



# 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 disease. Our team of pediatric rheumatologists, nurse specialists, physical and occupational therapists and allied specialists in all branches of medicine, consult with families on their child's specific needs and offer compassionate care and the most innovative therapies.

## Scheduling

### **Boston Children's Hospital**

300 Longwood Avenue, Fegan 6  
Boston, MA 02115  
617-355-6117 | [bostonchildrens.org/rheum](http://bostonchildrens.org/rheum)

### **Boston Children's at Lexington**

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

### **Boston Children's at Peabody**

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

### **Boston Children's at Waltham**

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

### **Boston Children's Physicians Weymouth**

Stetson Medical Center  
541 Main Street  
Weymouth, MA 02190  
781-331-4715

## International

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

+1-617-355-5209 | [bostonchildrens.org/international](http://bostonchildrens.org/international)  
[international.center@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto: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, Allergy/Immunology Program, 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
- Vaculitis

# Rheumatology

## 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

Specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric patients with autoimmunity affecting multiple organ systems. Children seen in this clinic may have profound abnormalities involving the endocrinologic, neurologic, hematologic and musculoskeletal systems, among others. Widespread genetic and inflammatory disorders resistant to conventional immunosuppressive treatments are evaluated using cutting-edge genetic and molecular tools. Defects in antibody production and lymphocyte reactivity are treated using advanced techniques aiming to restore self-tolerance and rebalance immune function.

617-355-6117

### Rheumatology/Dermatology Clinic

Provides one-stop care for children who need consultations for conditions involving both the skin and the musculoskeletal systems.

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. Multidisciplinary evaluations and treatment, supplemented by attention to families' physical and emotional needs, aim to address the diverse issues of children with complex autoimmune diseases.

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

## 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.

## 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. Basic and translational research are among the particular strengths of our program.

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

In addition, our involvement in multicenter 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 chair committees on vasculitis, scleroderma and translational research in the Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatism Research Alliance, the major U.S. consortium for the study of pediatric rheumatologic diseases.

## Our Team

**Robert Sundel, MD**

Program Director

**Fatma Dedeoglu, MD**

**Robert C. Fuhlbrigge, MD, PhD**

**Melissa McKirdy Hazen, MD**

**Erin Janssen, MD, PhD**

**Susan Kim, MD, MMSc**

**Mindy Lo, MD, PhD**

**Peter A. Nigrovic, MD**

**Mary Beth F. Son, MD**

**Maria Benoit, RN, BSN, CPN**

**Diane (Bebe) Samler-Meyer, RN, BSN**