

## ***Immunology Clinical Immersion***

*Molly Blank Conference Center*  
National Jewish Health - Denver, CO

### **Faculty Biographies**

**Ron Balkissoon, MD, MSc, DIH, FRCPC** received his Doctor of Medicine from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada in 1988. He completed his residency training in Internal Medicine at the University of Toronto in 1991. He then went on and completed his Pulmonary Medicine/Critical Care training as well as obtaining a Master's Degree in Clinical Epidemiology in 1994 at McMaster University. He has passed his Canadian Board Certification exams in Internal Medicine and Respiratory (pulmonary) Medicine and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada, FRCP (C) in Respiratory and Internal Medicine (US Board Certification Equivalent). Since being at National Jewish Health Dr. Balkissoon developed and was Director of the Inhalation Challenge Chamber facility for several years, Director of the Pulmonary Fellow's Continuity Clinic, Co-Chair of the Institutional Review Board (IRB), and Faculty Liaison with the Professional Education Department at National Jewish. Dr. Balkissoon has been in the Who's Who in Medical Education Directory since 2003, was the Teacher of the Year at National Jewish in 2001 and has been listed in the "Best Doctor's" Data Base since 2005. From 1995 to 2012 Dr. Balkissoon was on faculty as Associate Professor at National Jewish Health in Denver with cross appointments in the Departments of Medicine (Pulmonary Division) and Biometrics and Preventive Medicine at the University of Colorado Health Sciences. In 2012 Dr. Balkissoon resigned from the University of Colorado and National Jewish Academic Faculty and currently works as a Contract Pulmonary Consultant at National Jewish Health Center seeing out of state patients exclusively. Dr. Balkissoon has been invited to speak across the United States and Internationally on such topics as severe asthma, COPD, Vocal Cord Dysfunction, chronic cough and occupational lung disease. He has published peer reviewed papers and review articles. Dr. Balkissoon has been an Editor for the Journal of COPD and is currently on the editorial board of the COPD Foundation COPD Journal and writes the Journal Club section for each edition. Dr. Balkissoon's clinical research interests have included severe asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Chronic cough, effects of environmental tobacco smoke, occupational/environmental asthma, latex allergy, vocal cord dysfunction and Sarcoidosis.

**Rohit Katial, MD** is Professor of Medicine at National Jewish Health and the University of Colorado. He is former Global Head, Biologics at AstraZeneca. He specializes in allergic, immunologic, and pulmonary conditions and asthma. His research interests include asthma airway inflammation, biomarkers, and chronic sinusitis. He received his MD at Georgetown University School of Medicine, and conducted residency at Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, National Jewish Health, and Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He is ABIM and the ABAI certified. He is a Fellow of the ACAAI, AAAAI, and ACP. He has received numerous commendations for his clinical expertise.

**Nathalie Nguyen, MD** is a pediatric gastroenterologist at the Children's Hospital of Colorado. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Texas and medical degree from Texas A&M College of Medicine. She completed her pediatric internship and residency at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. She completed her Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition fellowship at the University of Colorado/ Children's Hospital of Colorado where her research focused on the role of the epithelial barrier in eosinophilic esophagitis. Dr. Nguyen is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Clinical Director of the Gastrointestinal

Eosinophilic Disease Program (GEDP) at the Children's Hospital of Colorado with the goal of improving the lives of children with eosinophilic GI disease by providing individualized, multi-disciplinary care. Her research and clinical interests are in eosinophilic gastrointestinal disease, including eosinophilic esophagitis and innovative methods for disease monitoring, including transnasal endoscopy.

**Jessica Hui, MD** is a pediatric allergist and immunologist that specializes in allergic rhinitis, allergies, asthma, eczema, and food allergies at National Jewish Health in Denver, Colorado. Dr. Hui received her undergraduate degree from Rush Medical College. She completed her pediatric and internal medicine residency at Rush University Medical Center. She completed her Allergy and Immunology fellowship at National Jewish Health.

**Michael Wechsler, MD, MMSc** is Professor of Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at NJH in Denver, Director of the National Jewish Health (NJH)/Cohen Family Asthma Institute and Associate Vice President for Innovation and Industry Relations at NJH. In addition to clinical work in pulmonary & critical care medicine, Professor Wechsler's research focuses on clinical and translational asthma with emphasis on clinical trials in asthma, novel asthma therapies, bronchial thermoplasty, asthma pharmacogenomics, and management of eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (i.e. Churg-Strauss Syndrome, CSS). He has led studies focusing on novel biologic agents for asthma and related diseases, including benralizumab, dupilumab, mepolizumab, reslizumab, and tezepelumab. He has published more than 270 peer-reviewed manuscripts relating to asthma, EGPA and eosinophilic lung diseases. He was a member of the Steering Committee and site Principal Investigator of the NIH-sponsored Asthma Clinical Research Network (ACRN, now called AsthmaNet), a multicentre asthma clinical trials consortium, and currently serves as the PI of the Denver site of the Precision Intervention in Severe/Exacerbating Asthma (PRECISE) network. A member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians, he has participated in many different task forces related to the study of eosinophilic lung diseases that were sponsored by the NIH, the FDA, the European Respiratory Society and the International Eosinophil Society. He is currently Associate Editor of the journal *Chest* and has served as Associate Editor of the journal *Allergy* and on the editorial board of the *European Journal of Clinical Investigation*. Dr. Wechsler received AB and MMSc degrees from Harvard University in Boston and an MD degree from McGill University in Montreal. He completed medical training at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, and as part of the Harvard Combined Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship Training Program.

**Eileen Wang, MD** Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Allergy and Immunology at National Jewish Health (NJH) and University of Colorado School of Medicine (CUSOM). Dr. Wang graduated from Dartmouth College with a degree in Philosophy and Minor in Women and Gender Studies. She received her medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School and her Master of Public Health from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. She completed her residency in internal medicine followed by a Chief year at the University of Chicago Internal Medicine Residency Program. She later completed a fellowship in Allergy and Clinical Immunology at National Jewish Health and the University of Colorado. She was recruited to join the faculty at National Jewish Health. She serves as a clinical and research mentor for the Allergy and Immunology Fellowship Program; core faculty, Health and Society small group facilitator, and longitudinal coach for medical students at CUSOM; principal investigator of several asthma longitudinal studies; and a member of the steering committee and representative for the U.S. for the International Severe Asthma Registry. Her research program focuses on severe asthma outcomes, real-world evidence, and evaluation of social determinants of health to include intimate partner violence. She has presented her research nationally and internationally, published in high-impact peer-reviewed journals, and received media attention for her work.

**Flavia Hoyte, MD** is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Allergy and Immunology at National Jewish Health and has an appointment with the University of Colorado. She specializes in adult allergic and immunologic conditions, asthma, and pulmonary conditions. Dr. Hoyte graduated from Princeton University with a degree in Molecular Biology and received her medical degree from New York University School of Medicine. She subsequently completed a combined residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at the University of Chicago Hospitals and a fellowship in allergy and immunology at National Jewish Health and the University of Colorado. Following graduation, she remained on faculty and currently serves as clinician, educator of residents and fellows, and clinical researcher in several investigator-initiated studies and company-sponsored trials. Her research interests include novel diagnostic and therapeutic interventions for asthma and chronic sinusitis. She was appointed program director for the National Jewish/University of Colorado Adult Allergy and Immunology Fellowship Training Program in 2015. She is a member of the Colorado Allergy and Asthma Society (CAAS), the Western Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (WSAAI), the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI), and a fellow of the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (ACAAI).