Core Faculty

Richard F. Lockey, M.D., M.S.*
Distinguished University Health Professor
Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics and Public Health
Joy McCann Culverhouse Chair of Allergy and Immunology
Division Director

Thomas B. Casale, M.D.*
Professor of Medicine
Director, Clinical Research

Roger W. Fox, M.D.*
Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics and Public Health
Director of Student, Resident, and Fellowship Training

Dennis K. Ledford, M.D.*
Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics
Mabel and Ellsworth Simmons Professor of Allergy and Immunology
Associate Director,
Division of Allergy and Immunology

Mark G. Glaum, M.D., Ph.D.*
Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics
Director of Professional Education

Narasaiah Kolliputi, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics
Director of Research Education

Michael Teng, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics
Director of Basic Research

Jia-Wang Wang, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics

Joint Faculty

Mark Ballow, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine
Director, Pediatric Fellowship Training Program

Gary Litman, Ph.D.
Distinguished University Professor
Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine
The Andrew & Ann Hines Chair in Pediatrics

Sandra G. Gompf, M.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine
Chief, Infectious Disease, James A. Haley Veterans Hospital

Blanca Camoretti-Mercado, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Personalized Medicine and Medicine

Jennifer Leiding, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine

Panida Sriaroon, M.D.
Assistant Professor Pediatrics and Medicine

Mandel R. Sher, M.D.
Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine
Interim Division Chief, Pediatric Allergy and Immunology

Nathan Tang, M.D.
Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine

Clinical Affiliate Faculty
Department of Internal Medicine

Enrique Fernandez-Caldas, Ph.D.
Clinical Professor of Medicine

G. Edward Stewart II, M.D.*
Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine

Monroe J. King, D.O.*
Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine

Brett E. Stanaland, M.D.*
Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine

Hugh H. Windom, M.D.*
Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine

Rosa Codina, Ph.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Mary L. Jelks, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Ronald T. Purcell, M.D.*
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

* Also have appointments at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, Tampa, Florida

Left to right (front row): Michael Teng, Ph.D.; Mark C. Glaum, M.D., Ph.D.; Thomas B. Casale, M.D.; Jia-Wang Wang, Ph.D.; Monroe J. King, D.O.
Left to right (back row): Narasaiah Kolliputi, Ph.D.; Dennis K. Ledford, M.D.; Roger W. Fox, M.D.; Richard F. Lockey, M.D., M.S.

Endowments and Contributions

The Joy McCann Culverhouse and Mabel and Ellsworth Simmons Endowments have enabled the Division of Allergy and Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine to become one of the most prominent patient care, research, and teaching institutions in the world. Interest from the endowments supports pilot research projects, teaching, and the education of new generations of scientists and physicians.

If you are interested in making a tax deductible contribution or providing funds for a named endowment, please contact Dr. Richard F. Lockey at (813) 972-7631 or rlockey@health.usf.edu. You may also contact any faculty member at (813) 972-7631.

University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine

Division of Allergy and Immunology
Department of Internal Medicine

Devoted to basic, clinical and translational research, teaching and excellence in patient care

Endowments and contributions are welcome for research, teaching, and patient care programs

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DIVISION OVERVIEW

The Division and Its History

The Division of Allergy and Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine, was established at the University of South Florida College of Medicine, Tampa, Florida, in 1972. The University was established in 1956 and the College of Medicine in 1971.

Professor Samuel C. Bukantz, M.D., founder of the Division, recruited Richard F. Lockey, M.D. in 1973, as a second faculty member. Drs. Bukantz and Lockey developed a clinical research and training program between 1973-1977, enabling trainees in internal medicine and other services to rotate at monthly intervals on the Allergy and Immunology Service. The first trainees in the specialty were selected in 1977 and graduated 2 years later. Initial accreditation was granted in 1983 by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the program has been accredited since that time.

Two separate but integrated programs in allergy and immunology exist at the University, one under the auspices of the Department of Internal Medicine, chaired by Professor Richard F. Lockey, M.D., and the second, in the Department of Pediatrics. Clinical Professor Mandel Sher M.D. is the interim chief of the pediatric program and succeeded Professor John W. Sleasman, M.D. who succeeded the late Professor Robert A. Good, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc, the "Father" of modern clinical immunology. Dr. Good founded the USF Pediatric Allergy and Immunology Training Program in 1987. It was first ACGME-accredited in June, 1988.

The two separate programs in Allergy and Immunology at the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine are integrated for medical education, care of patients, and research. There are 76 ACGME-accredited programs to train physicians in allergy and immunology in the United States. These are the only two in the State of Florida. Physician trainees in allergy and immunology must first be board-qualified in internal medicine and/or pediatrics. Both programs also educate medical students; pediatric, internal medicine, and ear, nose and throat residents; and students of other disciplines.

The two programs have trained over 90 allergists/immunologists and numerous American and foreign post-graduate and graduate research scholars. Many of these trainees are now faculty members and leaders in academic centers throughout the world.

Both programs are endowed with funds donated for teaching, research, and improving patient care. There are three endowed positions in the two Divisions. Richard F. Lockey, M.D., occupies the Joy McCann Culverhouse Chair of Allergy and Immunology and Dennis K. Ledford, M.D. is the Mabel and Ellsworth Simmons Professor of Allergy and Immunology. The Division of Allergy and Immunology, Department of Pediatrics, also has an endowed chair, The Robert A. Good Chair of Immunology. The Department of Internal Medicine's Division is located in Tampa at the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine and consists of five clinical faculty physicians, three Ph.D.s, eight joint faculty and nine volunteer physicians and various clinical and basic research associates and support staff. The Pediatric Division has four clinical physicians, one Ph.D., and a similar support staff and is located at All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida, 45 minutes from the main USF campus.

Research Program

Clinical and basic research programs in the Division are funded by a variety of different institutions and include the National Institutes of Health, American Lung Association, American Heart Association, other organizations, and the endowments.

Basic Research

Basic research focuses on several areas: new strategies for prevention and treatment of respiratory syncytial virus infection, microRNAs and pulmonary fibrosis and hypertension, the pathogenesis of pulmonary fibrosis, and microRNAs as biological markers of disease, as potential indicators of disease pathogenesis and as therapeutic strategies for allergic respiratory diseases.

Clinical Research

The Division's Clinical Research Unit is a 1600 square foot facility located just off the main campus at which pharmaceutical-sponsored, Division clinical research projects and grant-funded clinical research projects are conducted. It was established in 1977 with the goal to improve the treatment of patients who suffer from asthma and allergic and immunologic diseases.

State-of-the-art equipment is available for the staff to perform complete pulmonary function studies (including oscillometry), methacholine and allergen challenge studies, rhinoscopy, exercise challenge studies, and exhaled nitric oxide testing. Internet access, electronic data capture capabilities and a computerized patient database are available.

Staffed by five professional medical personnel, the Division and the Clinical Research Unit are affiliated with various institutions in the Tampa Bay Area including the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, Tampa General Hospital, Florida Hospital, the University of South Florida Morsani Center for Advanced Healthcare, and All Children's Hospital.

Division Research

All basic and clinical research studies are performed under the supervision of the faculty and staff and are approved by USF human research committees, both commercial and University. All subspecialty residents in allergy and immunology are required to participate in clinical research throughout their training. Trainees develop and carry out a basic or clinical research project on their own, with appropriate supervision from faculty. The fellow is responsible (with faculty guidance) for developing the protocol, preparing a budget, securing approval of the appropriate institutional review board, and assisting with subject recruitment.

The Division is currently engaged in the following clinical research projects:

- upper airway disease and its role in sleep apnea
- more effective measurement of lung function in the elderly
- the effect of micro RNA101 on pulmonary hypertension
- measuring and following nitric oxide levels as predictors of graft versus host disease
- assessment of micro RNA in nasal mucosa of subjects with both allergic and non-allergic rhinitis and nasal polyps
- determining whether or not true penicillin sensitivity exists in pre-operative orthopedic patients with the hope of ultimately substituting penicillin for vancomycin at much less cost for prophylactic antibiotics during surgical procedures
- pulmonary hypertension
- pulmonary fibrosis
- genetic and epigenetic markers
- presence of food allergies in a cohort of adults with eosinophilic esophagitis
- effects of meterologic parameters on airborne pollens and fungal spore counts
- use of oscillometry versus spirometry in elderly patients with cognitive disorders
- radiocontrast media reactions
- CPAP as it affects methacholine hypersensitivity
- studies to find better treatment modalities for chronic obstructive lung disease and asthma.

Division Pharmaceutical-Sponsored Research

Over the past several decades, the Department of Internal Medicine's Allergy/Immunology Clinical Research Unit has conducted over 400 Phase II, III, IV clinical trials and has established a working relationship with more than 30 pharmaceutical sponsors. Not only does the Clinical Research Unit provide trainees with the skills necessary to perform clinical research, but the funds generated from the Unit also are used to support the research and training programs.

The Clinical Research Unit has provided quality research for both children and adults in many areas including studies on acute and chronic sinusitis, allergen immunotherapy, allergen skin testing, allergic and non-allergic rhinitis, allergic conjunctivitis, acute and chronic urticaria, food allergy, contact dermatitis and atopic eczema. Pulmonary diseases such as asthma, acute and chronic bronchitis, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), and exercise-induced asthma also have been studied. The Unit also has conducted immunologic studies on HIV, intravenous immunoglobulin, common variable immunodeficiency, and hereditary angioedema. The Pediatric Division also actively participates in basic and clinical research and the two divisions actively collaborate on a variety of projects.

American Lung Association Asthma Clinical Research Unit

In June, 2000, the Clinical Research Unit, in collaboration with a similar unit at the University of Miami, was selected as one of the American Lung Association's Asthma Clinical Research Centers. There are 19 centers throughout the United States. The American Lung Association (ALA) centers are a network of academic asthma research centers funded to conduct multicenter clinical research trials in asthma and COPD that are relevant to practical questions about the pathogenesis and treatment of these diseases. The ALA provides the infrastructure and direct research support for the center. Since June, 2000, many scientific papers have been published and several projects are on-going, in development, or in press.