



Choosing Rheumatology could be one the best decisions you'll ever make! As a rheumatologist, you can look forward to developing genuine long-term friendships with your patients, take part in exciting research opportunities and enjoy time with your family and loved ones. What's more - you will be happy in your profession. If you're still convinced this is the specialty for you, contact a mentor near. We advise you to email a mentor first to set up a call.

## ALABAMA

### Angelo Gaffo, MD, MsPH

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**Why I chose rheumatology:** "The intellectual challenges provided by rheumatology is second to none in the field of medicine. The ability to make an impact in others through research, teaching, and clinical care is present every day."

<http://www.uab.edu/medicine/rheumatology/faculty/33-area-2/primary-faculty/37-angelo-l-gaffo-md-msph>

## ARKANSAS

### Seth Berney, MD

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Little Rock, Arkansas

**Why I chose rheumatology:** "Why rheum? I learned early in my medical career that most medical disease was caused by or related to immunology/inflammation. Who best to understand that connection and thus those diseases than the professional immune system disease doctor, the rheumatologist. Additionally, I enjoy interviewing, examining and correctly diagnosing and successfully treating patients with diseases that most other physicians don't comprehend."

### Alison Gizinski, MD, MS

*University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences*

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Little Rock, Arkansas

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “The challenge and privilege of taking care of patients long term with autoimmune disease attracted me to rheumatology. The opportunities to teach my patients and learn from their experiences motivate me to be a better rheumatologist every day.”

## CALIFORNIA

### Lisa Kramer, MD

*Sutter Medical Group of the Redwoods*

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Santa Rosa, California

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “Rheumatology is the best mix of cutting edge science and hands-on long term care that I can imagine. Rheumatologists make a clear long term impact on the lives in their community, and I have never been sorry that I chose this field.”

### Mary Nakamura, MD

*UCSF/SFVAMC*

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San Francisco, California

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “My mentors in medical school showed me that rheumatology was filled with complex and fascinating patients as well as great research questions to pursue. They were right and in my physician-scientist career, I have had the privilege of working to better understand rheumatic disease through research and caring for amazing individuals that continue to teach me new things about rheumatology.”

<http://rheumatology.ucsf.edu/faculty/index.html?key=26029009&name=NAKAMURA%2CMARY+C>

## COLORADO

### Lisa Davis, MD, MSCS

*Denver Health*

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Denver, Colorado

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “I love rheumatology because I get to have long-term relationships with complex patients. Additionally, I am in a field where the science is rapidly evolving, which improves my ability to care for my patients.”

## IOWA

### Laurie Hughell, MSPA-C, MPH

*Mercy Arthritis & Osteoporosis Center*

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Urbandale, Iowa

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “Patients with arthritis will live with these chronic diseases their whole life. I want to come along side them and improve their quality of life.”

## KENTUCKY

### Ken Schikler, MD

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louisville, Kentucky

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “Pediatric rheumatology provides intellectual challenges and the chance for establishing long-term relationships with some patients. It also can let me alleviate fear and worries of patients and families without chronic rheumatic diseases who are sent for consultation.”

## MARYLAND

### Lynn Ludmer, MD

*Rheumatology Associates of Baltimore*

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Baltimore, Maryland

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “After 25 years as a rheumatologist I still find exciting cases. A big bonus is the relationship that you form along the way with your patients who are trying to navigate their way through life with a chronic disease.

### Bernadette Siaton, MD

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Baltimore, Maryland

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “I chose rheumatology because of the longitudinal care relationships I develop with my patients and the opportunity to improve their quality of life. Rheumatology is one of the specialties that still practices the art of medicine -history and physical exam are extremely important! I also love the lifestyle that allows me to spend time with my family.”

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Tuhina Neogi, MD, PhD, FRCPC

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Boston, Massachusetts

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “Rheumatologic diseases are quite diverse, requiring one to be a skilled physician who is able to pick up clues from the history and physical examination to figure out the diagnosis and develop a comprehensive plan. The biology of the diseases are fascinating, with numerous mechanism-based therapies that have been developed within the past couple of decades.”

### Sara Tedeschi, MD

*Brigham and Women's Hospital Rheumatology Fellowship*

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Boston, Massachusetts

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “I was looking for a medical subspecialty that was intellectually challenging, would involve long-term relationships with my patients, and was not saturated in the clinical research space. Rheumatology forces me to periodically re-evaluate what I think the patient has, which adds another interesting layer to the field.”

[scholar.harvard.edu/saratedeschi](http://scholar.harvard.edu/saratedeschi)

## MICHIGAN

### Manveen Saluja, MD, FACP

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Troy, Michigan

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “I chose rheumatology because I enjoy the challenge of diagnostic dilemmas and help patients who are having difficulty getting diagnosed. I am attracted to solving the diagnosis taking clues from history, physical examination and integrating with Lab data. I like to understand pathophysiology and abundance of clinical findings. I especially enjoy taking care of patients with chronic disease, working with them and their concerns over many years and helping manage their disease through various phases of life like marriage, pregnancy, etc. I find teaching medical residents and medical students rheumatology very rewarding. I am amazed daily how the breakthroughs in our understanding of these diseases have led to amazingly improved outcomes for patients. I also advise the patients about the need to pace themselves and improve nutrition especially when giving steroids. As a Rheumatologist you develop a role as a physician who evaluates and treats, a Coach who helps them navigate with their illness and motivator when patients have pain or flare up.”

## MINNESOTA

### Matthew Koster, MD

*Mayo Clinic, Rochester*  
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Rochester, Minnesota

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “Among the internal medicine sub-specialties, I feel rheumatology provides the best opportunity for utilizing advanced hands-on physical examination skills, incorporating basic science breakthroughs, impacting quality of life, and establishing meaningful longitudinal care. With the rarity and complexity of several conditions that rheumatologists diagnose, any patient could be a medical mystery and as result we get the honor of frequently donning detective hats with our doctors coats.”

## MISSISSIPPI

### Nadine James, PhD

*Forrest General Hospital and Simmons College*  
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Hattiesburg, Mississippi

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “Rheumatic disease is so widespread and there is a great need for health professionals to come into the field and remain in the field.”

## MISSOURI

### Katherine Temprano, MD

*Saint Louis University*  
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St. Louis, Missouri

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “I was the lucky recipient of the Foundation's medical school clinical preceptorship which initially attracted me to Rheumatology. I was fortunate to have wonderful mentoring by Dr. Robert Lightfoot, ACR Master, throughout my internal medicine residency which solidified my decision to pursue Rheumatology.”

## NEW YORK

### Douglas Mund, MD

*ProHealth Care Associates*  
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516-622-6090  
Lake Success, New York

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “Had the most incredible experience in my 4<sup>th</sup> year of medical school. I found the diseases interesting and challenging.”

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Shaili Deveshwar, MD, FACR

*Piedmont Orthopedics*

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336-275-0927

Greensboro, North Carolina

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “Rheumatology is an exciting field to practice medicine due the emergence of innovative therapies which have helped us treat some very challenging diseases, and has remarkably improved the quality of life in our patients. Practicing rheumatology also gives physicians a balanced life style with a flexible schedule, so we are able to spend quality time with our families.”

## OHIO

### Maria Antonelli, MD

*Case Western Reserve University/MetroHealth Medical Center*

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Cleveland, Ohio

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “I chose rheumatology for a lot of reasons, most importantly because of its opportunity for continuity of care of sick patients who are just trying to live their lives. I was really drawn to the unknown in the immunology part of the field and have found it exciting and fascinating to see advances in the short time I have had the opportunity to practice.”

### Joseph Flood, MD

*Columbus Arthritis Center (I also am an active faculty member at The Ohio State University)*

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Columbus, Ohio

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “I have been a rheumatologist for thirty years and have enjoyed it very much. I really like that I can make so much difference in the lives of my patients. Rheumatologists take a holistic approach to our patients--we need to know all about them and their symptoms and how this affects their lives. The diseases we treat can effect so many different systems and "parts" of the patient that we really need to see the whole patient and not just one system. We have incredible medications that make a huge difference in the quality of lives and it is gratifying to see those tangible changes in how people feel and function. I also like that my subspecialty of rheumatology allows me time for all of the other things I appreciate in life beyond medicine. This is another reason why we are described as the "happiest specialty". In my own career, I have made teaching medical students and residents an important priority. I think the practice of rheumatology lends itself well to mentoring excellent care and evaluation and treatment of the very interesting diseases we treat. My practice accommodates learners and my desire to be a teacher and learner myself.”

## Sobia Hassan, MD

*MetroHealth Medical Center at Case Western Reserve University*

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Cleveland, Ohio

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “Rheumatology provides the perfect balance between science and clinical medicine, outpatient and inpatient practice as well as work and family life. The challenging patients and rapidly expanding field provides for constant intellectual stimulation.”

## Vivek Nagaraja, MD

*University of Toledo*

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Toledo, Ohio

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “Rheumatology is not confined to a single organ-system; most rheumatic diseases can affect multiple organs. I chose rheumatology as it helped be more grounded as an internist with specialized skills enabling me to think 'out of the box' constantly.”

## PENNSYLVANIA

## David Bulbin, DO

*Geisinger Medical Center*

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Danville, Pennsylvania

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “Rheumatology is an incredible fulfilling and satisfying career choice. The cases are incredibly interesting, complex and you really help your patients. Many times, you are the last hope for the patient and they are relying on you to solve the unsolvable case. I am biased, but it is truly the best field of medicine!”

## Arundathi Jaytilleke, MD, MS

*Drexel University College of Medicine*

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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “Rheumatology is both intellectually and emotionally fulfilling for me! I enjoy helping my patients function better, and contributing to student and community education.”

[twitter.com/rheumed](https://twitter.com/rheumed)

## Rayford June, MD

*Penn State Hershey Medical Center*

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Hershey, Pennsylvania

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “I was a late adopter of Rheumatology during Internal Medicine residency when I fell in love with the fascinating physical exams and detective requiring history. The immunology sealed the deal and I am now an early career academic rheumatologist.”

<http://www.pennstatehershey.org/findaprovider/provider/2284?offset=25&max=5&alpha=J>

## Elizabeth Schlenk, PhD, RN

*University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing*

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “I chose rheumatology as the focus of my research because rheumatologic disorders are chronic disorders with complex medical regimens requiring self-management strategies. Interventions promoting self-management can have positive effects on outcomes that are important to patients.”

<http://www.nursing.pitt.edu/person/elizabeth-schlenk>

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### Melissa Cunningham, MD PhD

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Charleston, South Carolina

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “As a physician-scientist interested in women's health and immunology (which is fascinating biology!), choosing Rheumatology with a focus on the care of lupus patients, was a natural choice. I also love taking long-term care of the whole patient and the whole body: kidney, brain, heart, lungs, eyes, skin, etc in the practice of Rheumatology.”

## VIRGINIA

### George Moxley, MD

*Virginia Commonwealth University*

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Richmond, Virginia

**Why I chose rheumatology:** “I chose rheumatology because we have an intellectually engaging and fun job, something new day after day, and we're a happy lot! We see the most fascinating patients in the hospital and the clinics--it has long fallen to the rheumatologists to lend diagnosis to the remainder of the medical field. I do not have one.”