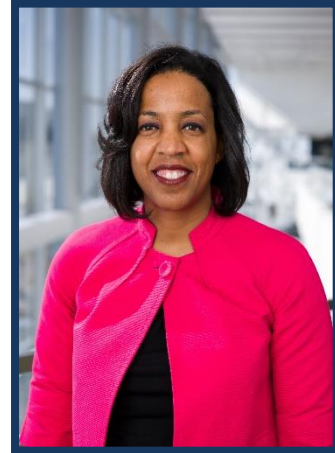


## Division Introduction

Under the direction of Division Chief Tracey Wright, M.D., the Division of Pediatric Rheumatology at UT Southwestern Medical Center remains the major center for pediatric rheumatology in North Texas. The faculty, fellows, and clinical and administrative staff are committed to excellence in clinical care, transformative research, and quality education with the following mission:

- We provide outstanding care for children with rheumatic disease.
- We foster the inquiry and discovery of new knowledge to advance our field and improve outcomes for all children with rheumatic disease.
- We develop the next generation of leaders in Pediatric Rheumatology.
- We advocate for children with rheumatic disease with compassion to improve patient outcomes and to ensure all have access to the best care.



**Tracey B. Wright, M.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Division Chief

The Division maintains a busy clinical practice spanning three locations: Scottish Rite for Children Dallas, Scottish Rite for Children Frisco, and Children’s Medical Center Dallas. The Division operates the largest and longest-established multispecialty clinic for children with rheumatic diseases in the region at Scottish Rite for Children Dallas. We serve a diverse patient population and have a broad referral base from throughout Texas and surrounding states. Faculty have a wide array of clinical and research interests, including juvenile idiopathic arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, juvenile dermatomyositis, and scleroderma.

The Division is actively involved in both translational and clinical research endeavors directed toward improving pathophysiologic understanding, treatment options, and outcomes in a variety of pediatric rheumatic diseases. Collaborative research with leading pediatric rheumatology translational scientists has garnered grant funding from the National Institutes of Health and, most importantly, significantly improved the understanding of the pathophysiology of Systemic-Onset Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. The Division also participates in the Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance (CARRA), the investigator-led collaborative pediatric rheumatology research network.

Pediatric Rheumatology has a significant commitment to medical education, offering a rheumatology elective for pediatric residents and fourth-year medical students. The fellowship training program is one of only 37 Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited programs for pediatric rheumatology; it has continuously trained fellows from all over the world for more than 30 years.

## Faculty

Currently, the Division is comprised of five faculty members with diverse clinical and research interests who provide care to patients with rheumatic disease, including inpatient, outpatient, and infusion services.



Tracy Wright, MD  
Associate Professor  
Division Chief



Julie Fuller, MD  
Assistant Professor



Lorien Nassi, MD  
Associate Professor



Elizabeth Sloan, MD  
Assistant Professor



Katie Stewart, MD  
Assistant Professor

## Honors / Awards

### **Lorien Nassi**

- Promoted to Associate Professor

### **Elizabeth Sloan**

- Promoted to Assistant Professor

### **Best Doctors/Pediatric Specialists in Dallas, *D Magazine***

- Julie Fuller
- Lorien Nassi
- Katie Stewart
- Tracey Wright

### **Texas Super Doctors, Texas Monthly**

- Julie Fuller
- Katie Stewart

## Invited Lectures

### **Julie Fuller**

- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners Meeting in San Antonio, TX, February 2022
  - “Pediatric Lupus for the Practitioner”

### Elizabeth Sloan

- American College of Rheumatology and The Lupus Initiative Webinar, Virtual, February 2022
  - *“Understanding Systemic Lupus Erythematosus in Children and Young Adults: Training and Education for School Healthcare Providers”*
- 2022 Lupus Lone Star Summit; San Antonio, TX, September 2022
  - *“Diagnosing Pediatric Lupus”*
- Oklahoma State University Resident Lecture Series, Virtual, December 2022
  - *“Pediatric Systemic Lupus Erythematosus”*

### Tracey Wright

- Scottish Rite for Children Pediatric Orthopedic Conference, Virtual, October 2022
  - *“Inflammatory Arthritis: Follow the Clues to Make the Diagnosis”*

### Lorien Nassi

- Scottish Rite for Children Pediatric Orthopedic Resident Conference, Dallas, TX, October 2022
  - *“Juvenile Arthritis”*
- Methodist Charlton Medical Center Family Medicine Resident Lecture Series, Dallas, TX, November 2022
  - *“All About It is”*

## Conference Presentations

### American College of Rheumatology Convergence, Virtual, November 2022

Ciosek A, Makris U, Kramer J, **Wright T**, Bitencourt N

Poster Presentation, *“Patient Activation and Health Literacy in the Pediatric to Adult Transition in Juvenile Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: Patient and Health Care Team Perspectives”*

Ciaglia K, Godiwala C, Jo C, **Wright T**, Walters L, **Nassi L**

Poster Presentation, *“Surveying Adolescents with Rheumatic Disease for At-Risk Behavior”*

Al Manaa M, Jo C, Makris U, Bitencourt N, **Wright T**, **Nassi L**

Poster Presentation, *“Impact of Demographics and Health Literacy on Transition Readiness for Adolescents with Rheumatic Disease”*

Nazir S, Rouster-Stevens K, **Fuller J**, Kim H, Do V, Volochayev R, Jansen A, Bayat N, Rider L, Schiffenbauer A

Poster Presentation, *“Validity of the Mawdsley Calcinosis Questionnaire in Adult and Juvenile Dermatomyositis (DM, JDM) Patients with Calcinosis”*

Nelson M, Schiffenbauer A, Kim H, Gillespie S, Do V, **Fuller J**, Rider L, Rouster-Stevens K

Poster Presentation, *“Intra-rater Validation of Calcinosis Durometer Measurements in Juvenile and Adult Dermatomyositis”*

Tarvin S, Goh I, Taylor N, Lang B, De Guzman M, **Fuller J**, Houghton K, Kim S, Carbone V, Cook K, Slater T, Robinson A, McCann L, Papadopoulou C, Pilkington C, Rushe P, Blier P

Poster Presentation, *“Telemedicine Use in the Assessment of Juvenile Dermatomyositis and Polymyositis: A Survey of Caregivers and Patients”*

## **Education and Training**

The Division of Pediatric Rheumatology has a significant commitment to promote new and innovative training strategies for medical students, residents, fellows, and junior faculty, as well as educational programs for the local and national community. Our three-year, ACGME-accredited fellowship program, directed by Dr. Wright, has a mission to develop the next generation of Pediatric Rheumatology leaders who are committed to multidisciplinary, patient-centered care, the discovery of new knowledge, and passionate advocacy. Our fellowship provides comprehensive training for three Pediatric Rheumatology fellows (one per year). In the first year of fellowship, emphasis is on acquiring knowledge and clinical skills in Rheumatology. The second and third year of training focus on a translational or clinical research project that meets the American Board of Pediatrics requirements for scholarly activity while further developing clinical skills and pursuing advanced training. Program graduates secure positions in major academic institutions throughout the country with several holding key leadership positions including Division Chief, Fellowship Program Director, and Assistant Dean.

Focused areas of research by the Division’s current fellows include:

- Impact of depression on academic outcomes in children with childhood-onset Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)
- Surveying adolescents with rheumatic disease for at risk behaviors

The Program has a comprehensive musculoskeletal ultrasound program to train fellows to improve proficiency in the application of this important tool in clinical practice and research. Program components include didactic and hands-on pediatric scanning sessions. Fellows also learn through cadaver and Simulation Center practice sessions.



Hannah Bradfield, MD



Kristina Ciaglia, MD



Eric Kok, MD

## Research Activities

The Division is actively engaged in translational and clinical research to elucidate disease mechanisms and to improve the care for children with rheumatic disease. A large, diverse patient population has provided the ability to conduct studies in several areas, and faculty have been involved in multi-center studies in the pathogenesis and epidemiology of childhood rheumatic diseases. All Division faculty are members of CARRA, an investigator-led collaborative pediatric rheumatology research network with a mission to conduct collaborative research to prevent, treat, and cure pediatric rheumatic diseases.

- **Dr. Julie Fuller** actively participates in the CARRA Juvenile Dermatomyositis Telemedicine Workgroup studying the evaluation and management of these patients using a virtual platform. She also participated in a multi-center collaborative study with the NIH to study the natural history of calcinosis in Juvenile Dermatomyositis.
- **Dr. Lorien Nassi** engages in the Division's quality improvement efforts, leading projects focused on adolescents with rheumatic disease. Current projects evaluate the identification of adolescents with rheumatic disease at risk for pregnancy, mental illness, or social barriers to health care and seek to improve the transition of children and adolescents with rheumatic disease to adult care.
- **Dr. Elizabeth Sloan** studies the impact of antiphospholipid antibodies (aPL) on global coagulopathy and the effect of aspirin therapy on attenuating aPL-induced hypercoagulability. Her work so far has identified clinical risk factors for the development of arterial and venous thrombosis in pediatric SLE patients with persistently positive aPL. She co-leads the CARRA SLE- Antiphospholipid Syndrome Workgroup.
- **Dr. Katie Stewart** is the Site Principal Investigator for the CARRA Registry, a multi-site observational registry whose goal is to understand the long-term outcomes and long- and short-term safety and effectiveness of the medications used to treat pediatric rheumatic disease. She has a specific interest in Juvenile Scleroderma and participates in a multi-site study through CARRA to identify immunophenotype subsets in Juvenile Scleroderma.
- **Dr. Tracey Wright** is the Principal Investigator for the Clinical and Sample Core of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases-funded Center for Lupus Excellence (CLR), an integrated, cooperative center based at UT Southwestern Medical Center and Drukier Institute for Children's Health at Weill Cornell Medicine. The goal of the CLR is to advance the knowledge of pathways and mechanisms that contribute to the development and amplification of human SLE and to develop assays and tools to 1) monitor these dysfunctional pathways; and 2) stratify patients towards personalized therapies.

## Clinical Activities

The Division offers expert evaluation, counseling, and treatment in the broad array of rheumatic diseases found in children, including juvenile idiopathic arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, juvenile dermatomyositis, morphea/scleroderma, vasculitis, inflammatory uveitis, and autoinflammatory syndromes. Clinical services are offered at Scottish Rite for Children Dallas, Scottish Rite for Children Frisco, and Children's Medical Center Dallas.

The Rheumatology Clinic at Scottish Rite for Children Dallas campus is a multi-disciplinary clinic staffed by an attending rheumatologist, pediatric rheumatology fellows, and additional Scottish Rite staff including two pediatric rheumatology nurse practitioners, a psychologist, occupational and physical therapy, and Child Life. In 2022, between the three hospitals, Division faculty saw more than 5,300 outpatient visits in 18 clinics per week. There were 1,280 new patient visits.

Services provided by UT Southwestern pediatric rheumatology physicians include:

- Evaluation and treatment of children with suspected rheumatic diseases
- Coordination of multi-disciplinary care with other Division and ancillary services
- Education about specific rheumatic conditions
- Psychosocial support

## Patient Statistics

Rheumatology Patient Visits per Location By Year:

<b>Scottish Rite Hospital Dallas</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Outpatient Visits	2,787	2,946	2,701	3,029	2,980
New Outpatient Visits	366	532	426	594	540
Infusions	469	735	502	567	658

<b>Scottish Rite Hospital Frisco</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Outpatient Visits	1,463	1,318	1,403	1,301
New Outpatient Visits	459	410	388	265
Infusions	152	263	262	126

<b>Children’s Medical Center Dallas</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Outpatient Visits	1,651	1,022	892	1,085	1,105
New Outpatient Visits	427	378	306	451	475
Infusions	306	258	251	200	202

## Grant Support

**Katie Stewart**

**Grantor:** Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance

**Title of Project:** Observational Study of Pediatric Rheumatic Diseases: The CARRA Registry

**Role:** Principal Investigator

**Dates:** 08/2015 – 12/2022

## Tracey Wright

**Grantor:** National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

**Title of Project:** Center for Lupus Research

**Role:** Principal Investigator

**Dates:** 09/2022 – 05/2027

**Grantor:** Lupus Research Alliance, Inc

**Title of Project:** Molecular Fingerprinting of Lupus in Children

**Role:** Principal Investigator

**Dates:** 04/2022 – 04/2023

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. Ciosek AL, Makris UE, Kramer J, Bermas BL, Solow EB, **Wright T**, Bitencourt N. [Health Literacy and Patient Activation in the Pediatric to Adult Transition in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: Patient and Health Care Team Perspectives](#). *ACR Open Rheumatol*. 2022 Sep;4(9):782-793. PMID:35716025
2. Saez C, **Nassi L**, **Wright T**, Makris UE, Kramer J, Bermas BL, Solow EB, Bitencourt N. [Therapeutic recreation camps for youth with childhood-onset systemic lupus erythematosus: perceived psychosocial benefits](#). *Pediatr Rheumatol Online J*. 2022 Jun 7;20(1):39. PMID:35672791
3. **Sloan EE**, McCurdy D. [The Antiphospholipid Syndrome in the Pediatric Population](#). *Adv Pediatr*. 2022 Aug;69(1):107-121. PMID:35985703
4. Stoll ML, DeQuattro K, Li Z, Sawhney H, Weiss PF, Nigrovic PA, **Wright TB**, Schikler K, Edelheit B, Morrow CD, Reveille JD, Brown MA, Gensler LS. [Correction: Stoll et al. Impact of HLA-B27 and Disease Status on the Gut Microbiome of the Offspring of Ankylosing Spondylitis Patients](#). *Children* 2022, 9, 569. *Children (Basel)*. 2022 Aug 2;9(8):. PMID:36010158
5. **Wright TB**. [Updates in childhood Sjogren's syndrome](#). *Curr Opin Pediatr*. 2022 Apr 1;34(2):217-222. PMID:34879027
6. Yang K, Han J, Asada M, Gill JG, Park JY, Sathe MN, Gattineni J, **Wright T**, Wysocki CA, de la Morena MT, Garza LA, Yan N. [Cytoplasmic RNA quality control failure engages mTORC1-mediated autoinflammatory disease](#). *J Clin Invest*. 2022 Jan 18;132(2):. PMID:35040435
7. Yang K, Han J, Gill JG, Park JY, Sathe MN, Gattineni J, **Wright T**, Wysocki C, de la Morena MT, Yan N. [The mammalian SKIV2L RNA exosome is essential for early B cell development](#). *Sci Immunol*. 2022 Jun 3;7(72):eabn2888. PMID:35658009

## **Book Sections**

1. **Wright T** (2022). Rheumatological Disorders. In: Rinaldi RJ, Srinivasan R (Eds.), *Handbook of Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine* (pp. 165-178). New York, NY: Springer Publishing.