
well due to her experience developing an ethics curriculum for the University of Toronto. The pediatric program directors have also spearheaded the development of a standardized practice exam for fellows, and are working towards standardizing pediatric rheumatology Final In-training Evaluation Reports (FITERs) as per CanMEDS format.

The Training Subcommittee of the CRA Pediatric Section includes the training directors and others interested in training issues across the country. Every pediatric rheumatology program participates in undergraduate and graduate education. We have a responsibility to provide medical students with basic knowledge about childhood musculoskeletal health and disease, as well as practical knowledge about performing muscu-

loskeletal examinations on a child. Pediatric trainees in all training programs require this and any additional information about common childhood rheumatologic disorders.

Today, pediatric-rheumatology training programs are active and thriving. In order to improve knowledge about childhood musculoskeletal diseases and to impact the care of children with these problems, our involvement in all levels of medical education must expand.

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News from the West Coast: UBC

By Kam Shojania, MD, FRCPC

The University of British Columbia's Adult Division of Rheumatology (www.ubcrheumatology.com) consists of 35 faculty members who are currently training seven rheumatology residents and a number of research students, summer students, and postdoctoral fellows. Trainees work at our two major teaching hospitals, the Vancouver General Hospital and St-Paul's Hospital, and at the GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre. They are also placed in offices throughout the Greater Vancouver area and outreach clinics, and we are lucky to have our trainees rotate through our excellent pediatric rheumatology program at the BC Children's Hospital.

The Division also hosts Canadian rheumatology trainees every July at our Basic Skills Course, where attendees are provided with background and training on the basic skills required in rheumatologic academic and clinical settings. The 9th Annual Course took place from July 6th to the 10th this year. We thoroughly enjoyed having trainees from across the country visit with us.

The Division's close working relationship with the Mary Pack Arthritis Program (MPAP; www.vch.ca/arthritis/mpap.htm), and the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada (ARC; www.arthritisresearch.ca) continues today. The ARC is now 10 years old and is the brainchild of its scientific director, Dr. John Esdaile. The Centre is a multidisciplinary research organization whose staff include rheumatologists, orthopedic surgeons, occupational therapists, physiothera-

pists, economists and epidemiologists. The research of more than 40 staff members at the ARC is funded by peer-reviewed grants which totalled more than three million dollars in 2008.

The MPAP is the only stand-alone multipurpose arthritis centre in the country. The building was opened 40 years ago and is a legacy to the generosity of Mary Pack and her supporters. The Program provides physiotherapy, occupational therapy, outreach programs serving the province, and telephone and email information. It also has programs on a variety of subjects such as rheumatology treatment, pediatric and young-adult transition, and arthritis education.

The ARC and the MPAP are both housed in the Mary Pack Arthritis Centre under the auspices of The Arthritis Society's British Columbia and Yukon Division, which provides a collegial and central location for patient care, teaching and research.

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