

PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE

Singh JA, Furst DE, Bharat A, Curtis JR, Kavanaugh AF, Kremer JM, Moreland LW, O'Dell J, Winthrop KL, Beukelman T, Bridges SL Jr, Chatham WW, Paulus HE, Suarez-Almazor M, Bombardier C, Dougados M, Khanna D, King CM, Leong AL, Matteson EL, Schousboe JT, Moynihan E, Kolba KS, Jain A, Volkman ER, Agrawal H, Bae S, Mudano AS, Patkar NM, Saag KG. "2012 update of the 2008 American College of Rheumatology recommendations for the use of disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs and biologic agents in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis." *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)*. 2012 May;64(5):625-39.

Zhang J, Xie F, Delzell E, Chen L, Winthrop KL, Lewis JD, Saag KG, Baddley JW, Curtis JR. "Association between vaccination for herpes zoster and risk of herpes zoster infection among older patients with selected immune-mediated diseases." *JAMA*. 2012 Jul 4;308(1):43-9.

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RHEUMATOLOGY

UAB rheumatologists use high-tech means to optimize rheumatoid arthritis patient outcomes.

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RHEUMATOLOGY INSIGHT

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM



Rheumatologists at the UAB Rheumatoid Arthritis Center include, from left, Drs. Lou Bridges, Maria Danila, Laura Hughes, and David Spalding. Hughes (inset) directs the clinic's Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Program.

UAB Rheumatoid Arthritis Clinic Uses Technology to Optimize Patient Outcomes

Electronic clinical data collection presents enormous opportunities for advancing the science and practice of medicine, including patient-centered outcome research (PCOR), says S. Louis Bridges Jr, MD, PhD, director of the UAB Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology. Supported by a growing evidence base, the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) has recommended quantitative measures of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) disease activity in routine practice. "This recommendation has

translated into a greater emphasis on 'treat-to-target' treatment strategies that have been shown to improve RA patient outcomes," says Jeffrey Curtis, MD, MS, MPH, director of the division's Arthritis Clinical Intervention Program. "However, there are many barriers to consistent, systematic data capture, including time and workflow issues and the availability and ease-of-use of health technology." In order to fully realize the benefits of using patient-reported outcomes (PRO) data in routine practice, says

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 RHEUMATOLOGY

RHEUMATOLOGY INSIGHT

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ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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NEW PHYSICIANS

Angelo Gaffo, MD, MSPH, has joined UAB as assistant professor of medicine after completing an internal medicine residency and rheumatology fellowship at UAB. His clinical interests include vasculitis and gout. Gaffo sees patients at The Kirklind Rheumatology Clinic and at the Birmingham VA Medical Center.

Archana Jain, MD, has joined UAB as assistant professor of medicine. She completed an internal medicine residency at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, Illinois, where she served as chief medical resident. She completed a rheumatology fellowship at UAB and sees patients at The Kirklind Rheumatology Clinic and the UAB Highlands Rheumatology Clinic.

Iris Navarro, MD, joined UAB as assistant professor of medicine. She completed a residency in internal medicine at the Baptist Health System in Birmingham and a rheumatology fellowship at UAB. She sees patients at The Kirklind Rheumatology Clinic.

The UAB Lupus Clinic: Caring for the Complexities of SLE



W. Winn Chatham, MD

Established over 30 years ago, the UAB Lupus Clinic offers patients access to state-of-the-art therapies for the treatment of lupus, education programs, and counseling to assist patients in the understanding of their disease and offer them the opportunity to participate in genetic, translational science, and clinical outcomes research.

Led by W. Winn Chatham, MD, professor of medicine and Louis W. Heck Clinical Scholar in Rheumatology, the clinic is staffed by several faculty members and two nurse practitioners with extensive experience in the care of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). The clinic maintains a collaborative care arrangement with consultants in Pulmonary Medicine, Cardiology, Nephrology, and Dermatology, providing appointment coordination for patients requiring evaluation from physicians in these specialties. The Lupus Clinic also assists in the management of lupus patients during pregnancy, in cooperation with the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine's high-risk pregnancy and complications clinic.

Lupus-specific templates are used to enter data into the UAB Health System's electronic medical record, allowing providers

to efficiently track and evaluate patients' disease manifestations and responses to treatment. The UAB Lupus Clinic has provided a fertile ground for patient-centered research focused on the genetics of SLE and immunologic mechanisms of disease. More than two-dozen investigators have ongoing collaborations with Lupus Clinic physicians to elucidate the genetic basis and causes of lupus and identify potential new targets for treatment.

In the past decade, the UAB Lupus Clinic has been a site for clinical trials, evaluating more than 10 new lupus therapies. UAB was a site for the initial clinical trials to assess the effectiveness and safety of belimumab (Benlysta), the first drug in over 50 years to be approved for the treatment of lupus. Faculty members continue to work with participating patients in studies to assess belimumab's overall effects on immune function and the optimal use of this exciting new development.

Other national and multinational studies include clinical trials of antibodies to interferon-alpha, anti-CD22 antibodies (epratuzumab), and other anti-BlyS/BAFF reagents. As a member of the Immune Tolerance Network as well as the Lupus Nephritis Trials Network, the UAB Lupus Clinic also provides lupus patients with nephritis the opportunity to participate in protocols to determine optimal management.

To make referrals, call 1.800.822.8816 or email wchatham@uab.edu.

At the Rheumatology/ Dermatology Interface

There is substantial overlap in the clinical and pathological features of rheumatic diseases and skin diseases. For example, skin findings are typically prominent in systemic lupus erythematosus and dermatomyositis, and arthritis may accompany dermatologic disorders such as psoriasis.

At the forefront of this intersection of skin and rheumatic diseases is Henry Townsend, MD, assistant professor of medicine, who sees patients at the UAB Highlands Rheumatology Clinic. After completing his rheumatology fellowship at UAB, he was the first dermatology-rheumatology fellow at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard University.

Townsend's research and clinical interests are in new therapies for psoriatic arthritis (IL12/23 inhibitors, IL-17 inhibitors, JAK kinase inhibitors, apremilast, etc.) and dermatologic manifestations of rheumatic diseases. He will lead a discussion of new therapies for psoriatic arthritis and also speak at a forum on derm-rheum disorders at the 2013 American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting.



Henry Townsend, MD

UAB MEDICINE NEWS



Jeffrey Curtis, MD, MS, MPH

Kunkel Award
Jeffrey Curtis, MD, MS, MPH, associate professor of medicine and epidemiology in the Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, is the 2012 recipient of the Henry Kunkel Young Investigator Award from the American College of Rheumatology. The award is given to a physician scientist aged 45 or under who has

made outstanding independent contributions to basic or clinical research in the field of rheumatology. Curtis is the first UAB faculty member and first former UAB fellow to be awarded this honor, which is given to one laboratory-based and one clinical investigator annually. He has an outstanding international reputation in RA clinical trials, comparative effectiveness, evidence implementation, and research methods utilizing large administrative databases. He was honored at the ACR Annual Scientific Meeting November 10 in Washington, DC.

Randall Is Bennett Professor

Leading immunologist Troy Randall, PhD, joined UAB as professor of medicine and the first J. Claude Bennett Professor in the Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology. Randall and his wife, research partner, and fellow leading immunologist Frances Lund, PhD, recruited from the University of Rochester Medical Center, New York, have made significant contributions in their field. Lund joins UAB as chair of the Department of Microbiology and the Charles H. McCauley Endowed Chair in Microbiology.

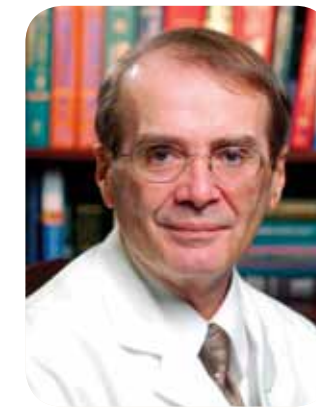
The Howard and Martha Holley Research Prize Awarded to Wolfgang Gross

Wolfgang Gross, MD, PhD, professor of internal medicine at the University of Lübeck, Germany, director of the Lübeck Department of the Rheumatology, and head of the

Department for Rheumatology and Immunology in Bad Bramstedt, was awarded the Howard and Martha Holley Research Prize on August 1. Gross is a world leader in research in vasculitis, particularly granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's granulomatosis). During his visit to UAB, he provided an update during Medical Grand Rounds and at Rheumatology Grand Rounds.

Koopman Honored at Dinner

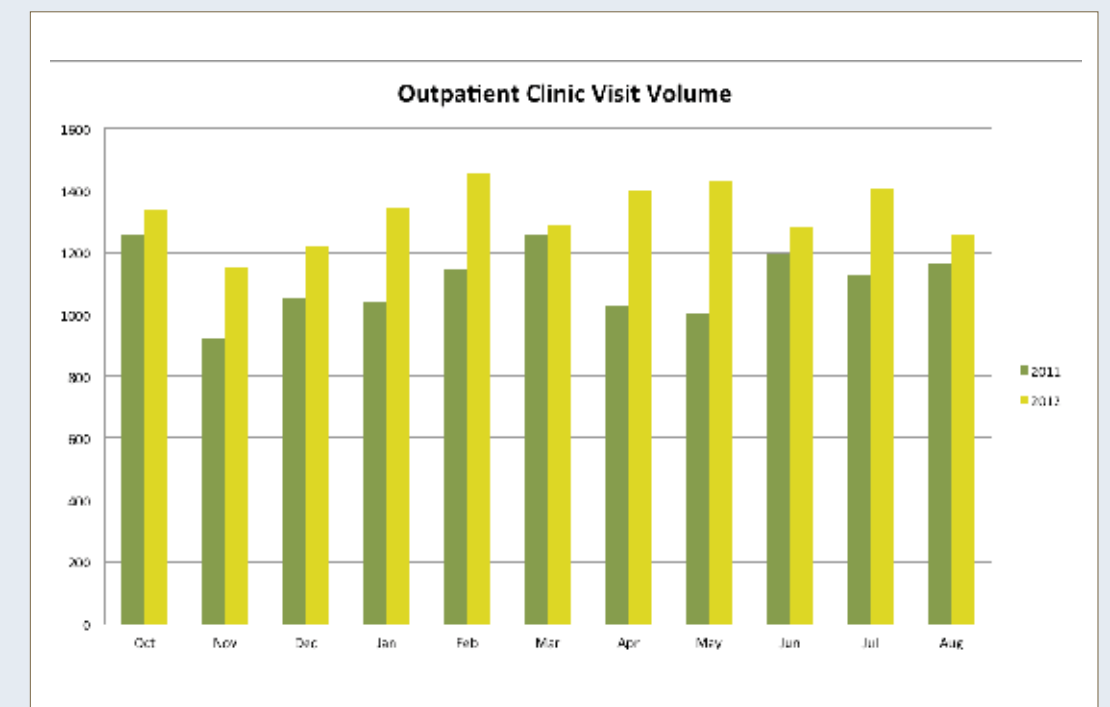
William Koopman, MD, Distinguished Professor and Chair Emeritus of the UAB Department of Medicine and former director of the Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, was honored at a dinner held October 5. More than 100 guests attended the event held in conjunction



William Koopman, MD

with the division's 57th Annual Lowe Conference on Rheumatic Diseases. Among his many accomplishments, he was the recipient of the 2011 American College of Rheumatology Presidential Gold Medal and was named the 2012 Laureate of the American College of Physicians (Alabama Chapter).

MEASURES OF SUCCESS: IMPROVING PATIENT ACCESS



UAB Rheumatology continues to identify opportunities to improve patient access to outpatient care. Recent faculty recruitment has helped the division's clinics to increase visits by about 18% from 2011 to 2012.

FEATURED CLINICAL TRIALS

A Phase 3, Multi-Center, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, 52-Week Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Belimumab (HGS1006) Administered Subcutaneously to Subjects with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (BLISS-SC) The purpose of this study is to evaluate the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of belimumab administered subcutaneously to adult subjects with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). PI: W. Winn Chatham, MD. Contact: Angie Kendrach, study coordinator, 205.975.8091.

A Phase 2, Randomized Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of MEDI-546 in Subjects with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (MUSE) The purpose of this study is to evaluate the efficacy and safety of MEDI-546 compared to placebo in subjects with chronic, moderately-to-severely active systemic lupus erythematosus with an inadequate response to standard of care treatment for SLE. PI: W. Winn Chatham, MD. Contact: Angie Kendrach, 205.975.8091.

A Phase 3, Multicenter, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Subcutaneous LY2127399 in Patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (ILLUMINATE) The purpose of this study is to evaluate the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of two different doses of LY2127399 administered in addition to standard of care therapy in patients with active SLE. PI: W. Winn Chatham, MD. Contact: Cheryl Hardin, 205.934.2981.