





**Breathing Science is Life**.



# PULMONARY HIGHLIGHTS 2018

**Clinical Expertise, Research and Education** 



National Jewish Health acknowledges The Tuchman Family Foundation and Debra and Ken Tuchman for their generous gift to establish The Tuchman Family Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine.

For more than 20 years, Debra and Ken Tuchman and the Tuchman Family have been committed to National Jewish Health through board service and as outstanding advocates for the institution.



### **Dear Colleague**,

For 120 years, National Jewish Health has focused on respiratory and related disorders. In any given week, our pulmonologists see patients with rare conditions that most pulmonologists see only a few times in their careers. We are accustomed to recognizing the zebras in herds of horses. We welcome your most challenging cases.

At National Jewish Health, we have one of the largest pulmonary divisions in the nation, and our dedicated faculty includes recognized national leaders in their fields, ranging from asthma, COPD and interstitial lung disease to diffuse panbronchiolitis and granulomatosis with polyangiitis. This year we were named the #1 respiratory hospital in the nation for the 17<sup>th</sup> time by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Our unique model of care relies on extensive evaluations by expert pulmonologists in collaboration with cardiologists, gastroenterologists, allergists, oncologists, rheumatologists and others, all under one roof at National Jewish Health. Patients who come from around the nation receive a combination of tests not available anywhere else. In just a few days they can see specialists in several disciplines, who then confer with their colleagues to determine a diagnosis.

We have extensive experience developing effective treatment plans for patients with common and rare conditions. We provide access to hundreds of clinical trials at National Jewish Health. Once we develop a diagnosis and treatment plan, we work with each patient's hometown physician to implement the plan.

We share our expertise with the next generation of health care providers by training medical students, residents and postgraduate fellows in affiliation with the University of Colorado School of Medicine and through our robust, nationwide continuing medical education program. Our dynamic clinical and basic research programs continuously seek answers to the many questions and challenges that remain in pulmonary medicine.

With great pleasure, we present *National Jewish Health Pulmonary Highlights 2018*, our annual compilation of clinical, research and educational capabilities and accomplishments in pulmonary medicine. We hope you will take a few moments to read and discover how we are advancing pulmonary medicine and improving treatment options for our patients.

Nebeche

Irina Petrache, MD Chief, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine National Jewish Health

Richard & Martin

**Richard J. Martin, MD** Chair, Department of Medicine National Jewish Health

National Jewish Health provides people from around the nation and the world with comprehensive evaluations, diagnoses and treatment plans. Our pulmonary specialists and their colleagues in cardiology, gastroenterology, oncology, immunology, rheumatology and radiology lead the way in providing this unique, comprehensive approach to care. And, our physicians and staff work with each patient's hometown physician to help monitor and adjust care as needed. Our expertise includes the following:

## Advanced Diagnostic Laboratories

We provide unparalleled immune and respiratory disease expertise to our clinical, biotech, pharmaceutical, public health and diagnostic partners. Our CLIA and CAP15189<sup>SM</sup>-certified laboratories have decades of experience developing immunology, complement, infectious disease and molecular genomic tests.

## Allergy and Immunology

Multidisciplinary teams of nationally recognized experts use the latest testing and treatments to diagnose and manage allergies and other immune disorders, which can impact respiratory health. Our patients also have access to the latest allergy and immunology clinical trials.

## Asthma

Thorough upper and lower airway evaluations in the multi-day adult and pediatric asthma programs help us phenotype patients and understand complicating factors from aspiration to allergies, vocal cord dysfunction and inhaler technique.

Our faculty members lead numerous National Institutes of Health (NIH) studies and industrysponsored clinical trials.

## **Behavioral Health**

Teaching patients to understand and manage behavioral health issues that often accompany chronic respiratory diseases is an integrated part of our whole patient approach. In addition, our prevention and wellness programs offer help with tobacco cessation and weight management.

## Cardiology

Our cardiologists are experts in the heart-lung interface. They work closely with pulmonologists to diagnose and treat the cardiac causes and consequences of lung disease, including pulmonary hypertension, cardiac sarcoidosis and other rare diseases.

## **Chronic Beryllium Disease**

National Jewish Health has more experience with the diagnosis and treatment of chronic beryllium disease than any other group in the world. We emphasize early disease detection and intervention.

## COPD

A multidisciplinary evaluation allows our team of physicians and therapists to address COPD medications, education, compliance, nutrition and rehabilitation.

We are advancing pulmonary medicine with COPDGene

and other studies to diagnose and phenotype COPD, striving to individualize therapies for chronic bronchitis, bronchiolitis, emphysema and bronchiectasis.

In addition, we are a leading center in the diagnosis and management of alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency and offer clinical trials for those with this condition.

## **Cystic Fibrosis**

We have the largest and most experienced adult cystic fibrosis program in the nation. Our team of pulmonary specialists, nurse coordinators, respiratory therapists, registered dietitians, psychologists and social workers provides treatment for more than 400 adults annually.

We have more than two dozen ongoing clinical trials to evaluate new cystic fibrosis therapies.

## Electrophysiology

Our electrophysiology program manages the outpatient and surgical needs of patients with arrhythmias, including atrial fibrillation, cardiomyopathy, ventricular tachycardia, bradycardia, palpitations, syncope and sudden cardiac death/familial genetic syndromes. Additionally, we have clinical trials in this area and provide the latest treatment options.

## **Environmental Health**

A multidisciplinary team approach helps us define, diagnose and treat patients with a broad range of occupational, environmental and granulomatous lung diseases, including chronic beryllium disease, bronchiolitis obliterans and respiratory disease among warfighters returning from deployment in the Middle East.

## Gastroenterology

We diagnose and treat the entire range of GI illnesses including liver disease, biliary disorders, inflammatory bowel disease, GERD and esophageal disorders, pancreatic disease, gut motility disorders and functional disorders of the gut.

We have special expertise in GI motility disorders, pulmonaryrelated GI conditions, GI cancer screening and treating GI malignancies.

## **Interstitial Lung Disease**

We have vast experience with interstitial lung disease (ILD). Through detailed evaluations, we diagnose the wide range of ILDs of idiopathic, exposure and autoimmune origins.

Care plans are based on the most current information, much of which has been discovered at National Jewish Health.

Also, we have several ongoing clinical trials of approved and experimental ILD therapies.

## Interventional Pulmonology

Minimally invasive diagnostic, therapeutic and palliative procedures include identification, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of pulmonary nodules; early detection of lung cancer; diagnosis and treatment of airway obstruction and tracheomalacia; pleural procedures; implantation and removal of airway stents; and bronchial thermoplasty for severe asthma. Interventional pulmonologists work closely with thoracic surgeons to individualize therapeutic options for those with severe emphysema, including bronchoscopic lung volume reduction and intra-bronchial valve placement.

## Mycobacterial Infections: TB and NTM

Our origins as a hospital for destitute tuberculosis patients make mycobacterial disease a part of the DNA of National Jewish Health. Today, we continue to provide consultations and manage nontuberculous mycobacterial (NTM) infections.

Experience with thousands of complex mycobacterial infections throughout our 120-year history has given us a deep knowledge of personalized antibiotic regimens and surgical options.



# **CLINICAL EXPERTISE**

## Oncology

Expert pulmonologists, thoracic radiologists, gastroenterologists and surgeons help us diagnose and treat cancers of the lungs, head and neck and digestive system. Lung cancer screening and our tumor registry help us screen and monitor patients at high risk for lung cancer.

## **Pediatrics**

National Jewish Health *for Kids* is shaping the evolving knowledge about diagnosis and treatment of asthma, vocal cord dysfunction and other pediatric pulmonary diseases.

Our Severe Asthma Clinic and Pediatric Day Program offer multiday evaluations, education and management plans for children with pulmonary and atopic diseases.

## **Pulmonary Hypertension**

Pulmonologists and cardiologists collaborate to provide comprehensive and sophisticated outpatient and inpatient services for pulmonary hypertension. These include detailed diagnostic



procedures, such as right heart catheterization with cardiopulmonary exercise testing, which allows for more precise phenotyping and treatment for complex patients.

## **Pulmonary Palliative Care**

This multidisciplinary team improves the quality of life and symptom management by integrating interventions with existing clinical care plans for individuals suffering from diverse respiratory conditions.

## **Pulmonary Pathology**

Vast pathology experience examining lung tissue and diagnosing respiratory diseases contributes to our unparalleled diagnostic capabilities and generates consultation requests from around the country.

# Pulmonary Physiological Services

Our state-of-the-art laboratory offers many unique tests, including cardiopulmonary exercise tests with full metabolic testing; arterial line; lactate levels and cardiac data; and continuous laryngoscopy with exercise tolerance to evaluate exerciseinduced respiratory distress.

## Radiology

Our highly experienced team of radiologists and technicians perform imaging studies on more lungs than any other facility.

## Our experts provide

interpretations of imaging test results and consultations to help doctors nationwide make accurate and timely diagnoses.

# **CLINICAL EXPERTISE**

## **Rare Lung Diseases**

As a national pulmonary referral center we have extensive experience diagnosing and managing a variety of rare lung diseases, including pulmonary alveolar proteinosis (PAP), lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM) and eosinophilic syndromes that most pulmonologists rarely see. We are recognized around the world for our expertise in thoracic imaging.

## Rheumatology

Our rheumatologists work to manage a variety of rheumatologic disorders. Our Autoimmune Lung Center specializes in interstitial lung diseases caused by systemic autoimmune diseases.

## Sarcoidosis

Experience with thousands of sarcoidosis patients has helped us better define and address the multi-organ nature of the disease and gain insight into its causes.

## Sleep

Our comprehensive sleep center relies on a full complement of pulmonologists, sleep medicine specialists, psychologists, respiratory therapists and polysomnographic technologists to address the entire spectrum of sleep disorders.



## DONALD LEUNG RECOGNIZED FOR SEMINAL WORK

For almost three decades, Donald Leung, MD, PhD, head of pediatric allergy and clinical immunology, has been one of the nation's leading physician scientists.

This year, Dr. Leung received the 2018 Distinguished Scientist Award from the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology for his seminal work in atopic dermatitis that will improve patients' lives.

Dr. Leung is one of the nation's leading experts on the care of patients with the most difficult and intractable atopic dermatitis, also known as eczema. His research has helped identify the roles of the skin barrier, the immune response and the skin microbiome in atopic dermatitis. Dr. Leung served for 17 years as editor of the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, is an author of more than 800 scientific publications and is a Principal Investigator of the NIH/NIAID Atopic Dermatitis Research Network. National Jewish Health is always searching for new, more effective treatments and medications for patients. Today, we have more than 300 active clinical trials offering cutting edge, experimental treatments for a wide range of respiratory and related diseases. We collaborate with the National Institutes of Health, industry and leading research institutions as members of numerous research networks and consortiums.

## **SELECTED 2018 CLINICAL RESEARCH RESULTS**

### Combination Therapy Promises Help for 90 Percent of Cystic Fibrosis Patients

Jennifer Taylor-Cousar, MD, MSCS, and her colleagues reported that two different three-drug combinations are more effective than current therapies and could help 90 percent of people with cystic fibrosis live healthier, longer lives. Dual-drug therapy with lumacaftor/ivacaftor (Orkambi®) or tezacaftor/ivacaftor (Symdeko<sup>®</sup>) are the current standard of care but have been less than optimal for patients homozygous for the most common CF mutation, del508, and remain unapproved for people with one copy of del508.

A four week treatment of the VX-445-tezacaftor-ivacaftor therapy improved lung function in patients with two copies of del508 by 11 percent over their response to the tezacaftor-ivacaftor combination. Patients with one copy of del508 experienced a 13.8 percent improvement in lung function compared to placebo. The trial of VX-659-tezacaftor-ivacaftor demonstrated similar results. The triple-combination therapies also improved results of sweat chloride concentrations and dramatically improved scores on a cystic fibrosis-specific quality-of-life test (N Engl J Med. 2018 Oct 25).

# Solving the Puzzle of Chronic Cough

Cough is the most common symptom causing patients to seek medical attention. In spite of published guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of unexplained chronic cough, many patients continue to suffer. James Good, MD; Richard Martin, MD; and their National Jewish Health colleagues reported their experience with 99 patients who suffered chronic refractory cough. The patients had suffered regular coughing anywhere from less than a year to more than 10 years.

Intake evaluation included history, physical examination, spirometry and fiberoptic laryngoscopy. Chest CTs were obtained for 95 of 99 patients. The physicians identified 10 different diagnoses that contributed to patients' coughs, with an average of four distinct disorders per patient. Obstructive sleep apnea and tracheobronchomalacia were common diagnoses not recognized in current guidelines. With directed therapy, 93 percent of patients had resolution or improvement in cough symptoms (Respir Med. 2018 Aug).

## Gene Variant Associated with Lung Disease in Rheumatoid Arthritis

In 2011, **Max Seibold, PhD**, reported that a mutation in promoter region of the muc5b gene is the strongest genetic risk factor for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, increasing by seven to 22 times the risk of developing the devastating disease (*N Engl J Med. 2011 Apr 21*).

In 2018, **Tasha Fingerlin**, **PhD**; **Joshua Solomon**, **MD**; and their colleagues around the world reported that the same mutation raises the risk by three to five times that people will develop interstitial lung disease associated with rheumatoid arthritis (RA-ILD).

Evidence of usual interstitial pneumonia on CT scans was even more closely associated with RA-ILD. The findings suggest the muc5b promoter mutation may be a generalized risk factor for usual interstitial pneumonia beyond rheumatoid arthritis and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. The mutation may also be useful to detect preclinical RA-ILD (*N Engl J Med.* 2018 Oct 20).

## **SEEKING A CURE FOR ASTHMA**

National Jewish Health has a long history of

The Cohen Family Asthma Institute, which was established in 2016 with a grant from The Michele and Martin Cohen Family Foundation, seeks to address unmet needs in severe, uncontrolled asthma, while also pursuing a cure for the disease. Through innovative care, research and education, National Jewish Health is steadily advancing toward those goals.

Impact of Asthma	
Adults with asthma	20.4 million
Children with asthma	6.1 million
Missed school days	13.8 million
Missed work days	14.2 million
Emergency room visits	1.9 million
Hospitalizations	439,000
Deaths	3,630

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

pioneering asthma care and research, which began in the 1950s with residential inpatient programs for both adults and children. In 1960, we developed the "inhalation challenge test," the first clinically useful method of diagnosing asthma. Decades of pioneering research in immunology and asthma have revealed the biological drivers of asthma. Clinical trials at National Jewish Health helped establish inhaled corticosteroids as the standard of care for asthma and contributed to the introduction of several medications to help improve asthma, including recently FDA-approved biologics for severe asthma.

In its first two years of existence, the Cohen Family Asthma Institute has developed protocols and tracking systems to power research, introduced innovative clinical programs and collaborations to improve asthma care and delivered educational programs to share the latest evidence-based guidance with clinicians around the nation.

## Below are a few selected accomplishments of the Cohen Family Asthma Institute:

- Developed a custom order set and protocols to collect biological samples and build a wellcharacterized asthma cohort for future research at our main campus in Denver, the Mount Sinai – National Jewish Health Respiratory Institute in New York and the Jane and Leonard Korman Respiratory Institute Jefferson Health – National Jewish Health in Philadelphia.
- Developed a system with our clinical partners at Saint Joseph Hospital in Denver to track asthma patient outcomes.
- Began exploring the optimization of diagnostic imaging in asthma.
- Participated in ongoing NIH multicenter trials targeting specific proteins for novel therapeutics, asthma phenotyping, gene suppression changes during early childhood and more.
- Received a joint grant from the American Lung Association to participate in its airway research network and published a related article in *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine* about asthma in the older population.
- Established a clinical program to transition pediatric asthma and allergy patients to adult care.
- Started a monthly airways conference call with colleagues at all National Jewish Health Respiratory Institutes of the most challenging asthma cases.
- Developed an online interactive, multimedia provider education program.

## SELECTED OPEN CLINICAL TRIALS

## Asthma

## New Antibody Targets Severe Asthma

**Michael Wechsler, MD**, is recruiting people who have had poorly controlled asthma for at least 12 months in spite of a physician prescribed asthma controller medication, to learn if the experimental medication tezepelumab is effective in treating severe asthma and if it causes side effects. Tezepelumab is a manmade antibody that reacts with thymic stromal lymphopoietin (TSLP), which is known to play a role in causing asthma.

## **Steroid-Resistant Asthma Medication Study**

**Donald Leung, MD, PhD**, and **Elena Goleva, PhD**, are recruiting adults who have asthma symptoms despite daily treatment with inhaled corticosteroid or inhaled corticosteroid with long-acting beta agonists and/or long-acting muscarinic antagonist medications. They are seeking to learn if an investigational p38 inhibitor medication can control inflammation, mucous production and difficulty breathing.

## COPD

## **Preventing COPD Flare-Ups with Beta Blockers**

**Barry Make, MD**, and his colleagues are evaluating metoprolol, a commonly prescribed heart medication, to see if it can reduce the frequency and severity of COPD flare-ups.

## **Investigational Medication for AATD & COPD**

**Robert Sandhaus, MD, PhD**, is recruiting adults with alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency (AATD) and COPD to learn if an investigational medication, hyaluronic acid inhalation solution, can be used to treat AATD and emphysema. A common substance made by the human body, hyaluronic acid is found in the highest concentrations in the skin, joint fluid and eyes.

## **Cystic Fibrosis Investigational Medications for Cystic Fibrosis**

Several researchers are recruiting adults with cystic fibrosis to evaluate the safety and efficacy of various experimental medications including:

- Glycerol phenylbutyrate (RAVICTI<sup>®</sup>), an FDA approved medication for urea-cycle disorders, to learn if it improves symptoms of patients with F508del mutation and how typical pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy (PERT) affects absorption of active phenylbutyrate.
- QBW276, an inhaled compound designed to block the function of the sodium (Na+) channel found in the lungs. Blocking these channels may help maintain fluid within the airways to improve mucus clearance.
- PTI-801, an experimental CFTR corrector for treatment of cystic fibrosis.

# Impact of Combination Therapy on Cystic Fibrosis (TEACH Study)

Jerry Nick, MD, is recruiting cystic fibrosis patients 12 years old and older who have had a pseudomonas aeruginosa (PA) infection in the past year and have taken inhaled tobramycin in the last six months, to determine how azithromycin and inhaled tobramycin work when taken together. Dr. Nick has published data suggesting that azithromycin and inhaled tobramycin do not work well when used together.

## Pulmonary Hypertension Pulmonary Hypertension & Lung Disease

**Patty George, MD,** and **Amy Olson, MD**, are recruiting adults with pulmonary hypertension related to interstitial lung disease (ILD), including combined pulmonary fibrosis and emphysema (CPFE) to determine the safety and effectiveness of an inhaled investigational medication, treprostinil, in treating pulmonary hypertension related to ILD.

## Interstitial Lung Disease Pirfenidone for Fibrotic Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis

**Evans Fernandez Perez, MD**, is recruiting adults who have a possible or definite clinical, radiographic or pathologic diagnosis of fibrotic hypersensitivity pneumonitis (FHP) to study the safety and potential benefits of treating FHP with pirfenidone, which has been approved to treat patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

## **Pulmonary Fibrosis & Genetic Factors**

**Kevin Brown, MD**, is recruiting people who have at least two family members diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) to investigate genetic factors that play a role in the development of familial pulmonary fibrosis and to identify a group of genes that predispose individuals to develop pulmonary fibrosis. Finding the genes that play a role in pulmonary fibrosis is the first step toward developing better methods for early diagnosis and improved treatment for pulmonary fibrosis.

## Rare Diseases Investigational Medication for Lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM)

A recent trial showed that sirolimus stabilizes lung function in patients with moderate and severe

lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM). **Gregory Downey, MD**, is recruiting adults diagnosed with LAM to find out if giving low-dose sirolimus earlier in the course of treatment safely and effectively prevents further lung damage from LAM.

# Immune Pathways & Development of Sarcoidosis

Lisa Maier, MD, is recruiting adult nonsmokers who have biopsy-proven sarcoidosis and who are not on immunosuppressive therapy to learn more about patients who have sarcoidosis and those who do not in order to define different types of sarcoidosis and what may predict how the disease develops over time.



# **FRONTIERS OF PULMONARY SCIENCE**

Laboratory scientists at National Jewish Health are advancing the frontiers of pulmonary science. Working closely with physicians, who bring crucial insights and questions from the clinic, our scientists delve deeply into the genetics and epigenetics of lung disease, the fundamental mechanisms of lung injury and repair and the immunological function of the lungs. The answers they find will inspire the therapies of tomorrow.

## **SELECTED 2018 RESEARCH REPORTS**

**Drivers of Lung Repair** William Janssen, MD; Kara Mould, MD; and their colleagues have discovered that monocytes recruited to the lungs in response to lung injury develop into CD11bhi macrophages that secrete molecules that promote tissue repair. (Am J Respir Cell Mol Biol. 2017 Sep). When this newly discovered subset of lung macrophages fail to die at the appropriate time, however, they may contribute to pathologic lung fibrosis. In January 2018, Dr. Janssen and his colleagues demonstrated that malfunctioning CD11bhi macrophages produce less scar tissue and self-destruct when the researchers deleted the antiapoptotic protein c-FLIP in those cells. (Am J Respir Cell Mol Biol. 2018 Jan).

## **Destroy the Zombies**

In idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), scarring continues well beyond its useful response to tissue destruction. Fibroblasts fail to die when they should and

continue zombielike to pump out collagen and other scar materials that make lungs stiff and impervious to oxygen. David Riches, PhD; Elizabeth Redente, PhD; and their colleagues reported that an enzyme known as PTPN13 is prevalent in malfunctioning fibroblasts in IPF patients' lungs. Blocking PTPN13 activity allowed fibroblasts to die and thus stop producing scar tissue. National Jewish Health has a patent pending on PTPN13 as a potential therapeutic target to stop scarring in IPF (Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2018 Oct 1).

**Reinvigorating Progenitor Cells Irina Petrache, MD**, has shown that cigarette smoke significantly reduces the number and function of progenitor cells in the bone marrow. These cells are crucial to lung repair because they can migrate to the lungs and develop into blood vessels necessary for gas exchange. Dr. Petrache and her colleagues recently reported that an FDA-approved medication for cancer and HIV, AMD3100, mobilizes progenitor cells out of the bone marrow, reduces the destruction of lung tissue in emphysema and even improves the elasticity of lung tissue (*Am J Physiol Lung Cell Mol Physiol.* 2018 Sep 1).

## **Genetic "Erasers" Identified**

A central question in the study of epigenetics has been to understand how epigenetic marks are added and removed from DNA and associated proteins. Jim Hagman, PhD; Gongyi Zhang, PhD; and their colleagues reported that two proteins, JMJD5 and JMJD7, act as epigenetic "erasers." They remove methyl groups from histone proteins that hold DNA inside the cell. Some epigenetic modifications have been associated with various cancers. The modifications Drs. Hagman and Zhang discovered may contribute to the growth of tumors and could be targets for future therapies (Sci Rep. 2018 Feb 19).

# **FRONTIERS OF PULMONARY SCIENCE**

## NOTEWORTHY ONGOING RESEARCH

## **COPDGene** — Genetic Epidemiology of COPD

James D. Crapo, MD, co-leads one of the largest studies ever to investigate the underlying genetic factors of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Now entering its twelfth year, with 10,000 enrolled individuals, the COPDGene Study aims to find inherited or genetic factors that increase risk for COPD and to better classify COPD subtypes that may respond to precision medicine interventions.

## Mechanisms and Treatment of Deployment-Related Lung Injury

**Gregory P. Downey, MD**, and **Cecile Rose, MD**, are working with a unique cohort of more than 100 previously deployed veterans with lung disease to understand why warfighters deployed to Southwest Asia suffer increased rates of respiratory disease and to test potential treatments.

# Immunosuppressive Injurious Effects of E-cigarettes on Human Lung Parenchyma

**Irina Petrache, MD**, and **Hong Wei Chu, MD**, are testing their hypothesis that e-cigarettes impair antiviral immunity, causing increased neutrophilic inflammation and injury to distal lung structure.

## **Steroid Resistance of Airway ILC2s**

**Rafeul Alam, MD, PhD**, is studying how TSLP and related signaling pathways contribute to steroid resistance of Type 2 innate lymphoid cells.

## Regulation of Gene Expression in the Anaphylactic Pathway

**Hua Huang, MD, PhD**, is investigating regulation of genes that encode proteins critical for allergic anaphylaxis mediated by IgE and mast cells.

# Environmental and Host Determinants of NTM Lung Disease in Hawaii

**Michael Strong, PhD**, is investigating nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) in the environment and in patients in Hawaii, which has the highest prevalence of NTM lung infections, to better understand why only some people are infected by this nearly ubiquitous microorganism.



Max Seibold, PhD

## BIRTH COHORT TO STUDY ORIGINS OF ASTHMA

**Max Seibold, PhD**, and researchers at the University of California, San Francisco and Centro de Neumología Pediátrica in Puerto Rico have been awarded \$10 million to develop a birth cohort of 4,000 infants in Puerto Rico to study the origins of asthma. Asthma prevalence and deaths in Puerto Rico are among the highest in the world. The team will follow the children from birth through early childhood to learn how genes and viral infections affect respiratory disease.

The Puerto Rican Infant Metagenomic and Epidemiologic study of Respiratory Outcomes (PRIMERO) will be one of the largest birth cohort studies ever conducted in a minority population. Novel genetic techniques and strategies developed by Dr. Seibold will allow researchers to easily obtain and analyze genetic samples from children's airways.

The researchers will seek biological drivers of disease and biomarkers that could predict disease outcomes. These discoveries can inform development of therapeutics for early intervention and prevention of disease.

## **ACADEMICTRAINING**

National Jewish Health physicians and scientists are thought leaders in their fields who elevate the standard of patient care and teach the next generation of health care professionals with fellowships, training and continuing medical education. National Jewish Health is an accredited teaching affiliate of the University of Colorado School of Medicine, where our physicians and scientists have faculty appointments.

## **Clinical Fellowships**

Based at National Jewish Health:

- Adult Sleep Medicine
- Pediatric Allergy and Immunology
- Adult Allergy and Immunology
- Mycobacterial Disease

Based at University of Colorado School of Medicine with rotations at National Jewish Health:

- Adult Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine
- Interventional Pulmonology
- Infectious Disease
- Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine
- Rheumatology
- Cardiothoracic Radiology

In collaboration with the Colorado School of Public Health, National Jewish Health also offers fellowships in:

- Occupational and Environmental Medicine
- Pediatric Sleep Medicine

## **Postdoctoral Fellowships**

National Jewish Health has a robust discovery and translation research enterprise, placing it in the top 7 percent of institutions funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Numerous opportunities exist for postdoctoral training in laboratories in the Department of Biomedical Research, the Division of Cell Biology and the Basic Science Section of the Department of Medicine.

## **Graduate Education**

Students enrolled in one of the PhD programs offered by the Graduate School of the University of Colorado Denver have the opportunity to perform their thesis research in the laboratories of the faculty at National Jewish Health.

## **Residents and Medical Students**

Residents and medical students at the University of Colorado School of Medicine have rotations at National Jewish Health in a variety of specialties including pulmonary medicine, cardiology, allergy and gastroenterology. In addition, our faculty train residents in family medicine at National Jewish Health | Saint Joseph Hospital.





## **CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION**

Building on the expertise of world-renowned faculty at National Jewish Health, the Office of Professional Education strives to create innovative educational activities for physicians, pharmacists, nurses and other health care providers to develop and enhance their knowledge and competency related to the diseases National Jewish Health treats and researches.

Through robust educational offerings, with the ultimate goal of improved patient outcomes, we work to deliver on our mission to educate as a preeminent health care institution.

# Program Provides Roadmap for Diagnosing and Treating Severe Asthma

What began as a live continuing medical education (CME) program presented nationwide in 2018 continues into 2019 as an online CME activity. "A Severe Asthma Roadmap for Improved Diagnosis and PersonalizedTreatment — A Guided Workflow" covers the diagnosis, treatment and management of patients with severe and difficult-to-treat asthma using a testand-teach simulation-based structure that follows the workflow of a Severe Asthma Roadmap Infographic.

The case-based, interactive, multimedia enduring activity and the downloadable infographic can be accessed by visiting njhealth.org/CME. Pulmonologists **Michael Wechsler**, **MD**, of National



Jewish Health, and **Linda Rogers, MD**, of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, served as the faculty for this education collaboration with the Mount Sinai – National Jewish Health Respiratory Institute.

## **National Outreach in Person and Online**

Each year, the Office of Professional Education manages CME activities in cities coast-to-coast. In 2018, this included satellite symposia at the CHEST Annual Meeting on nontuberculous mycobacteria and interstitial lung disease and on cystic fibrosis at the North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference.

These initiatives, as well as our other live meetings on severe asthma, COPD and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, offer complementary online CME-certified activities, making the same great education accessible to health care professionals around the world.

To see all of our courses and learn more about the Office of Professional Education, please visit njhealth.org/CME or call 800.844.2305 or email proed@njhealth.org.

# **COLLABORATIONS**

From Denver to New York and Philadelphia and hospitals across the West, collaborations with other leading health care organizations are a key component of our growth at National Jewish Health. In addition to being an extension of our unique model of care and elevating respiratory care for patients, these collaborations create opportunities for research and training of health professionals. And, our collaborative approach is linked into new technology which allows us to maximize our expertise in respiratory care through tele-ICU services.

## NATIONAL JEWISH HEALTH | SAINT JOSEPH HOSPITAL

In Colorado, our joint operating agreement with state-of-the-art Saint Joseph Hospital, part of the SCL Health System, allows us to extend the services we offer our patients and to provide the entire continuum of care, from outpatient to inpatient, emergency and intensive care.

Four years into our collaboration, both organizations continue to grow in the number of patients served and services offered together. Identifying new ways to collaborate on clinical research and developing innovative projects, such as lung cancer screening and intensive cardiac rehabilitation, also demonstrate the impact that is being made. This year we expanded many of our programs. We opened a new Respiratory Institute inpatient unit at Saint Joseph Hospital, developed an advanced extracorporeal membrane oxygenation program and began offering inpatient pulmonary and critical care clinical trials. Collectively, we were designated as a Lung Cancer Center of Excellence by the Bonnie J. Addario Foundation. We also opened the Critical Illness Recovery Center at National Jewish Health to help patients who have ongoing challenges recover faster and more fully.

Our integrated leadership teams collaborated to jointly recruit **Glenn A. Hirsch, MD**, the new chief of the Division of Cardiology at both National Jewish Health and Saint Joseph Hospital.



**NATIONAL JEWISH HEALTH** 

## **RESPIRATORY INSTITUTES OFFER HOPE FOR PATIENTS NATIONWIDE**

National Jewish Health continues collaboration with Mount Sinai in New York and Jefferson Health in Philadelphia to advance and expand the Respiratory Institutes based in those cities.

The Respiratory Institutes bring the multidisciplinary, team-based model of care practiced at the National Jewish Health main campus in Colorado to respiratory patients in New York, Philadelphia and throughout the northeastern United States. The Respiratory Institutes also focus on research, bringing together investigators from all three organizations to advance care for complex respiratory diseases.



The Mount Sinai – National Jewish Health Respiratory Institute, led by CEO Charles Powell, MD, continued growth during 2018, highlighted by the opening of a second location at Union Square in New York City. The new location has a completely renovated and updated space with examination rooms and treatment suites designed specifically for the diagnosis and treatment of respiratory diseases, as well as spacious waiting areas and comfortable consultation offices.

During this past year, the Mount Sinai — National Jewish Health Respiratory Institute also focused on increasing options for patient education and expanding support groups for patients. Research thrived with ongoing collaborations and an emphasis on physician education.



## The Jane and Leonard Korman Respiratory Institute Jefferson Health – National

Jewish Health, was first announced in 2017, and this past year recruited a talented leader. Jesse Roman, MD, was appointed CEO for the Philadelphia-based Respiratory Institute in February 2018. He brings extensive experience in respiratory disease and proven leadership skills to this endeavor.

Dr. Roman and the Respiratory Institute leadership have recruited several key physicians over the year who are seeing patients in the Philadelphia area. Education and research are also a priority for the Institute, which has many clinical trials underway. In addition, Institute leadership is actively working toward developing a designated flagship space, which is expected to open in 2019.

## **Tele-ICU Serves Banner Health Patients**

The Banner Health – National Jewish Health Tele-ICU Collaboration leverages the expertise of National Jewish Health intensivists with Tele-ICU services for acutely ill patients in intensive care units (ICUs) at 25 Banner Health hospitals across the western United States. From an office on the National Jewish Health campus in Denver, Colorado, our intensivists use a suite of electronic resources to monitor seriously ill patients and provide real-time guidance on their care. Banner has found that collaborating with National Jewish Health using Tele-ICU technology improves patient care, saves lives and shortens ICU stays for patients.

# FACULTY LEADERSHIP



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# National Jewish Health faculty publish more than 400 articles each year in peer-reviewed scientific and medical journals. Included is a selection of noteworthy articles from the past year.

### Asthma

# Phenotypes of Recurrent Wheezing in Preschool Children: Identification by Latent Class Analysis and Utility in Prediction of Future Exacerbation.

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## **NATIONAL JEWISH HEALTH**

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### **Cystic Fibrosis**

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### **Environmental and Occupational Disease**

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## RECOGNITION

National Jewish Health is the leading respiratory hospital in the nation and the only health care organization to be focused on respiratory and related illnesses.

National Jewish Health has been named the #1 respiratory hospital in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* in its 2018-2019 Best Hospitals rankings. National Jewish Health has ranked #1 or #2 all 22 years that *U.S. News* has ranked pulmonology in its Best Hospitals list. This is the 17<sup>th</sup> time we have ranked #1.

National Jewish Health has more than 55 doctors, nearly one-third of our faculty, named on various lists, including "America's Top Doctors" by Castle Connolly and "Top Docs" in *5280 Magazine's* 2018 rankings of Denver-area physicians.

National Jewish Health is in the top 7 percent of institutions in the country funded by the NIH, in terms of absolute dollars. This is a tremendous achievement for a specialty hospital/research center.



**#1** in Respiratory Care

## **BREAKTHROUGHS IN RESEARCH**

National Jewish Health is responsible for many important scientific advances, including:

**IgE**, the molecule responsible for allergic reactions. This discovery has become the basis for many new treatments for asthma and allergies.

The T cell receptor gene, which plays a crucial role in recognizing foreign invaders and orchestrating an immune response. Identifying this gene opened the door to understanding how bodies fight viruses, bacteria and cancer.

**Superantigens**, extremely powerful bacterial toxins associated with particularly virulent diseases, such as toxic shock syndrome and Legionnaires' disease.

**Combined chemotherapy for tuberculosis**, our National Jewish Health physicians were among the leaders in developing this crucial tool for fighting tuberculosis.

**Mechanisms of apoptosis**, our pioneering efforts have helped doctors understand how the body effectively removes and recycles up to two billion cells a day and resolves inflammation in the lungs.

Allergies to artificial joints, National Jewish Health researchers have developed a blood test that can detect allergies to nickel used in artificial joints, a common cause of failure.



## FOCUS, EXPERIENCE, COLLABORATION

With a 120-year history of transformative medicine, National Jewish Health is the only health care organization in the world dedicated exclusively to respiratory and related diseases. Today, National Jewish Health has unparalleled pulmonary expertise with internationally recognized physician-scientists bringing their extensive experience and knowledge to the most challenging respiratory cases for our patients around the world.

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