

## From the Division Head

### The 5 year mark

After more than 30 years as Division Head, Mart Mannik retired in 2001. With an experienced and talented Rheumatology Faculty, ably assisted by the Clinical Faculty in the Outpatient Clinics, the patient care and teaching missions have continued to be well served at the three UW affiliated Hospitals. Challenges have been to expand both the clinical and basic research programs. Carin Dugowson and Mark Wener have done a terrific job in establishing a clinical trials program that will provide many opportunities for clinical research. This year, the Division recruited David Martin as a junior faculty member in the physician/scientist pathway (see write up in this issue). In addition, we are fortunate in having a pool of rising stars at the level of Instructors and Acting Assistant Professors, as well as PhD scientists and Graduate Students, strengthen the basic science foundation within the Division. While there is much yet to be achieved, the Division is growing in a productive way to impact the future of Rheumatology.

### Keith Elkon, MD Head, Division of Rheumatology

### Grants

The Lupus Research Institute awarded **Keith Elkon, MD** a three year New Research Grant for "Novel Approaches to Lupus" award. Dr. Elkon will receive research support for his project "Two Step Model of Diffuse Neuropsychiatric Lupus". In addition, he received another five years of continued support for his competing application to the NIH on the project "Apoptotic Cells as Immunogens in SLE".

**David Martin, MD** was awarded the prestigious Howard Hughes Medical Institute Physician-Scientist Early Career Award. This award provides \$150,000 of research support over the next three years for a project on "Dendritic Cell Responses to Defective Apoptotic Cell Uptake".

## New Faculty

Our own **David Martin** was promoted to Assistant Professor of Medicine as of July 1, 2006. Dr. Martin completed his fellowship program here at the UW in June 2003.



During his MD program at the University of Rochester, NY, David spent 2 years as an HHMI-NIH scholar working with Dr. Michael J. Lenardo. His work at the NIH focused on understanding basic signaling mechanisms emanating from the Fas receptor during the process of programmed cell death.

He completed his residency at Duke University and was inspired by David Pisetsky to pursue a career in Rheumatology. He spent a year in the lab of Dr. Abul K. Abbas studying the role of RANK/RANK-L in T-lymphocyte signaling during his fellowship at UC San Francisco.

His current work is focused on understanding how tolerance to self is perturbed by the defective handling of endogenous nucleic acid by cells of the immune system. He is particularly interested in the role of dendritic cells, including both myeloid and plasmacytoid, in response to self nucleic acids, including DNA- and / or RNA-containing immune complexes as well as nucleic acids that stimulate production of Type I IFNs independently of the TLR signaling pathway. In addition, his lab is studying how defective uptake of apoptotic cells can contribute to the loss of tolerance to self antigens observed in SLE.

Dr. Martin is married to a UW Neurosurgery PA-C and has two children. He enjoys bicycling and bluegrass guitar. David is a great addition to our faculty and we look forward to many years of successful collaboration.

## New Administrator & Staff

The Division recently said goodbye to long time Administrator **Rob Sherwood** who moved to Eastern Washington to pursue other goals. We greatly appreciate the many contributions that Rob made to the Division and wish him all the best in his new endeavors.

**Susan Worden** took over as Administrator for the Division on May 1<sup>st</sup> of this year and immediately started cleaning and organizing our administrative offices. She brings with her 16+ years of experience in the University system, nine of those years in the School of Medicine. Susan plans to continue to organize division operations, with top priority being given to the fiscal soundness and stability of Division resources. She also plans to work hand in hand with Dr. Keith Elkon in growing the Division with the recruitment of new faculty and with the continuation of our excellent research, teaching and clinical care programs. Her main strengths lie in her ability to manage multiple funding sources, confront issues pragmatically and practically, and support faculty in their endeavors while maintaining compliance and financial solvency. On the personal side, she lives in West Seattle with her three cats, three ferrets and one husband. She reads, exercises, watches bad T.V., ignores the yard work and is generally always on some sort of eating plan.

**Denise Weide** joined our team in July as the new Fellowship Coordinator. She was previously the Program Coordinator for the Pediatrics Medical Student Program at Children's Hospital. Originally from New Mexico, most recently from Denver and everywhere in between, she is an avid traveler and photographer. Her academic background is in physical anthropology and history. If she could have dinner with anyone famous, living or dead, she'd like to meet Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington.

**Deanna Santer** joined the Elkon Lab in June. She is a PhD student in the Department of Immunology. She is originally from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada but definitely does not miss the -30° winters. She graduated from the University of Alberta with a BS in Immunology and Infection. She got married in August of this year to a fellow Canadian. She enjoys playing sports including basketball, volleyball, tennis and golf.

**Jenni Ross** is the new Research coordinator for our clinical trials. Her background is in Biology, but with extensive coursework in Anthropology and Medical History and Ethics. She is interested in both the research and clinical aspects of healthcare delivery, nutrition, and public health, and is looking forward to this opportunity to refine her goals around these themes. She is also an out-of-practice pianist with the intention of revamping her musical life by learning how to sing, and possibly taking some jazz piano lessons.

**Justin Kenkel** has joined the Martin Lab as a research scientist. He comes to us from Berkeley where he earned his BS in Immunology. His interests include pharmacology and finding a graduate school.

**Benedict Yuen-Fui Hui**, a bioengineering student, joined the Elkon Lab in October. He is originally from Hong Kong and plans on going to medical school. In his free time he enjoys movies, watching TV and working out.

## Welcome Back

**Dr. Bruce Gilliland** has returned from a leave of absence. We are glad to report he is feeling better and is once again in our Friday Rheumatology Clinic. It's wonderful to see Bruce back at work!

## Clinical Trials

In the past few years, the Division of Rheumatology has added a new venture to its academic and clinical activities. Since 2003, **Drs. Carin Dugowson** and **Mark Wener** have developed a patient registry and a specimen repository targeting UW Medicine patients with rheumatic diseases. This activity, approved by the University Human Subjects office, will facilitate Rheumatology Division investigators' access to clinical and laboratory results of patients and to clinical specimens. The goal is to identify information that will help the Division better individualize patient care, provide the latest in therapy to patients, and coordinate clinical and basic research endeavors in the Division that involve patient data or clinical specimens. The Division is also involved in clinical trials of new therapies, focusing especially on rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus. Currently, there are 3 RA and 3 lupus trials ongoing. In addition, we are participating in the federally funded study Scleroderma: Cyclophosphamide or Transplantation (SCOT).

There are two clinical fellows, **Dr. Tetsuya Hoshi** and **Dr. Dan Mandel**, working together with Drs. Dugowson and Wener in this research endeavor. Two staff members, **Tye Howell** and **Jenni Ross**, complete the Clinical Research group.

Physicians or patients interested in obtaining more information about the clinical trials program are invited to call (206) 221-5196.

## Rheumatology at Harborview

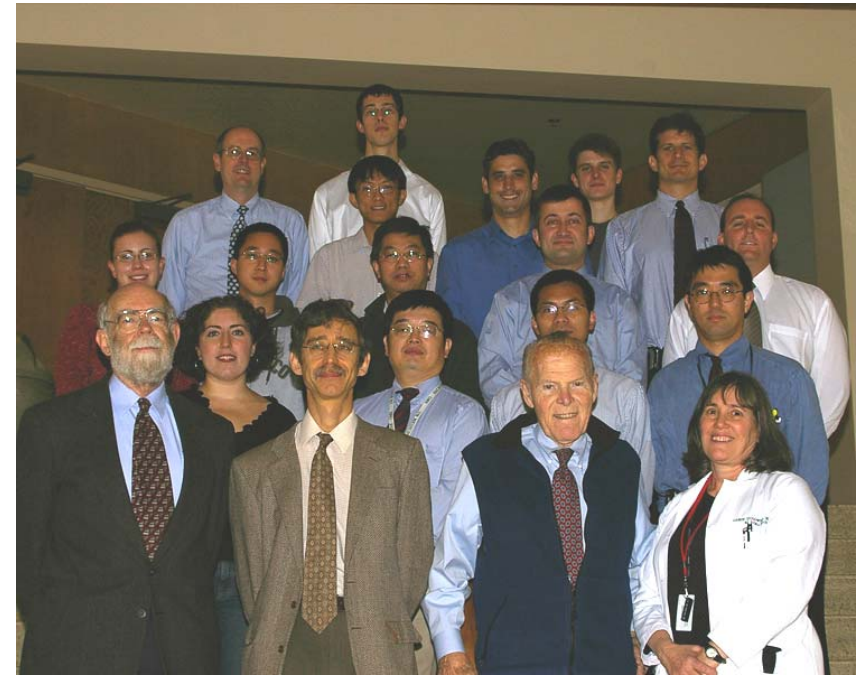
In many respects, Rheumatology of the twenty-first century is a new and different field from the one we practiced in earlier years. Powerful new medications have changed the outlook for most of our patients, and full remissions have become a realistic goal rather than a "pie in the sky" mirage. Their advances result not from the fortuitous observations that lead to previous progress. Instead, they are based on a molecular understanding of disease mechanisms that continues to evolve in laboratories at the University of Washington and in many other sites around the world.

Rheumatology at Harborview Medical Center is changing as well. A new Tuesday clinic, together with the long-term Thursday venue, now provides out-patient care to many more patients.

## The Arthritis Foundation Honors UW Rheumatology Pioneers

UW Rheumatology faculty members **Peter Simkin, MD, Bruce Gilliland, MD, Mart Mannik, MD, Gordon Starkebaum, MD** and **Robert Willkens, MD** as well as Clinical faculty member, **Ken Wilske, MD** were honored this October by the Northwest Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation for their lifetime contributions to the field of Rheumatology. The dinner reception was presided over by John Klippel, President and CEO of the National Arthritis Foundation.

From top left:  
Greg Gardner,  
Tye Howell,  
Grant Hughes,  
Justin Kenkel,  
David Martin,  
Deanna Santer,  
Daniel Kim,  
Kang Zhang,  
Cong-Qui Chu,  
Kirkwood  
Johnston, Dan  
Mandel, Peter  
Simkin, Neely  
Mozaffarian,  
Yong Zhu,  
Thuc Nguyen,  
Tetsuya Hoshi,  
Keith Elkon,  
Robert Willkens  
and Carin  
Dugowson



In-patient as well as out-patient experience is more fully integrated into the Division's program of fellowship training. Brand new office and laboratory facilities provide a more supportive environment. And more faculty support from the Division now supplements the on-going teaching contributions of the volunteer clinical faculty.

Some things, however, remain very much the same. As always, the patient population continues to reflect a remarkable diversity of nationalities, languages, races, and economic backgrounds. The clinic leadership, too, remains steadfast. **Bob Willkens**, who first came to Harborview as an intern in 1954, still provides strong direction to the program he has led for most of the intervening years. By his example, Bob remains the rock on which Harborview Rheumatology rests.

## The American College of Rheumatology Annual Meeting

### Neely Mozaffarian, MD

Acting Instructor Neely Mozaffarian has been awarded the 2006-2007 ACR REF Pediatric Rheumatology Research Award by the ACR Research and Education Foundation. She will be formally recognized at the ACR awards luncheon at the ACR Annual Scientific Meeting in Washington DC this November. In addition to her award, she will also be presenting two abstracts at the meeting.

## ACR Presentations

Many of our faculty and fellows will be presenting at the 2006 ACR meeting this year. **Dr. Peter Simkin** will do two "Meet the Professor" sessions and act as moderator for the session on Microcrystalline Diseases. **Dr. Carin Dugowson** will be presenting her poster, "A multi-center, blinded, randomized, placebo-controlled study of MQX-503, a topical gel formulation of nitroglycerin, in patients with Raynaud phenomenon." **Dr. Keith Elkon** will be giving two talks this year: One on Complement at the Basic Science symposium on Friday 10<sup>th</sup>, and a second on Apoptotic Cells in a concurrent session. **Dr. David Martin's** talk is "Autoimmunity Arising from Dendritic Cell Vaccination Requires Host T-cells but Not MyD88 or IFN $\alpha$ /b Signaling". **Dr. Grant Hughes** will present an abstract titled "Progesterone Regulates Dendritic Cell Functions *in vivo*." **Dr. Cong-Qiu Chu** will present two abstracts "IFN-gamma Regulates Susceptibility to Collagen-induced Arthritis through Suppression of IL-17" and the 2<sup>nd</sup> "Regulation of IL-17 in Rheumatoid Arthritis".

**Dr. Robert Willkens of Harborview Medical Center Rheumatology**

