OVERVIEW

The Division of Infectious Diseases at Saint Louis University School of Medicine provides clinical and teaching services, operates an outpatient clinic and conducts groundbreaking vaccine related research.

Clinical and Teaching Services

The Division of Infectious Diseases faculty provide clinical care for persons hospitalized at Saint Louis University Hospital (SLUH) with infectious diseases. Because of the large number of severely ill patients who are immunosuppressed due to cancer, recent organ transplantation or rare or unusual infectious diseases, the consultation service is an extremely busy clinical service at SLUH. As the acuity of illnesses seen at SLUH continues to increase, the number of patients suffering secondary complications of infection will parallel this increase and require an increase in commitment of divisional resources to care for the patients. The consult service evaluates patients, provides treatment and educates students, housestaff and other faculty in the diagnosis and management of complex infectious diseases. The educational component and clinical care of our clinical care mission are highly integrated.

Outpatient Clinic

The Saint Louis University Infectious Diseases / New Hope Clinic located in suite 100 of Drummond Hall, is a state-of-the-art outpatient clinic that treats approximately 500 patients per year. Patients are commonly referred to the clinic by SLUH inpatient and outpatient departments, as well as from community physicians. Clinic is held five days a week. The majority of patients are seen by an infectious diseases fellow, and a faculty physician is also present at every patient visit. The clinic emphasizes “continuity of care” so that the same physician sees the patient on each visit in the outpatient clinic. In addition to the physicians, the clinic is staffed by a nurse who specializes in HIV care, PharmD residents and HIV case managers.

About 300 of the clinic’s 500 patients are being treated for HIV/AIDS, while the remaining 200 are treated for a variety of conditions, including:

- Complicated infections: osteomyelitis, endocarditis, liver or brain abscess, staphylococcus (especially MRSA), fungal, and other unusual infections.
- Individuals who are immunosuppressed as a result of transplant, cancer / chemotherapy, and HIV infection
- Fever of unknown origin
- Tuberculosis
- Careful monitoring of outpatient intravenous antibiotic therapy

Research

The division is the home of the Center for Vaccine Development, which is a multi-disciplinary research center designed to conduct basic and clinical research on new vaccines and biologics. We are a national resource for the study of new vaccines such as the novel H1N1 2009 influenza vaccine. The Vaccine Center is comprised of highly trained researchers who have a long track record of successfully conducting basic research and clinical translational vaccine studies.
Researchers at the center recognize the increasing need for a multidisciplinary approach to vaccine development which encompasses an understanding of pathophysiology, immunology, molecular biology and epidemiology. This diversity of expertise is found at the Saint Louis University Center for Vaccine Development.

The center has demonstrated its ability to recruit large numbers of volunteers and participate in protocols with a wide spectrum of research designs, vaccine candidates, and subject population. The center's large pool of experienced research nurses coupled with an extensive population base of volunteers has enabled it to complete large studies with speed and uncompromising quality. This flexibility, expertise, and experience have fostered collaboration with industry, government, and private foundations. Saint Louis University's Center for Vaccine Development has a strong record of cooperating with the NIAID, other vaccine evaluation units, outside investigators, and industry.

**HONORS AND RECOGNITION**

Robert B. Belshe, M.D.
National Biodefense Science Board invited consultant

Sharon E. Frey, M.D.
Best Doctors, St. Louis Magazine

Member of NIH, DHHS Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council

HIV Interdisciplinary Network for Pathogenesis Research in Women (U19)
NIAID RFA AI-07-009

Ranjit Ray, Ph.D.
Ad-Hoc member of NIH Study Sections

Marcia Sokol-Anderson, M.D.
Best Doctors, St. Louis Magazine

**GRANTS AND CONTRACTS HELD BY EACH FACULTY MEMBER**

Robert B. Belshe, M.D.
NIH/NIAID U01 AI048021, “HIV Vaccine Evaluation Unit at Saint Louis University,” 2007-2008, $1,100,040.


DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Sharon E. Frey, M.D.
Institute for Medical Education and Research, “Gunshot: Life at Both Ends of the Barrel,” 2009-2010, $122,481.


Sarah L. George, M.D.
VA Merit Award, IPA Agreement for Research Assistant, 2006-2009, $127,155.

Ranjit Ray, Ph.D.
NIH/NIAID, R01 AI068769, “Qualitative Nature of Antibodies to HCV Glycoprotein Subunit Vaccine in Humans,” 2006-2010, $966,964.


Marcia Sokol-Anderson, M.D.


During fiscal year 2009 the Division of Infectious Diseases had 21 active studies with different sponsors. Due to confidentiality agreements and non-publicity clauses in contracts with sponsors, specific information pertaining to industry sponsored research may not be released in public documents.