021
  - *“Schwartz Rounds: The Power of Sunshine”*
- One Case a Day Musculoskeletal Radiology, December 2021
  - *“Juvenile Arthritis for the Radiologist”*

### **Lorien Nassi**

- Pediatric Orthopedic Education Series Conference, Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Dallas, TX, February 2021
  - *“More than a + ANA- Initial Evaluation and When to Refer”*
- Oral Maxillofacial Surgery Grand Rounds, UT Southwestern Department of Oral Maxillofacial Surgery, Dallas, TX, April 2021
  - *“Juvenile Arthritis and other Rheumatic Conditions with OMFS Implications”*
- Texas Osteopathic Medical Association, Arlington, TX, June 2021
  - *“Juvenile Arthritis and Mimics”*

### **Tracey Wright**

- Virtual Lupus Summit, Lupus Foundation of America, Dallas, TX, September 2021
  - *“Pediatric Lupus”*

## Conference Presentations

### **American College of Rheumatology Convergence, Virtual, November 2021**

Ciosek A, Makris U, Kramer J, **Wright T**, Bitencourt N.

- Poster Presentation: *“Patient Activation and Health Literacy in the Pediatric to Adult Transition in Juvenile Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: Patient and Health Care Team Perspectives”*

## Education and Training

The Division of Pediatric Rheumatology has a significant commitment to medical education and is actively involved in teaching medical students and pediatric residents. In addition to its fully accredited Pediatric Rheumatology Fellowship Program, fellows from other Pediatric Divisions and other Departments have inpatient and outpatient experiences in Rheumatology. Faculty educational activities include educational seminars for other community physicians, advanced practice providers, nurses, and other allied health professionals.

## Medical Students

Third-year medical students rotate through the Rheumatology clinic during their Ambulatory Care rotation, and an elective is available for second-, third-, and fourth-year students. Students learn to:

- Develop a working differential diagnosis of arthritis in childhood
- Learn a complete joint examination and the physical evaluation of rheumatologic patients
- Evaluate patients from all major rheumatic disease categories

## Residents

The Division provides the major instruction to pediatric residents in the evaluation of the musculoskeletal system and assessment of the rheumatic diseases through direct teaching in regular departmental clinical conferences, and as part of the inpatient consultation service. A rheumatology elective is available for pediatric residents with the following objectives:

- Learn to diagnose and understand the pathophysiology, natural history, prognosis and current management concepts of common rheumatic diseases in children.
- Interpret standard laboratory testing to recognize and assess the severity and chronicity of systemic inflammation and understand significance of autoantibody testing; and
- Gain experience in the management and coordination of care of the medically complex patient with rheumatic disease.

## Fellows

The Division of Pediatric Rheumatology at UT Southwestern has one of only 37 ACGME-accredited fellowship training programs in pediatric rheumatology in the United States. The Fellowship Program, directed by Dr. Tracey Wright, provides comprehensive training and seeks to train the future leaders in pediatric rheumatology with the following aims:

- To provide rigorous and diverse clinical training for fellows to develop sophistication in the diagnosis and management of children with rheumatic disease
- To mentor and support fellows as they pursue hypothesis-driven clinical, translational, and basic research that advances knowledge in pediatric rheumatology
- To prepare fellows to possess habits of life-long learning to build upon their knowledge, skills and professionalism, and to become leaders in pediatric rheumatology
- To develop compassionate advocates for children with rheumatic disease

In the first year of fellowship, emphasis is on the acquisition of knowledge and clinical skills in rheumatology. During the second and third years of training, fellows focus on the progress and completion of a clinical, translational, or basic science project, which meets the ABP requirements for scholarly activity. Program graduates secure positions in major academic institutions throughout the country with several holding key leadership positions including Division Chief, Fellowship Program Director, and University Diversity Officer.

Focused areas of research by the Division's current fellows include:

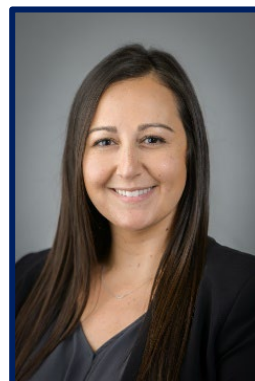
- Improving the transition of children and adolescents with rheumatic disease to adult care
- Impact of depression on academic outcomes in children with childhood-onset SLE
- Surveying adolescents with rheumatic disease for at risk behaviors



Maryem Al Manaa, MD  
3<sup>rd</sup> Year Fellow



Hannah Bradfield, MD  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year Fellow



Kristina Ciaglia, MD  
1<sup>st</sup> Year Fellow

## Research Activities

The Division is actively engaged in translational and clinical research to elucidate disease mechanisms and to improve the care for children with rheumatic disease. A large, diverse patient population has provided the ability to conduct studies in several areas, and faculty have been involved in multi-center studies in the pathogenesis and epidemiology of childhood rheumatic diseases. All Division faculty are members of the Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance (CARRA), an investigator-led collaborative pediatric rheumatology research network with a mission to conduct collaborative research to prevent, treat, and cure pediatric rheumatic diseases.

- **Dr. Julie Fuller** actively participates in a multi-center collaborative study with the NIH to study the natural history of calcinosis in Juvenile Dermatomyositis. She is also part of the CARRA Juvenile Dermatomyositis Telemedicine workgroup studying the evaluation and management of these patients using a virtual platform.
- **Dr. Lorien Nassi** directs the Division's quality improvement efforts, leading projects focused on adolescents with rheumatic disease. Current projects evaluate the identification of adolescents with rheumatic disease at risk for pregnancy, mental illness, or social barriers to health care and seek to improve the transition of children and adolescents with rheumatic disease to adult care.
- **Dr. Elizabeth Sloan** studies the impact of antiphospholipid antibodies (aPL) on global coagulopathy and the effect of aspirin therapy on attenuating aPL-induced hypercoagulability. Her work so far has identified clinical risk factors for the development of arterial and venous thrombosis in pediatric SLE patients with persistently positive aPL. She co-leads the CARRA SLE- Antiphospholipid Syndrome Workgroup.

- **Dr. Katie Stewart** is the Site Principal Investigator for the CARRA Registry, a multi-site observational registry whose goal is to understand the long-term outcomes and long- and short-term safety and effectiveness of the medications used to treat pediatric rheumatic disease. She has a specific interest in Juvenile Scleroderma and participates in a multi-site study through CARRA to identify immunophenotype subsets in Juvenile Scleroderma.
- **Dr. Tracey Wright** is the Principal Investigator for the Clinical and Sample Core of the NIAMS funded Center for Lupus Excellence, an integrated, cooperative center based at UT Southwestern Medical Center and Drukier Institute for Children’s Health at Weill Cornell Medicine. The goal of the CLR is to advance the knowledge of pathways and mechanisms that contribute to the development and amplification of human SLE, and to develop assays and tools to 1) monitor these dysfunctional pathways; and 2) stratify patients towards personalized therapies.

## Clinical Activities

The Division offers expert evaluation, counseling, and treatment in the broad array of rheumatic diseases found in children, including juvenile idiopathic arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, juvenile dermatomyositis, morphea/scleroderma, vasculitis, inflammatory uveitis, and autoinflammatory syndromes. Clinical services are offered at Scottish Rite Hospital for Children Dallas, Scottish Rite Hospital for Children Frisco, and Children's Medical Center Dallas. The Rheumatology Clinic at the Scottish Rite Hospital for Children Dallas campus is a multi-disciplinary clinic staffed by an attending rheumatologist, pediatric rheumatology fellows, and additional SRH staff including two pediatric rheumatology nurse practitioners, a psychologist, occupational and physical therapy, and Child Life. In 2021, between the three hospitals, Division faculty saw more than 6,946 outpatient visits in eighteen clinics per week. There were 1,800 new patient visits.

Services provided by UT Southwestern pediatric rheumatology physicians include:

- Evaluation and treatment of children with suspected rheumatic diseases
- Coordination of multi-disciplinary care with other Division and ancillary services
- Education about specific rheumatic conditions
- Psychosocial support

## Patient Statistics

Rheumatology Patient Visits per Location By Year:

<b>Scottish Rite Hospital Dallas</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Outpatient Visits	2,787	2,946	2,701	4,458
New Outpatient Visits	366	532	426	961
Infusions	469	735	502	587

<b>Scottish Rite Hospital Frisco</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Outpatient Visits	1,463	1,318	1,403
New Outpatient Visits	459	410	388
Infusions	152	263	262

<b>Children's Medical Center Dallas</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Outpatient Visits	1,651	1,022	892	1,085
New Outpatient Visits	427	378	306	451
Infusions	306	258	251	200

## Grant Support

### **Katie Stewart**

**Grantor:** Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance

**Title of Project:** Observational Study of Pediatric Rheumatic Diseases: The CARRA Registry

**Role:** Principal Investigator

**Dates:** 08/2015 – 07/2021

### **Tracey Wright**

**Grantor:** National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

**Title of Project:** Center for Lupus Research

**Role:** Principal Investigator

**Dates:** 09/2017 – 02/2022

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. Bitencourt N, Bermas BL, Makris UE, **Wright T**, Reisch J, Solow EB. [Clinical Team Perspectives on the Psychosocial Aspects of Transition to Adult Care for Patients with Childhood-Onset Systemic Lupus Erythematosus](#). *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)*. 2021 Jan;73(1):39-47. PMID: 32976698
2. **Sloan E, Wright T**, Zuo Y. [Identifying additional risk factors for arterial and venous thrombosis among pediatric antiphospholipid antibodies carriers](#). *Lupus*. 2021 Apr;30(5):828-832. PMID:33736541
3. Caielli S, Cardenas J, de Jesus AA, Baisch J, Walters L, Blanck JP, Balasubramanian P, Stagnar C, Ohouo M, Hong S, **Nassi L, Stewart K, Fuller J**, Gu J, Banchereau JF, **Wright T**, Goldbach-Mansky R, Pascual V. [Erythroid mitochondrial retention triggers myeloid-dependent type I interferon in human SLE](#). *Cell*. 2021 Aug 19;184(17):4464-4479.e19. PMID:34384544
4. Li SC, Higgins GC, Chen M, Torok KS, Rabinovich CE, **Stewart K**, Laxer RM, Pope E, Haines KA, Punaro M, O'Neil KM, Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance Localized Scleroderma Clinical and Ultrasound Study group.. [Extracutaneous involvement is common and associated with prolonged disease activity and greater impact in juvenile localized scleroderma](#). *Rheumatology (Oxford)*. 2021 Dec 1;60(12):5724-5733. PMID:33711155

## Non-peer reviewed publications and other media

1. Benham H, **Wright T.** [Overview of Pediatric Rheumatology: Part One.](#) *Physician Assistant Clinics.* 2021 Jan: 6(1) 177-191.
2. Benham H, **Wright T.** [Overview of Pediatric Rheumatology: Part Two.](#) *Physician Assistant Clinics.* 2021 Jan: 6(1) 193-207.
3. **Sloan E.** [“How Pediatric Rheumatologists Are Moving Lupus Research Forward.”](#), *The Rheumatologist*, 2021
4. **Sloan E.** [“The State of Clinical Science for Pediatric Rheumatology in 2021.”](#), *The Rheumatologist*, 2021
5. **Sloan E.** [“Pediatric Rheumatology Year in Review: Basic Science.”](#), *The Rheumatologist*, 2021