



Rheumatology



ROBERT P. SUNDEL, MD
Program Director

The Rheumatology Program of Boston Children's Hospital's Division of Immunology cares for children and adolescents with a broad range of rheumatologic and inflammatory diseases. Our team of pediatric rheumatologists, nurse specialists, physical and occupational therapists and allied specialists in all branches of medicine, consults with families on their child's specific needs and offers compassionate care and the most innovative therapies.

Scheduling

Boston Children's Hospital

300 Longwood Avenue, Fegan 6
Boston, MA 02115
617-355-6117 | childrenshospital.org/rheum

Boston Children's Hospital Lexington

482 Bedford Street
Lexington, MA 02420
781-672-2100

Boston Children's Hospital North

10 Centennial Drive
Peabody, MA 01960
978-538-3600

Boston Children's Hospital Waltham

9 Hope Avenue
Waltham, MA 02453
781-216-1800

International

For families residing outside of the United States, please contact Boston Children's International Center, which facilitates the medical review of patient records and appointment scheduling and provides assistance with customs and immigration, transportation and hotel and housing accommodations.

01-617-355-5209 | childrenshospital.org/international
international.center@childrens.harvard.edu

Highlights

- One of the world's largest pediatric rheumatology programs
- 4,500 outpatient visits per year
- 1,200 inpatient visits annually
- Collaborates with Boston Children's Pain Treatment Service, Division of Immunology, Dermatology Program, Department of Cardiology, Orthopedics Center and Gastroenterology and Child Nutrition Program

Areas of expertise

- Arthritis
- Autoimmune diseases
- Autoinflammatory disorders
- Chronic fatigue
- Dermatomyositis
- Fever
- Fibromyalgia
- Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis
- Kawasaki disease
- Lyme disease
- Multiple autoimmune syndromes
- Musculoskeletal pain syndromes
- Pediatric vasculitides
- Scleroderma
- Systemic lupus erythematosus
- Vasculitis

Clinical Programs

Rheumatology Clinic

Offers state-of-the art diagnostic, treatment and clinical management services for children of all ages with conditions involving the joints, soft tissues and connective tissues.

617-355-6117

Multiple Autoimmune Diseases Clinic

Provides care to children with profound abnormalities involving immunologic, rheumatologic, genetic and endocrinologic issues. Our experts draw from recent progress in understanding the molecular basis of autoimmunity. We treat widespread conditions that lead to granulomatous inflammation of blood vessels and internal organs, as well as damage caused by autoantibodies and self-reacting lymphocytes. These conditions tend to be so severe that they are resistant to even the strongest conventional immunosuppressive treatments.

617-355-6117

Rheumatology/Dermatology Clinic

Provides one-stop care for children who need consultations for both cutaneous and rheumatologic conditions.

617-355-6117

Samara Jan Turkel Clinical Center for Pediatric Autoimmune Disease

Provides comprehensive and coordinated care and support for patients and families facing the complexities of challenging autoimmune diseases.

617-355-6117 | 1-888-244-5319

Research

Boston Children's is an international leader in pediatric rheumatology research and discovery, and our team is actively involved in studies to improve the understanding and treatment of inflammatory disorders in children. As a program within the Division of Immunology, basic and translational research are among our particular strengths.

Most of our research involves projects initiated by staff physicians in the Rheumatology Program. These include recent and ongoing trials which demonstrate the importance of early, aggressive treatment of juvenile dermatomyositis; identify unique biomarkers in juvenile idiopathic arthritis and demonstrate a characteristic urinary proteomic signature in Kawasaki disease, among other initiatives.

In addition, our involvement in multi-center trials is increasing as national and international collaborations within the field of pediatric rheumatology become more common. For example, we recently collaborated in a national consortium known as the "Trial of Early Aggressive Therapy in Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis" and an international trial examining a rarer inflammatory disorder called chronic multifocal osteomyelitis.

In other major trials, we were one of the leading pediatric centers to enroll children in studies of two novel immunosuppressant medications (rituximab for juvenile dermatomyositis and mycophenolate mofetil for lupus). Finally, members of our program are leaders in the major United States consortium for the study of pediatric rheumatologic diseases, the Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatism Research Alliance, chairing committees on vasculitis, scleroderma and translational research.

Training

The Boston Children's Hospital Division of Immunology offers three-year fellowships in pediatric rheumatology. The Rheumatology Training Program is one of the most active in the United States, with graduates who are clinical and scientific leaders at many of the top hospitals and medical schools in the country. In addition, adult rheumatology fellows at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Boston University Medical Center receive their training in pediatric rheumatology through our program.