“Using gaps in current clinical practice to guide research, a translational approach to the study of complex childhood disease.”

Childhood rheumatic diseases are a group of genetically complex and phenotypically diverse disorders that include the more commonly known juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) and relative newcomers such as auto-inflammatory diseases. In Canada, rheumatic conditions are the most common chronic illness of childhood, affecting approximately 10,000 of our children and youth. Despite their diversity, the common denominator for all rheumatic diseases is pain and/or inflammation in joints, muscles, and critical organs, and all have significant potential for lifelong poor health and disability. This talk will introduce our new Pediatric Rheumatology Lab at the CFRI/BC Children’s hospital. Our group is involved in clinical, translational and basic science research that aims to provide an evidence base for treatment decisions in pediatric rheumatology practice, and to bridge gaps between researchers and caregivers to ensure that new knowledge is translated efficiently to patient care.