



Dr Margaret Ma  
Programme Director

# NUHS RHEUMATOLOGY SENIOR RESIDENCY PROGRAMME

The subspecialty of rheumatology includes the evaluation and treatment of a wide array of inflammatory, non-inflammatory, and degenerative diseases that affect the musculoskeletal and other organ systems.

The NUHS Rheumatology Senior Residency Programme strives for excellence in all aspects of residency education and training. The purpose of our rheumatology programme is to train residents to be accomplished practitioners and consultants in the rheumatic diseases; to encourage their professional development and scholarly pursuits that ensure they remain current in the field of rheumatology and immunology throughout their careers, and to foster their interest in contributing to future advancement of the field.

Graduate rheumatologists will meet the requirements to be eligible for the local advanced trainee exit exam and be certified as proficient to practise independently in either an academic institution or in private clinical practice.

Our senior residency programme consists of multiple areas of exposure over a period of three years, of which two years will fulfill the ACGME-I requirements. The programme will navigate the residents through a range of ward and outpatient-based clinical proficiencies in the field of rheumatology, with emphasis on building competencies in clinical patient management, bedside rheumatological procedures including musculoskeletal ultrasonography, interprofessional interactions and research.

Residents will enjoy attachments to the various departments, including paediatric rheumatology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, podiatry and laboratory medicine. We believe in piquing our residents' interest in research and our dedicated faculty members are committed to providing mentorship to nurture our residents' budding research ideas. To increase exposure in the area of research and evidence-based practice, we encourage our residents to attend and present their research findings at both local and international conferences in the field of rheumatology.

## Outstanding Features

Compassionate and Nurturing Teachers  
 Good-Sized Programme with Ample Room for Growth  
 Work-Life Balance & Work Smart, Play Hard

## Clinical Excellence

The senior residency programme is structured to capitalise on the strengths and leverage on the wide breadth of clinical experience and expertise available in NUH. The Division of Rheumatology provides tertiary outpatient and inpatient care to patients with rheumatic, soft tissue and metabolic bone diseases. We also provide inpatient rheumatology consultation for all disciplines in NUH. We believe in a holistic approach to patient care and strive towards engaging patient participation in order to ensure that the best outcomes are achieved (disease remission, quality of life). The Division also helps the Outpatient Infusion Centre (OPIC) – a unit that provides outpatient parenteral therapy administered by trained nurses.

## Education

Our faculty are also committed to undergraduate education, postgraduate education such as Internal Medicine Residency Programme, Rheumatology Senior Residency Programme and allied-health education. Our Division Head is Dr Peter Cheung who is also the Research Director for the division. We are blessed to have some very experienced, award winning teachers and mentors amongst our midst who are also a source of inspiration and guidance. We encourage active learning, reflection and open communications in all members of our team.

## Research Opportunities

We actively participate in clinical trials which includes biologic agents in the treatment of rheumatic diseases supported by our clinical experience. We have ongoing clinical and basic science research relating to rheumatoid arthritis, gout, systemic sclerosis and systemic lupus erythematosus. In addition, we have initiatives for quality improvement and health services research including the shared care programme with our family physicians



Year 1												
Block	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Site	NUH	NUH	NUH	NUH	NTFGH	NTFGH	NUH/ NTFGH	NUH/ NTFGH	NUH	NUH	NUH	NUH
Rotation Highlights	Basic Rheumatology						Others*		Intermediate Rheumatology			
Rotation Name	Acute Rheum Wards		Ambulatory Rheumatology Basic US, Osteoporosis, IA		Community Rheumatology		GM/ GRM		Ambulatory Rheumatology OPIC, arthrocentesis & injections		Acute Rheum Wards	Vacation
Continuity Clinic and General Rheumatology Clinic												
% Outpatient	20	20	70	70	40	40	20	20	60	20	20	0
% Research	5	5	30	30	10	10	5	5	40	5	5	0

Year 2												
Block	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Site	NUH	NUH	NUH	NUH	NTFGH	NTFGH	NUH/ NTFGH	NUH/ NTFGH	NUH	NUH	NUH	NUH
Rotation Highlights	Intermediate Rheumatology						Others*		Advanced Rheumatology			
Rotation Name	Inpatient Consults	HRM, Hand OT, Lab	Ambulatory Rheumatology Basic US, Osteoporosis, IA		Community Rheumatology		GM/ GRM		Ambulatory Rheumatology OPIC, arthrocentesis & injections		Inpatient Consults	Vacation
Continuity Clinic and General Rheumatology Clinic												
% Outpatient	20	60	70	70	40	40	20	20	60	20	20	0
% Research	5	5	30	30	10	10	5	5	40	5	5	0