

Division of Rheumatology

Dear Family,

We understand that you are concerned about your child's health. At SickKids we strive to provide the best possible care.

We will explore if your child has a rheumatological condition by doing a physical examination (check-up), collecting information about symptoms, and sometimes doing blood tests and other tests, such as x-rays. If your child has a rheumatological condition we will work together to decide on a treatment plan which may include things such as medication and exercise.

Your doctor will introduce you to team members who will help with your child's treatment plan. We encourage you to stay positive since there has been a lot of progress in treatments over the years. This progress has been made possible by patients' and families' participation in research studies.

SickKids is a teaching hospital. We do research to help us provide better care for all children. We hope that you will join some of our research activities to help us reach better outcomes for all children. You will likely be introduced to a research coordinator during your clinic visit. They will provide you information about different research opportunities. Participation in research is your decision. Your care will not be affected if you participate or if you decide not to participate.

We do different types of studies: *registries* allow us to see patterns and changes which are due to your normal clinical care, *surveys* allow you to share your feelings and experiences, *biobanks* collect samples (e.g., blood for future research), and *trials* compare the effect of things like medications, exercise, or education on your condition.

We look forward to working with you to help your child feel better.



Dr. Brian Feldman



Dr. Ronald Laxer



Dr. Rae Yeung



Dr. Lynn Spiegel



Dr. Rayfel Schneider



Dr. Linda Hiraki



Dr. Shirley Tse



Dr. Andrea Knight



Dr. Deborah Levy



Dr. Dilan Dissanayake



Susan Merrin, Family Co-Chair,
Rheumatology Family Advisory Council