Division Spotlight: Pediatric Rheumatology

As many of you are aware, the Division of Rheumatology has grown from a division of one provider, and one nurse, Kareen Stanek, to 2 additional providers Dr. Emilina Lim and Natalie Gomez APRN, and a second nurse Ruth Johnson. Although Rheumatology remains one of the smallest divisions, we have taken this opportunity to expand our focus. This has primarily been in the area of amplified musculoskeletal pain based on Dr. Lim’s clinical interests. Through the hard work of Dr. Lim, Natalie, Ruth, and the wonderful support from behavioral health, occupational therapy, and physical therapy we have successfully initiated the multidisciplinary Amplified Musculoskeletal Pain (AMPS) clinic in July of this year. This clinic has already proven it provides a regional clinical need as wait times are already 2 months out. Given this initial rapid growth we will soon expand our clinic numbers. In addition, given the wide range of case presentations and degrees of severity we hope to obtain the resources necessary to expand to additional day-treatment and inpatient based programs. Given the overlap of chronic pain in the realm of other specialties like headaches, chronic abdominal pain, and other disorders we hope to provide a blueprint for other specialties to look into similar clinics devoted to chronic childhood pain.

In addition to the amplified musculoskeletal pain clinic, a large percentage of the Division’s recent growth has resulted from increasing requests to aid in the co-management of patients from other specialties such as neurology, ophthalmology, nephrology, and dermatology. Much of our aid is due to our experience with medications now used to treat various conditions within other fields of expertise. We will continue to offer assistance to these specialties and look forward to helping them as they gain comfort and confidence in ordering and managing the various immunosuppressive agents and biologics now becoming more standard in many of their diseases. This highlights the opportunity that may exist for dual specialty clinics in the future.

Finally, the Division of Rheumatology remains one of the most active in teaching residents, students, and fellows with 3-4 trainees on service at
any given time. We look forward to the upcoming planned curriculum change within the College of Medicine as we see this as an opportunity to expand the exposure of pediatric rheumatology earlier in the trainee educational experience. Our hope is that this early exposure will be an opportunity to increase the numbers of trainees interested in non-procedural specialties such as rheumatology.

Rheumatology Faculty and Staff

Faculty

- Adam Reinhardt, M.D.
  Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Clinical Service Chief
  Director, Undergraduate Medical Education
- Emilina Lim, M.D.
  Assistant Professor
  Director of Musculoskeletal Pain Program

Health Care Provider

- Natalie Gomez, APRN-NP

Health Care Staff

- Kareen Stanek, RN
- Ruth Johnson, RN

Administrative Staff

- Janet Edwardson, Clinical Secretary
- Sandra Love, Clinical Secretary

Rheumatology Clinics

Monday-Friday: Children's Hospital & Medical Center
1st-3rd Thursdays: Children's Specialty Pediatric Outreach Clinic Lincoln

Contact Numbers:
Children's Hospital & Medical Center: (402) 955-4070

Children's Specialty Pediatric Clinic Lincoln
4445 South 86th St.
Lincoln, NE 68526
(402) 486-1500

Pediatrics Writing Group

Each month a group holds an informal session to review and critique anything from abstracts for meetings to completed manuscripts. It is an opportunity to receive informal but highly constructive peer review prior to submission.
Works do not have to be complete products. We just reviewed a manuscript in September that was a first draft and nowhere near ready for submission, but gave the lead authors a chance to receive invaluable suggestions about how to better craft the discussion section prior to writing it.

All are welcome!

The group meets on the third Monday of the month at noon in University Tower Room 5151. Lunch is served as well.

If you're working on a poster, abstract, manuscript, or grant, consider bringing it to the Pediatrics Writing Group. You'll need to email it to Dr. Gary Beck at gbeck@unmc.edu by the second Monday of the month to get it out for review ahead of time.

Questions: Email Dr. Beck!