

ACR Distinguished Fellow Award

The Distinguished Fellow Award recognizes up to ten clinical and research fellows who are in a rheumatology fellowship training program and who have performed meritoriously. The Distinguished Fellow Award is sponsored by the ACR and supported through the ACR Fellows Education Fund. ACR FIT members need to apply separately for both the Distinguished Fellow Award and the FIT Scholarship, however, those selected as a Distinguished Fellow Award winner will not be eligible to receive the FIT Scholarship in the same year.

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2019 RECIPIENTS:

JONATHAN TL CHEAH, MBBS

SARAH K. CHEN, MD, MPH

DANA DIRENZO, MD, MHS

ALI DUARTE-GARCIA, MD

REBECCA HABERMAN, MD

JEAN W. LIEW, MD

MAZEN NASRALLAH, MD, MSc

BRIAN NOLAN, MD

MICHAEL A. PALEY, MD, PhD

NATALIE ROSENWASSER, MD

ACR DISTINGUISHED FELLOW AWARD

Jonathan TL Cheah, MBBS

**Assistant Professor of Medicine
Division of Rheumatology
UMass Memorial Health Care
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Division of Rheumatology
University of Massachusetts Medical School
Worcester, MA**



Originally from the United Kingdom, Jonathan Cheah studied Medicine at University College London. After graduating with Distinction in the fields of Medical Sciences and Clinical Practice, he undertook initial post-graduate training at Southampton General Hospital, where he spent four months as an Academic Foundation Trainee at the MRC Lifecourse Epidemiology Unit, University of Southampton. He spent the following year as a Clinical Teaching Fellow at Warwick Hospital and Warwick Medical School, where he received a Post-Graduate Certificate in Medical Education. He then moved across the Atlantic in 2013 to start residency training in Internal Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine, NY. During residency, he was awarded both the Program Innovation Award as well as the award for Outstanding House Officer in Internal Medicine. Jonathan subsequently stayed in New York for fellowship training at the Hospital for Special Surgery/Weill Cornell Medicine. In August 2019, he began a faculty position within the Division of Rheumatology at UMass Memorial Health Care and the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Jonathan has had a long interest in bone which started in the lab while a medical student studying the effects of different chemotherapeutic agents upon bone progenitor cells. At Hospital for Special Surgery, mentored by Drs. Susan Goodman and Emily Stein, he led the development of an osteoporosis and bone health patient registry. He was also the fellow for the OMERACT Glucocorticoid Impact Special Interest Group which involved investigation related to patients' perspectives on the effects of systemic glucocorticoids. This project, which will be presented at OMERACT 2020, aims to develop a core domain set that can be used in clinical trials. More recently, his attention has turned to the use of MRI as an imaging modality for the opportunistic screening of poor bone quality, for which work he was awarded a 2019 Young Investigator Travel Grant by the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research. Jonathan was involved in medical education at multiple levels during fellowship. He facilitated the second-year medical student rheumatology small group sessions, taught joint injection technique to Internal Medicine interns and led board review sessions for residents.

Within the American College of Rheumatology, Jonathan has volunteered as the fellow-in-training member to the Committee on Corporate Relations (2017-2018) and will be rejoining this Committee for a three-year term in 2019. Because of his interest in medical education, he has also been a CARE question writer since 2017, most recently contributing to the osteoporosis and metabolic bone diseases and crystal arthritis sections. He is a member of the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research and the International Society of Clinical Densitometry and is a Certified Clinical Densitometrist.

ACR DISTINGUISHED FELLOW AWARD

Sarah Chen, MD, MPH

**Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and
Pharmacoeconomics
Associate Physician
Division of Rheumatology, Inflammation and Immunity
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA**



Dr. Sarah Chen first became interested in becoming a rheumatologist while she was a medical student at University of California Los Angeles David Geffen School of Medicine. After completion of her internal medicine residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, she pursued her rheumatology fellowship training at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and completed a master of public health degree at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. She recently graduated from the fellowship program, and currently continues as a post-doctoral fellow in the Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics and practices rheumatology in the Division of Rheumatology, Inflammation, and Immunity at Brigham and Women's Hospital and at the Boston Jamaica Plain Veterans Administration Medical Center.

During her fellowship training, Dr. Chen has studied the epidemiology of cardiovascular diseases in systemic lupus erythematosus [SLE] under the mentorship of Dr. Karen Costenbader, and pharmacoepidemiology projects under the mentorship of Dr. Seoyoung Kim. Her projects in SLE have demonstrated low rates of cardiovascular disease preventive care in patients with SLE, and high risk of heart failure in lupus patients compared to patients without lupus. Under Dr. Kim's mentorship, she has studied the risk of infections in abatacept users compared to TNF inhibitors in patients with rheumatoid arthritis, using propensity score matched analysis. She has also studied the use of prescription opioid analgesics in patients with rheumatic diseases and found higher rates among patients with rheumatoid arthritis, SLE, psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis compared to age- and sex-matched controls and highest rates in patients with ankylosing spondylitis. During her training, she learned methods in epidemiology and biostatistics for regression, survival analysis, and propensity scores to design, analyze and publish these studies and plans to become a pharmacoepidemiology researcher to study the effectiveness and safety of drugs used in patients with rheumatologic diseases.

Dr. Chen has been an active member of the American College of Rheumatology since she was a medical student. She has contributed to the SLE newsletter at Brigham and Women's Hospital Lupus Center to educate SLE patients on cardiovascular disease prevention, and as a fellow she worked under the mentorship of Dr. Candace Feldman and Dr. Karen Costenbader to deliver educational seminars to community clinics to raise awareness for early detection and referral for patients with SLE as part of the American College of Rheumatology Fellows Initiative.

ACR DISTINGUISHED FELLOW AWARD

Dana DiRenzo, MD, MHS

**Instructor of Medicine
Division of Rheumatology
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD**



Dr. DiRenzo is originally from Pottsville, PA. She received her undergraduate degree from Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA and her medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA. She subsequently moved to Baltimore, MD and completed her residency in internal medicine at the University of Maryland Medical Center and completed a fellowship in rheumatology at Johns Hopkins Hospital. She also obtained a Master of Health Science in Clinical Investigation from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She joined the Johns Hopkins faculty in 2019 after completing her fellowship. Dr. DiRenzo's clinical interests include inflammatory arthritis, Sjogren's Syndrome, and musculoskeletal ultrasound.

Dr. DiRenzo is interested in patient wellness and is certified in Mindfulness and Meditation. She currently is studying how mindfulness may improve coping and positively impact symptoms and disease activity related to autoimmune disease. She has two studies with active enrollment: an office-based mindfulness program and a smartphone-based mindfulness meditation program. She was named a Jerome L. Greene Foundation Scholar in 2019 and funding through this foundation has helped to support her work. In addition to her mindfulness projects, she more broadly is engaged in patient-reported outcomes research under the guidance of her primary mentor, Dr. Bing Bingham, in inflammatory arthritis, Sjogren's Syndrome, and myositis. She will be presenting two poster abstracts at this year's Annual Meeting related to healthcare utilization for those with Rheumatoid Arthritis and quality of life for those with Sjogren's Syndrome.

Dr. DiRenzo has been a member of the American College of Rheumatology since 2012 and has served in various roles as a fellow member over the past few years. From 2017-2018, she served on the Scientific Advisory Council for the Rheumatology Research Foundation and she presently serves on the Quality of Care Committee. She would like to thank the members of the American College of Rheumatology for this award and their support throughout her training and career.

ACR DISTINGUISHED FELLOW AWARD

Ali Duarte-Garcia, MD

**Assistant Professor of Medicine
Division Rheumatology
Mayo Clinic
Rochester, Minnesota**



Dr. Ali Duarte-Garcia received his medical degree from the Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua in Mexico, then continued his training in the United States where he finished his residency in Internal Medicine at Tufts Medical Center and subsequently served as Chief Medical Resident. He then moved to Rochester, Minnesota to start fellowship training in Rheumatology at Mayo Clinic where he recently graduated from the program. During his fellowship training Dr. Duarte-Garcia enrolled in the Mayo Clinic School of Biomedical Sciences and is completing a Masters in Clinical and Translational Science.

Dr. Duarte has had a longstanding clinical and research interest in systemic lupus erythematosus and antiphospholipid syndrome, indeed, he attended the American College of Rheumatology Scientific Sessions for the first time a decade ago as a medical student and has continuously presented his research at the meeting since then. Dr. Duarte's research has shown that cognitive dysfunction in lupus is a non-inflammatory syndrome and that lupus flares have a seasonal variation. He analyzed the predictors of proteinuria in patients with SLE and recently published the first study describing the epidemiology of antiphospholipid syndrome in the general population. Dr. Duarte is also interested in evidence-based medicine and meta-research in rheumatology. Dr. Duarte's work has been published in *Arthritis and Rheumatology*, *JAMA Internal Medicine*, *Annals of Internal Medicine* and others. Besides his research activities, Dr. Duarte is active in the educational programs of the Rheumatology division educating internal medicine residents and medical students of the Mayo Medical School. Dr. Duarte is also involved in educating the general public about lupus, he recently collaborated with seeker [Discovery channel communications] creating a video about lupus released during lupus awareness week this year that has been seen 100,000 times in the last three months.

Dr. Duarte-Garcia served as a fellow-in-training member of the American College of Rheumatology's Committee on Registries and Health Information Technology and Committee on Communications and Marketing. He received the Rheumatology Research Foundation Preceptorship Award when he was an internal medicine resident and also the Rheumatology Research Foundation Marshall J. Schiff, MD Memorial Fellow Research award for his work on antiphospholipid syndrome epidemiology. At Mayo he is a scholar at the Kern Center for the Science of Healthcare Delivery. He recently joined the staff at Mayo Clinic as Senior Associate Consultant and codirects the lupus and antiphospholipid syndrome clinics in the rheumatology division.

ACR DISTINGUISHED FELLOW AWARD

Rebecca Haberman, MDR

**Clinical Instructor
Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
Division of Rheumatology
NYU Langone Health
New York City, NY**



Dr. Rebecca Haberman began her medical training at the New York University School of Medicine where her interest in rheumatology blossomed as she participated in clinical rotations. She remained at New York University for her internal medicine residency training and started research in the field of psoriatic arthritis under the mentorship of Dr. Jose Scher. In 2017, she began her rheumatology fellowship, also at New York University, where she further honed her clinical and research skills. She was also accepted to New York University master's program in clinical and translational research, where she is currently in her second year. She is now a post-doctoral research fellow and serves as a clinical instructor within the division of rheumatology.

Dr. Haberman has demonstrated a longstanding history in both translational research and clinical care. She started her career at Brown University, focusing on *Helicobacter pylori* and continued her research in the microbiome while in medical school under the mentorship of Dr. Martin Blaser. Since residency, she has worked in the field of psoriatic arthritis with Dr. Jose Scher. Over this time period, she helped design and develop a database which, to date, includes epidemiologic data from over 500 psoriatic arthritis patients. She is also currently leading a prospective cohort study focusing on the progression of disease from psoriasis to psoriatic arthritis. Throughout her time, Dr. Haberman has also demonstrated her passion for teaching, giving lectures to students and residents, as well as mentoring upcoming rheumatology fellows.

During her fellowship, Dr. Haberman's contributions to teaching were recognized by the internal medicine residents and she was voted the Rheumatology Fellow of the Year. She was also selected to serve as the Chief Fellow of the rheumatology program where she organized the academic schedule, oversaw junior fellows, and worked closely with division leadership to impact all aspects of the fellowship program. For her research, she was awarded the T32 research training grant at New York University and recently received the National Psoriasis Foundation Early Career Research Grant to help further her research endeavors.

ACR DISTINGUISHED FELLOW AWARD

Jean Liew, MD

Senior Fellow, Acting Instructor
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington



Dr. Jean Liew was born and raised in Houston, Texas, where she was a high school Latin Decathlete. As an undergraduate at the University of Texas at Austin, she worked in Dr. Marvin Whiteley's microbiology lab and wrote a senior thesis with Dr. Carol Mackay on Victorian literature. She graduated from University of Texas in 2010 with a BS in Biology and a BA in English. She then earned an MD from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where she maintained an interest in the medical humanities. Subsequently, she relocated to the Pacific Northwest, completing internal medicine training at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland and rheumatology fellowship at the University of Washington in Seattle. She is currently pursuing a MS in Epidemiology [Clinical Research track] and is completing a thesis under the direction of Dr. Susan Heckbert, who is a clinical epidemiologist with a focus on cardiovascular disease.

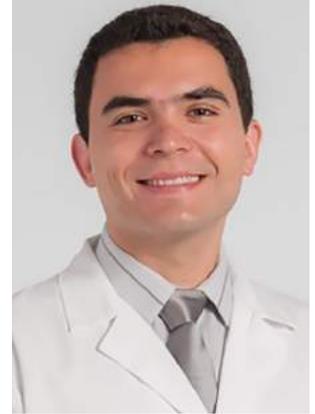
In residency at Oregon Health & Science University, Dr. Liew was inspired by Dr. Jennifer Barton to go into clinical research. Her first project was on comorbid post-traumatic stress disorder in veterans with ankylosing spondylitis. This has led to research on cardiovascular disease and risk factors in ankylosing spondylitis under the mentorship of Dr. Lianne Gensler at University of California San Francisco, who is a co-investigator on the Prospective Study of Outcomes in Ankylosing Spondylitis cohort. Dr. Liew has studied the association of continuous nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug use and the development of incident hypertension in this cohort. She will be using Prospective Study of Outcomes in Ankylosing Spondylitis, as well as population-level data, to further study the association of ankylosing spondylitis treatments with cardiovascular events such as myocardial infarction or risk factors such as hypertension. She is excited to collaborate on further projects with Dr. Maureen Dubreuil at Boston University, as well as with experts in causal inference. In addition to her work in ankylosing spondylitis, Dr. Liew has published on gout management in multi-morbid individuals. She has also mentored students, residents, and junior fellows in writing case reports and in their own research endeavors.

Dr. Liew is a member of the Spondyloarthritis Research and Treatment Network and the Assessment of Spondyloarthritis International Society; she is grateful to have received grant funding for her research from both organizations. She is also currently funded by an NIH T32 training grant through the UW Division of Rheumatology.

ACR DISTINGUISHED FELLOW AWARD

Mazen Nasrallah, MD MSc

**Instructor In Medicine
Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology
Harvard Medical School
Graduate Assistant in Medicine
Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA**



Dr. Mazen Nasrallah is originally from Jordan, where he attended medical school at the University of Jordan. After completing medical school, he pursued a master's degree in Immunology at King's College London. He then completed a T32 post-doctoral research fellowship at Stanford University under the mentorship of Dr. Atul Butte working on computational drug repositioning in psoriasis and the re-analysis of flow cytometry data from the RAVE clinical trial. In 2013, he relocated to Cleveland to complete his internal medicine residency at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, and then to Boston for his Rheumatology Fellowship at the Massachusetts General Hospital. He is currently an Instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Nasrallah's interests in translational medicine inspired him to join the labs of Drs. Alexandra-Chloé Villani and Andrew Luster during his rheumatology fellowship. He continues to lead the efforts examining the clinical spectrum of inflammatory arthritis occurring as a complication of cancer immunotherapy with checkpoint inhibitors and to define the cellular and molecular perturbations that characterize these toxicities using single-cell genomic technologies. Dr. Nasrallah is also part of the Severe Immunotherapy Complications steering committee at the Massachusetts General Hospital and is also involved in the education of patients suffering from immunotherapy complications through patient advocacy meeting presentations and patient educational material. As of part his interests in medical education, Dr. Nasrallah was involved in the musculoskeletal examination teaching session for 1st year Harvard Medical School students, as well as the rheumatology ambulatory teaching sessions for Massachusetts General Hospital Internal Medicine junior and senior residents.

Dr. Nasrallah was delighted to represent the Massachusetts General Hospital Rheumatology team at the American College of Rheumatology Knowledge Bowl competitions in 2017 and 2018, where the Massachusetts General Hospital team was able to secure 1st and 2nd place respectively. Dr. Nasrallah was awarded the 2019 Rheumatology Research Foundation Scientist Development Award to pursue clinical and translational research in the Rheumatic Complications of Immunotherapy.

ACR DISTINGUISHED FELLOW AWARD

Brian Nolan, MD

**Attending
Division of Rheumatology
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine**



Dr. Brian Nolan is originally from New Hampshire, where he was raised until matriculating at Swarthmore College. After earning his BA in Chemistry, he worked as a laboratory technician studying the human immune response to hepatitis C virus at the Partners AIDS Research Center at Massachusetts General Hospital. He credits this early exposure to immunology research as forming the basis for his interest in rheumatology. He attended the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at Case Western University during which time he was awarded a Doris Duke Foundation Clinical Research Fellowship. He identified Dr. Raphael Hirsch in the Division of Pediatric Rheumatology at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh as his primary mentor and conducted an imaging study in patients with polyarticular JIA which he presented as his medical school thesis in 2013. Dr. Nolan went on to complete his residency in Pediatrics at Children's National Medical Center, and this past June completed his fellowship in pediatric rheumatology at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He has recently joined the faculty at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago as an Attending Physician.

During his fellowship Dr. Nolan conducted two years of basic science research under the mentorship of Dr. Neil Romberg in the Division of Immunology. His main project was the immunologic and mechanistic characterization of a novel form of congenital B-cell deficiency due to mutations in a transcription factor found in multiple unrelated patients. This work was selected for presentation at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Division of Pediatrics Grand Rounds in May 2019. A manuscript is in development, to be submitted later this year. Concurrently he worked with his co-fellows and research staff in the Division of Rheumatology to design and implement a quality improvement project with the goal of optimizing study recruitment from the outpatient clinic. During training at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia he developed a strong interest in autoinflammatory disease, syndromes of immune dysregulation and the emerging role of personalized medicine in pediatric rheumatology. He hopes to identify new opportunities for translational research through his work with the Program in Inflammation, Immunity and the Microbiome at Lurie Children's Hospital.

Dr. Nolan's other organizational memberships include the Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance where his academic interests align primarily with the work of the Scleroderma, Vasculitis, Autoinflammatory and Rare Diseases Committee, as well as the Clinical Immunology Society. He is thankful for the excellent mentorship he has received throughout his training and is very honored to receive this award.

ACR DISTINGUISHED FELLOW AWARD

Michael A. Paley, MD, PhD

Instructor of Medicine
Washington University
Saint Louis, MO



Michael A. Paley is originally from Washington, DC, where he was inspired to become a physician-scientist after working several summers at the National Institutes of Health under Drs. Daniel Douek and Bob Seder. He attended Yale University, where he obtained a BS in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry. There, he discovered the world of rheumatology, studying immune evasion mechanisms of *Borrelia burgdorferi* with Drs. Steve Malawista and Ruth Montgomery. He then moved to Philadelphia for an MD and PhD in Immunology from University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. During his graduate work under Drs. E. John Wherry and Steve Reiner, he found a passion for persistent inflammation while identifying key transcription factors that sustain chronic T cell responses. After 30 years on the east coast, he then headed inland to complete residency and fellowship training at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He is currently an Instructor of Medicine in the Division of Rheumatology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis while he completes with post-doctoral work in the laboratory of Dr. Wayne Yokoyama.

Michael has begun to blend his rheumatologic and immunologic knowledge to identify basic mechanisms of ocular manifestations of rheumatologic disorders. He hopes that investigating ocular disease will provide a unique window into understanding the systemic inflammatory process. To that end, he developed a repository for ocular and blood biospecimens of patients with uveitis and scleritis to determine pathogenic cells present within the eye and their peripheral blood correlates. In addition, he currently works in a multidisciplinary clinic with ophthalmologists and his clinical mentor Dr. Richard Brasington to treat severe or refractory inflammatory eye disease. This multidisciplinary clinic provided an opportunity for Michael to partner with members of the Division of Rheumatology and the Department of Ophthalmology in order to design and implement an investigator-initiated pilot study for the treatment of non-infectious uveitis, which is currently underway.

Michael is a member of the American College of Rheumatology, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, and the International Ocular Inflammation Society. During his training, Michael was honored to receive the Gregory J. Gurtner Internal Medicine Residency Research Award in 2015 and Knowlton Incentive for Excellence Award in 2017. He is grateful for his current funding through the Scientist Development Award from the Rheumatology Research Foundation and a Pilot and Feasibility Grant from the Rheumatic Diseases Research Resource-Based Center at Washington University in St. Louis. Finally, he is appreciative of the innumerable past and present mentors who have guided him into a thrilling career as a physician-scientist in rheumatology.

ACR DISTINGUISHED FELLOW AWARD

Natalie Rosenwasser, MD

**Assistant Professor
Seattle Children's Hospital
Seattle, WA**



Dr. Natalie Rosenwasser gained her Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering [Complex Systems Science] in 2006 from Binghamton University, State University New York, and her MD from St. George's University School of Medicine in 2013. She did her Residency in Pediatrics at Stony Brook Children's Hospital, Stony Brook, NY, and in 2016 joined the Hospital for Special Surgery [HSS] to pursue her Fellowship in Pediatric Rheumatology and is currently a third-year fellow.

Natalie has worked for 2 years under the mentorship of Dr. Virginia Pascual investigating the identification of urinary biomarkers to help diagnose, classify and follow Lupus nephritis in children was an unmet need in the field and was worth exploring. Natalie had never before been involved in translational research. She significantly contributed to the study design, wrote and obtained IRB approval and started collecting clinical samples from patients and controls. Furthermore, even though the lab had a long track record of profiling the blood transcriptome of children with inflammatory diseases, we had never before attempted to profile urine samples. Her initial results demonstrated that cell-associated transcripts can be detected in urine of patients with SLE with and without overt nephritis, but not in healthy controls. In subsequent studies including longitudinal samples, Natalie's work is showing that urinary transcripts reflect the activity of inflammatory pathways known to be dysregulated in lupus plus additional ones that are less evident when using blood samples. Importantly, some of these transcripts appear associated with specific classes of Lupus Nephritis as well as with disease activity. Larger studies are now underway, but Natalie's results so far show the feasibility of this approach and open the door for non-invasive biomarker development and therapeutic target identification in lupus nephritis and perhaps inflammatory nephropathies beyond Lupus.

Natalie was able to team up with statisticians and bioinformaticians to query the data and display it in the most visually-effective ways. This work has now been presented at the 2019 Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance [CARRA] meeting, where she obtained the CARRA Hope Award for Basic Science, and was accepted for presentation at the Immunology Symposium at Cornell University Fall 2019, EULAR/PReS 2019, and the 2019 HSS Fellow Research Meeting. Natalie has received a CARRA-Arthritis Foundation 2019 PReS/EULAR Travel Award and has secured funding for her research through a CARRA Fellow Small Grant [from The Arthritis Foundation and CARRA].