

Clinical Research Faculty

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- Director, Division of Allergy and Clinical Immunology
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University of South Florida

Division of Allergy and Immunology

Clinical and Translational Research Unit

The Joy McCann Culverhouse
Airway Disease Research Center

Department of Internal Medicine



CLINICAL EXPERTISE	CLINICAL PROCEDURES	LABORATORY CAPABILITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allergic rhinitis • Allergen immunotherapy • Angioedema, acute and chronic • Asthma • Atopic eczema • Bronchitis, acute and chronic • Contact dermatitis • COPD • Chronic cough • Exercise-induced asthma • Hereditary angioedema • Headaches (migraine and tension) • Immunodeficiency • Insect allergy • Nasal polyps • Non-allergic rhinitis • Osteoporosis • Sinusitis, acute and chronic • Temporomandibular joint syndrome • Urticaria, acute and chronic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acoustic rhinometry • Allergen challenge (food) • Allergen challenge (lung) • Allergen challenge (nasal, using acoustic rhinometry) • Allergy skin test • Asthma control test • Blood draw • ECG • End-point skin titration • Exercise challenge • Exhaled nitric oxide • Hypertonic saline challenge • Impedance oscillometry • Mannitol challenge • Methacholine challenge • Microscopy • Nasal scraping • Nasal secretion collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollen counts • Rhinoscopy • Rhinomanometry • Spirometry with pre- and post- bronchodilation • Sputum induction • Study drug infusion • Urine drug screen • Urine hCG • Flow cytometry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cell surface phenotyping of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC), up to 14 parameters (BD FACS Canto II) ➤ Intracellular cytokine staining of PBMC ➤ Apoptosis/cell cycle assays ➤ Functional analysis of lymphocyte populations ➤ Magnetic (Miltenyi Automacs Pro) or flow cytometric (BD FACS Aria II) sorting of lymphocyte subsets • Antigen-specific and nonspecific lymphocyte proliferation/differentiation • Chemokine/cytokine assays • Cytometric bead arrays for cytokines/chemokines • Real-time quantitative PCR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Analysis of PBMC cytokine/chemokine mRNA expression (individual cytokines genes or PCR arrays) ➤ Identification and quantification of plasma miRNA (proprietary TaqMan assay) • ELISA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Detection of serum / body fluid cytokine and chemokine levels ➤ Detection of serum antibody subtypes • Biomarker assessment

We do clinical research; we do it well!

CENTER HISTORY

The Division of Allergy and Immunology was established in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of South Florida College of Medicine, Tampa, Florida in 1972, one year after the College of Medicine was founded. Professor Samuel C. Bukantz, M.D., founder of the Division, recruited Richard F. Lockey, M.D. in 1973 as a second faculty member, and these two internationally acclaimed physician scientists established the Clinical Research unit in 1977 and a training program for physicians to become allergists/immunologists in 1977. The Department of Internal Medicine program has five current trainees, and with the Pediatric section at All Children's Hospital in St Petersburg, has trained over 90 allergists/immunologists and numerous American and foreign post-graduate and graduate research scholars. Many of these trainees are now faculty members in academic centers throughout the world. Both the medicine and pediatric sections are supported by funds donated for teaching, research, and patient care and by secured grants for research from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), by the American Lung Association (ALA), various foundations, and industry. The research program expanded in the late 1990s when endowments were donated by grateful friends, Joy McCann Culverhouse and George and Sandy Simmons. In June, 2000, the Clinical Research Unit was selected as one of 19 American Lung Association's Asthma Clinical Research centers, a network of academic asthma research centers dedicated to conduct multicenter clinical research trials in asthma and other airway diseases that are relevant to practical questions about treatment. In July of 2016, the Clinical Research Unit was re-appointed as an ALA site.

RESEARCH EMPHASIS

Basic and clinical research interests include the pathogenesis and treatment of asthma and allergic diseases, aerobiology, primary and secondary immunodeficiency diseases, HIV, bone marrow transplantation, insect hypersensitivity, allergen immunotherapy, co-morbid conditions affecting asthma and upper airway disease, chronic obstructive lung disease, viral respiratory tract infection and asthma, asthma and allergy in the elderly, hereditary angioedema, chronic urticaria and angioedema, atopic eczema, sleep apnea, nasal polyposis, pulmonary artery hypertension, food allergy and drug allergy.

CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH UNIT

The Division of Allergy and Immunology Clinical Research Unit is a 1600 square foot facility, located just off the main campus, in which pharmaceutical industry sponsored, divisional clinical research projects and federal and non-federal grant funded clinical research projects are conducted. The main goal of the Center is to bring together basic and clinical scientists who translate bench and clinical research into improved treatment of patients who suffer from asthma and allergic and immunologic diseases. All studies performed are done under the supervision of the physicians and the staff and approved by the University's Human Research Committee. All trainees in allergy and immunology are required to participate in clinical research throughout their training to foster their careers as clinician scientists. Over the past several decades, the Clinical Research faculty have conducted over 500 Phase I, II, III and IV clinical trials and established a working relationship with more than 40 pharmaceutical sponsors, NIH, ALA, VA and many other funding sources.



Staffed by six USF clinician scientists, the Division and the Clinical Research Unit are affiliated with various institutions in the Tampa Bay Area including the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center, 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.

RESEARCH CAPABILITIES

- Exceeding enrollment requirements is our commitment to quality research.
- Research is conducted in accordance with Good Clinical Practice Guidelines and the highest ethical standards are followed.

- 40 years of experience in over 500 phase I-IV trials.
- Experienced clinical research coordinators.
- Full-time regulatory coordinators which facilitate timely start-up of new studies.
- On-site IRB meets weekly for new protocols; expedited review for amendments and informed consent changes.
- Contracted with Western IRB for multi-center trials.
- Contracted with central IRBs: Quintiles, Quorum & Schulman

Meeting enrollment requirements is standard practice.

POPULATION:

Tampa Bay metropolitan area:
2.5 million population,
Varied ethnic composition,
Easily reached with appropriate media exposure.

MEDICAL PRACTICE

70 new patient and 400 follow-up visits per week
Computerized patient database

LOCATION

The USF campus is 20 minutes from Tampa International Airport and is easily accessible from Interstate 275. We are three blocks north of Fletcher Ave. on the east side of Bruce B. Downs Blvd.

For more information, please contact:

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