

## 23<sup>rd</sup> WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

### USF INTERNAL MEDICINE & PEDIATRIC DIVISIONS OF ALLERGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

This newsletter features one of our faculty members, Dr. Seong H. Cho, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, who joined the Division of Allergy and Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine, in 2015.



**Seong H. Cho, MD**  
Associate Professor of Medicine & Pediatrics  
Division of Allergy and Immunology  
Department of Internal Medicine  
University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine



*Dr. Cho with his wife, Mrs. Jin Cho, during their visit to the Sagrada Familia, Barcelona, Spain, 2018*



*The Cho family:*

*Left to Right – Dr. Seong Cho, Jonathan Cho (2nd son), Mrs. Jin Cho (wife), Gloria (wife of 1st son, David), David Cho (1st son)*

After completing his Medical Education and ENT residency program at the Kyung-Hee University School of Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Dr. Seong Cho was recruited to the Allergy/Immunology Division at UCLA as a postdoctoral research fellow. After successful research training on mast cells and airway inflammation and publishing several first-author papers in high-impact journals, including the *JACI*, he did his residency training in Internal Medicine at the University of Tennessee and a clinical fellowship in allergy and immunology at Northwestern University. His training and experience in otolaryngology, allergy/immunology, and bench research, well equipped him for clinical practice, teaching, and research. He joined the faculty at Northwestern University immediately after his fellowship and was awarded a competitive NIH K23 award for nasal polyp research.

He then joined the Division of Allergy and Immunology, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine, as Assistant Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, February 2015, and was promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, August 2016. Dr. Cho is working on two research projects related to asthma and chronic sinusitis. His laboratory has discovered that mast cell-derived plasminogen activator inhibitor-1 (PAI-1) plays an essential role in airway remodeling in asthma and viral-induced asthma exacerbation. Furthermore, his research team found that PAI-1 inhibition by a specific inhibitor or soy isoflavones reduces airway inflammation, remodeling, and asthma exacerbation. It is hoped that this research on PAI-1 will lead to the discovery of a novel biomarker of uncontrolled asthma and gene-specific personalized therapeutic invention for severe asthma. His laboratory also discovered that the mitochondrial oxidative stress is related to nasal polyp formation, especially in the elderly, and blocking this pathway would be a novel and innovative treatment option for chronic sinusitis and nasal polyposis. Currently, in collaboration with an ENT surgeon, Dr. Mark Tabor, Dr. Cho is running a Sinus Biobank, collecting sinus surgery samples for ongoing and future studies.

Dr. Cho has published more than 60 peer-reviewed articles, including in the *JACI*. He has been an Editorial Board Member for several allergy journals and an ad hoc NIH grant reviewer. He has served on the two National Allergy-Immunology organizations as the Chair of the Rhinitis, Rhinosinusitis, and Ocular Allergy (RROA) Committee, AAAAI, and as the Vice Chair of the RROA Committee, ACAAI.

Dr. Cho lives with his beautiful wife, Jin, and has two sons, David, a psychiatry resident in Austin, TX, and Jonathan, a second-year medical student in Chicago, IL.

Dr. Cho is a valued faculty member and colleague, and a pleasure to work with.

With warm regards,

Richard F. Lockey, MD

Distinguished University Health Professor

Joy McCann Culverhouse Chair in Allergy  
and Immunology

Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics & Public Health

Director, Division of Allergy and Immunology

Department of Internal Medicine

Jolan Walter, MD, PhD

Robert A. Good Endowed Chair in Immunology

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