

# POSITION DESCRIPTION

FOR THE POSITION OF

**Director, Division of Rheumatology**

**Houston Methodist Hospital  
Weill Cornell Medical College**

**Houston, TX**



**Weill Cornell  
Medicine**

**Spring 2023**

---

Much of this material contained herein is gained in confidence and as such should be regarded as confidential. Accordingly, it is understood that dissemination of this material should be limited to those individuals in your organization who are directly connected with this specific search or whom a reasonable person would agree have a need to know.

---

**DIVERSIFIEDSEARCHGROUP**

**DIVERSIFIEDSEARCH** Alta ASSOCIATES BioQuest GrantCooper KOYA PARTNERS StorbeckSearch



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

---

<b>POSITION</b>	Director, Division of Rheumatology
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	Houston Methodist Hospital Weill Cornell Medical College
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Eleftherios Mylonakis, MD PhD Charles and Anne Duncan Presidential Distinguished Chair, Department of Medicine, Houston Methodist Hospital Professor of Medicine, Houston Methodist Academic Institute
<b>LOCATION</b>	Houston, TX
<b>WEBSITE</b>	<a href="http://houstonmethodist.org">houstonmethodist.org</a>

### Role Summary

The Department of Medicine at Houston Methodist Hospital seeks candidates to serve as the Director of the Division of Rheumatology. The successful candidate will provide strategic, innovative, and operational leadership and will have responsibility and accountability for the clinical and academic performance of the Division within the Department of Internal Medicine. A strong record of collaborative leadership and commitment to excellence in clinical, research, and academic service is essential. Successful candidates will have a national reputation in academic rheumatology, excellent interpersonal skills, and a record of innovative and effective administrative experience and will foster collaborative interactions with private rheumatologists, students, residents, fellows, staff, and faculty.

It is expected that candidates will qualify for appointment to the faculty at Houston Methodist Academic Institute, Weill Cornell Medical College, and Texas A&M University School of Medicine at the rank of associate or full professor. Houston Methodist Hospital faculty engage in teaching, research, and clinical inpatient and ambulatory service.

Houston Methodist Hospital is committed to expanding its reputation as a top-tier academic and patient care-focused educational and research facility. This role offers a unique opportunity to build a world-class division with the goal of earning placement in the top ten *US News and World Report* national rankings.

### Duties

- ▲ Provide strategic leadership and vision for the Division.
- ▲ Foster the growth of clinical, translational, and basic research in the Rheumatology Division and in collaboration with other Department of Medicine divisions as well as departments and investigators in the Houston Methodist Research Institute.
- ▲ Recruit subspecialized faculty as appropriate to meet academic and clinical needs.
- ▲ Oversee the cutting-edge medical education of all trainees (students, residents, and fellows) to meet or exceed accrediting agency requirements and provide support for the Fellowship Program Director.



## Qualifications

- ▲ MD, DO, or MD-PhD (or foreign equivalent), active board certification in Rheumatology
- ▲ Eligibility for an unrestricted medical license in Texas
- ▲ Outstanding clinical skills and a national reputation in the field
- ▲ Strong record of peer-reviewed publications
- ▲ Track record of serving as principal investigator on clinical, translational, and/or basic science research grants or contracts

*Houston Methodist Hospital is an Equal Opportunity Employer. HMH will not engage in discrimination against or harassment of any person employed or seeking employment with Houston Methodist Hospital on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, status as a protected veteran or other characteristics protected by law. VEVRAA Federal Contractor – priority referral Protected Veterans requested.*

## Compensation

Compensation arrangements are competitive and commensurate with the experience, achievement, and responsibilities of this position.



## DIVISION OF RHEUMATOLOGY

---

The Rheumatology specialists of Houston Methodist Academic Medicine Associates in the Texas Medical Center are proud to offer evidence-based expertise in rheumatic diseases. With access to the most advanced medical technology and innovative research available in the Texas Medical Center, our rheumatologists provide comprehensive care in the diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of systemic autoimmune conditions and musculoskeletal diseases.

The Rheumatology Division has five full-time faculty and an ACGME-accredited rheumatology fellowship program with two first-year and two second-year fellows. Rheumatology faculty provide inpatient and outpatient clinical services at Houston Methodist. Outpatients are seen in the Houston Methodist Academic Internal Medicine Clinic, which also provides an infusion center and support staff. The Rheumatology Division is also a component of the Houston Methodist Immunology Center, which promotes clinical, educational, and research collaboration on immunologic disorders. There is robust collaboration across subspecialties of internal medicine and with surgical specialties.



## INTERNAL MEDICINE AT HOUSTON METHODIST

---

Houston Methodist Hospital has been ranked the #1 hospital in Texas by *U.S. News and World Report* every year since the award began and is one of the top nationally ranked Honor Roll hospitals (currently #15). The Department of Medicine encompasses several nationally ranked programs, including Gastroenterology (#8), Endocrinology and Diabetes (#9), Pulmonology (#18), Geriatrics (#22), and Cancer (#29).

The Department of Medicine Service Line at Houston Methodist Hospital has approximately 780 attending physicians in 13 service lines – Allergy and Immunology, Dermatology, Emergency Medicine, Endocrinology & Diabetes, General Internal Medicine, Gastroenterology, Geriatrics, Hematology/Oncology, Hospital Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Nephrology, Pulmonary/Critical Care, and Rheumatology. Each service line elects a Clinical Service Chief, for a 3-year term, to represent their division's issues to Department and Hospital leadership.

The Academic Department of Medicine in the Physicians Organization has physicians and scientists who are clinical sub-specialists with experience as educators and investigators. Most vice-Chairs and division heads hold endowed chairs. They practice as the Methodist Academic Medicine Associates (MAMA). In 2022, MAMA generated \$52M in practice revenue and received an additional \$26M support from Houston Methodist Hospital for salaries and operations. Recruitment of an additional 20 faculty members is planned for 2023.

The Department of Medicine comprises 134 faculty with academic appointments and 118 credentialed staff. It oversees 11 programs with approximately 85 residents and fellows. These programs include an Internal Medicine residency (51 residents) and 8 ACGME fellowships in the following subspecialties: Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism (2-3 per year), Gastroenterology (4 per year), Hematology Oncology (2-3 per year), Nephrology (2 per year), Transplant Nephrology (1 per year), Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (2-3 per year), Hospice and Palliative Care in partnership with MD Anderson (1 per year), and Rheumatology (2 per year). Additionally, the Department will offer an ACGME-accredited Infectious Diseases fellowship in 2024 and is preparing an ACGME accreditation application for an Allergy & Immunology fellowship in 2024.



## ABOUT HOUSTON METHODIST

---

The Houston Methodist System comprises a leading academic medical center located in the Texas Medical Center and eight community hospitals serving the Greater Houston area. Each hospital is staffed by committed personnel who exemplify our **I CARE values: integrity, compassion, accountability, respect, and excellence**. Patient safety, quality and service are our highest priorities.

Houston Methodist Hospital, the system's flagship, is recognized as a leader in cutting-edge research, education, disease prevention, and compassionate treatment of all health care needs. It is the #1 hospital in Texas and the #15 hospital in America, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. The magazine also named Houston Methodist Hospital one of the country's best in 10 specialties, ranked in more specialties than any other hospital in Texas.

Houston Methodist is the official health care provider for the Houston Texans, Houston Astros, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo®, Rice University Athletics, Houston Ballet, Houston Symphony, and Houston Grand Opera.

**Houston Methodist Academic Institute:** The Houston Methodist Academic Institute is the cornerstone of Houston Methodist's position as a nationally recognized academic medical center. The President of the Academic Institute serves as the Chief Academic Officer and is the senior most academic executive within Houston Methodist. The Academic Institute, comprised of the Houston Methodist Research Institute and Houston Methodist Education Institute, aligns its research and education initiatives to serve Houston Methodist's mission to advance the new technologies and skills our clinicians need for patient care. Our primary academic affiliate is the top-ranked Weill Cornell Medicine, and we have affiliations with Texas A&M University, Rice University, the University of Houston, and MD Anderson Cancer Center.

**Houston Methodist Hospital Foundation:** The Houston Methodist Hospital Foundation helps to accomplish institutional priorities through fundraising, gift management, and stewardship. Governed by a board of directors, the Foundation accepts all gifts on the hospital's behalf and can assist in identifying donors. As a nonprofit organization, donor contributions are essential to our continued growth and success.

**Houston Methodist Community Benefits:** At Houston Methodist, caring for the community means more than providing quality healthcare at its eight hospitals — it means supporting individuals and organizations that touch the lives of those who make up the community. Based on the I CARE values, programs provide financial and medical assistance to more than 150,000 patients annually. This support also helps foster confidence, peace of mind, and compassion in individuals rebuilding their lives.

**Houston Methodist Specialty Physician Group:** Doctors in Houston Methodist Hospital's Physician Organization are employed by Houston Methodist Hospital and have offices located on campus. These physicians are deeply rooted in an academic and research environment where teaching, continuing education, and collaboration are strongly encouraged. Membership in the organization provides an affiliation with Houston Methodist Research Institute and opportunities for Weill Cornell Medicine faculty appointments.

**Houston Methodist Primary Care Group:** With 45 locations throughout the Greater Houston area, the Houston Methodist Primary Care Group is dedicated to providing quality patient care for the entire family. Houston Methodist Primary Care Group is proud to be a part of Houston Methodist and its family of hospitals, ensuring efficient access to specialty and hospital services whenever the need arises.

**Centers of Excellence:** Houston Methodist six multidisciplinary Centers of Excellence unite clinical care, research, and education to create innovative solutions to clinical problems and provide personalized patient care with compassion. Each center has clinical and translational research programs led by expert teams of physicians and scientists dedicated to enhancing disease diagnosis, prevention, and treatment, as well as education and patient support. There are six Centers of Excellence:



- ▲ Houston Methodist Dr. Mary and Ron Neal Cancer Center
- ▲ Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center
- ▲ Houston Methodist J.C. Walter Jr. Transplant Center
- ▲ Houston Methodist Lynda K. and David M. Underwood Center for Digestive Disorders
- ▲ Houston Methodist Neurological Institute
- ▲ Houston Methodist Orthopedics & Sports Medicine

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Policy:** Houston Methodist strives to reflect the diversity of Houston, one of the most racially and ethnically diverse cities in the country. Houston Methodist established a DEI committee of the Board of Directors, which hired Arianne D. Dowdell as Vice President and Chief DEI Officer of Houston Methodist Hospital, and is committed to building and fostering a diverse workforce and closing the gap in health inequity. Several initiatives have been implemented in support of this goal. For example, each employee is given eight hours of DEI paid time off annually to be used at their discretion. In addition, the DEI Committee of the Board has established five priorities:

- ▲ **Engage key stakeholders** who will help build commitment to anti-racism, anti-bias, and DEI. Provide clear and consistent communication, and manage resources (people, time, money).
- ▲ **Increase underrepresented group diversity** throughout the workforce and in key opportunity areas, through early pipeline engagement, targeted outreach, recruitment, development, appropriate mentoring, and retention. Similarly, an intentional increase in underrepresented group diversity for all HM Boards has occurred.
- ▲ **Increase and reinforce anti-racism, anti-bias, diversity, equity, and inclusion** throughout the workforce and in key opportunity areas, through activities related to cultural awareness and openness, compassion, humility, and competency.
- ▲ **Develop resources for all employees** to be able to learn, discuss and share anti-racism, anti-bias, diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives at Houston Methodist.
- ▲ **Measure community impact and increase engagement** of community networks.



## ABOUT HOUSTON METHODIST ACADEMIC INSTITUTE

---

The [Houston Methodist Academic Institute](#) coordinates and oversees the Houston Methodist Research Institute and Houston Methodist Education Institute under the leadership of President H. Dirk Sostman, MD, FACR, Ernest Cockrell, Jr. Presidential Distinguished Chair, Edward A. Jones, President and CEO of the Research Institute, and Timothy Boone, MD, PhD, Chief Education Officer and Director of the Education Institute. The Academic Institute is advised by a council of the chairs of the academic clinical and research departments.

The Academic Institute supports Houston Methodist's *Leading Medicine* mission with an annual investment of \$264M in research and education and a planned investment of \$300M over five years for strategic academic initiatives. In 2022, investigators also had access to more than \$170M in philanthropic funds for research and education and a competitive \$28.8M philanthropic fund to support the translation of their most promising technologies. The Academic Institute has approximately 793 academic faculty and 2,270 credentialed researchers and staff who participate in over 800 clinical trials and nearly 200 animal studies.

This translational focus is accomplished by supporting the research and education teams of the Centers of Excellence, ensuring that our academic work is relevant and meets the clinical challenges and needs of our community. This patient-centered approach forms the foundation of the academic strategic focus areas of Houston Methodist.

**Houston Methodist Research Institute:** From its conception in 2004, the Research Institute always intended to be different from other medical research institutes. Its central objective is to conduct science in the service of medicine, using the physical connection of its 440,000-square-foot Research Institute building to the main hospital and in-house technical expertise in FDA approval pathways to streamline the process of translating laboratory research into treatments and cures for patients. The Research Institute fosters a highly collaborative environment through its vertically integrated laboratory and work spaces, 19 interdisciplinary departments, 22 research centers and programs, and participation in several collaborative centers and consortia and more than 6600 collaborations in 136 countries.

**Houston Methodist Education Institute:** The Education Institute provides research and clinical education experiences to more than 56,000 learners per year across multiple disciplines, including over 1,100 trainees in residence for medicine, research, nursing, pharmacy, and allied health. The Education Institute supports 67 GME programs, including 49 ACGME-accredited and 15 GMEC-sponsored programs with a total of 373 residents and fellows, and five PhD, two MD-PhD, and two master's degree programs in collaboration with other institutions.

**Houston Methodist Institute for Technology, Innovation & Education:** The Houston Methodist Institute for Technology, Innovation & Education (MITIE<sup>SM</sup>) is a 35,000-square-foot virtual hospital and hands-on clinical training facility for health care professionals seeking to maintain excellent procedural skills and acquire new proficiencies. MITIE<sup>SM</sup> employs advanced simulators, technical trainers, robotics, and image guidance devices to enable cutting-edge surgical training in a safe and effective environment.

**Restorative Medicine:** Houston Methodist extends the traditional goal of medicine from fixing the damage or deterioration of the body to include a full health plan that preserves good health, addresses the collateral damage and side effects of disease and treatments, and restores the body to a state of optimal health. The objective of research in this area is to help patients maintain their optimal physical and cognitive health profiles by developing new technologies and health plans to preserve, regenerate and rejuvenate the tissues and movement that are impaired due to injury, disease, or the normal aging process.

**Center For Health Data Science & Analytics:** The Center for Health Data Science & Analytics (HDSA) is a data service center that brings together data scientists, analysts, and statisticians to collaborate with clinicians and





researchers. They specialize in research data pipeline development, workflow optimization, advanced data analytics and modeling, population health management, and large-scale bioinformatics.

**Clinical Research Services:** Houston Methodist supports early phase and investigator-initiated trials and a large portfolio of phase II and IV and industry-sponsored trials. Our translational infrastructure includes an on-site phase I trial unit with 24-hour pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics capabilities, early phase and investigator-initiated trial support services, and a centralized clinical trials office, which provides flexible support to investigators running industry-sponsored trials. Resources devoted to bridging preclinical innovations to clinical trials include our GLP facilities, which perform preclinical risk, safety, and efficacy assessment studies in compliance with current FDA guidelines and our cGMP manufacturing facilities, which produce clinical-grade therapeutic materials and custom radiopharmaceuticals for preclinical and first-in-human trials.

**Faculty and Research Development Services:** From professional services to seed funding and career milestone recognition programs, we continually invest in our faculty and their continued success. Faculty have access to a dedicated liaison to navigate opportunities for research support, education, and professional growth. Faculty also have priority access to a team of research development specialists to assist with grant applications, manuscripts, scientific illustrations, study protocols, and project management. Several courses and interactive workshops developed and facilitated by experienced faculty and scientists to build key competencies in research and education are available. These include skill building in grant proposal development, manuscript writing, giving impactful presentations, and mentorship, as well as cohort-based courses on topics including the fundamentals of clinical research and translation and commercialization.

## ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

---

Strong academic partnerships bring great value to our communities, both in measurable results today and in greater opportunities for tomorrow. Together, we are creating health science and medical education programs that push the traditional boundaries to meet our changing health care needs. We are training the next generation of health care leadership and all facets of health care professionals to bring the latest advancements in health care to patients around the world. Houston Methodist primary academic affiliate is the top-ranked Weill Cornell Medicine. Houston Methodist also has affiliations with Texas A&M University, Rice University, the University of Houston, and MD Anderson Cancer Center.

### Mission

Houston Methodist provides clinical and translational education with a patient-centered and inter-professional team-based approach. We continually maximize the effectiveness of our innovative teaching and learning programs with evidence-based methodology grounded in educational research. This hands-on approach, combined with a collaborative environment of learners from around the globe, will create the most effective educational experience for health and translational research professionals.

### Vision

Houston Methodist will be a global leader in education, transforming our patients' quality of life. Our faculty will provide effective inter-professional education to all qualified learners through comprehensive, centralized, and facilitative methodologies. The Academic Institute will fully integrate the I CARE values while collaboratively fulfilling all academic, logistical, and personal learner needs.

### Weill Cornell Medicine

As primary national academic affiliates, Weill Cornell Medicine and Houston Methodist share faculty and partnerships to deliver on a shared mission of bringing advances in education, research, and health care to



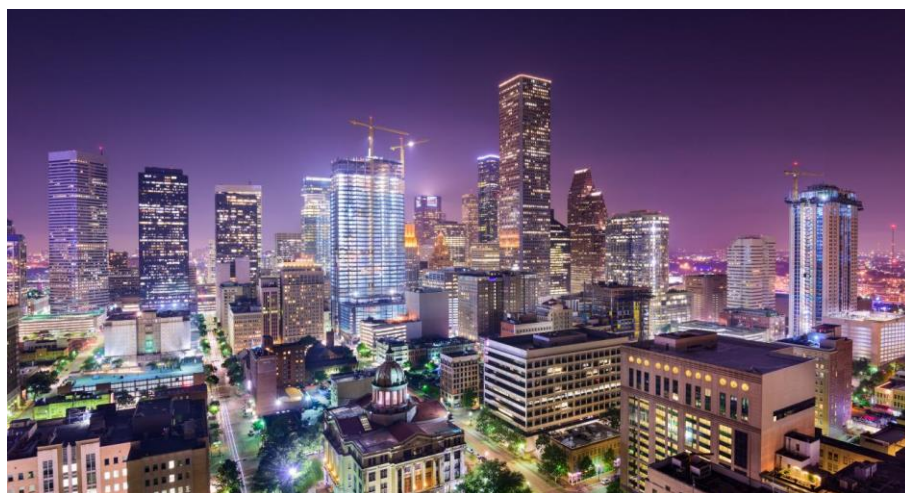
patients. Houston Methodist and Weill Cornell Medicine offer joint educational programs, including two PhD programs, a Mentored Clinical Research Training Program, and a fellowship in clinical ethics. Weill Cornell Medicine is among the nation's top-ranked medical and graduate schools, striving for excellence in its education of the world's future health care leaders. Research by faculty and graduate students at Weill Cornell Medicine is collaborative, ground-breaking, and patient-focused.

### Other Affiliations

**Texas A&M University:** The Health Science Center, an independent Texas state agency and academic unit of Texas A&M University, shares mission priorities with Houston Methodist – to develop research and education programs that reflect health care practice in the 21st century, including the impact of technology, patient-empowerment, precision medicine, novel drug delivery systems, and interdisciplinary sciences. Houston Methodist and Texas A&M share joint faculty appointments, research training, and graduate programs, including a unique medical school for engineers named [EnMED](#) and an MD-PhD program, which bring creative and innovative predoctoral and medical students in translational medicine to the Texas Medical Center. Houston Methodist also collaborates with Texas A&M's Academy of Physician Scientists program, which is one of only ten programs in the nation funded by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund for innovative approaches to train MD-only medical students, residents, and fellows for careers as physician-scientists. These programs advance the health initiatives of the state of Texas and advance health care for patients around the world.

**University of Houston:** Founded in 1927, the University of Houston is the city's leading public research university. Houston Methodist and the University of Houston have established an alliance to share resources, educational and research collaborations, and technology transfer practices and offer a joint PhD fellowship in clinical translation. The University of Houston's excellent reputation in science and engineering and its mission to support economic development in Texas through the commercialization of research advances fits with the translational research mission of Houston Methodist.

## ABOUT HOUSTON



Houston is not only the hub of the oil and gas industries but a major center of manufacturing and health care. The affordability of this region, located in southeast Texas and home to more than 6.7 million residents in the metro area, consistently attracts new people from across the country and around the world. The Bayou City anchors an international region, boasting one of the youngest, most

racially and ethnically diverse populations in the country. More than a quarter of the population is younger than 20 years old, and the metro area is home to the third-largest Hispanic and third-largest Mexican populations in the country. The region is diverse both politically and culturally. Nearly half of residents speak a language other than English at home, and about 100 languages are spoken in area schools.



Houston is one of a handful of cities in the United States that can boast major symphony, ballet, opera, and theater companies of worldwide acclaim. In fact, the downtown Theater District—which includes the Alley Theater, Jones Hall, the Hobby Center, and the Wortham Center—contains more seating capacity than is available in any other city except New York. Houston’s renowned Museum District lies just south of downtown near Hermann Park, the Texas Medical Center, and Rice University. A dynamic testament to the city’s commitment to the visual arts, the district offers something for everyone, with special touring exhibits throughout the year. Eighteen museums are located within the district.

Cultures from all over the world come together in Houston, and the city celebrates this diversity with exciting annual festivals and one dazzling rodeo. Various festivals throughout the year celebrate the heritage and traditions of the international community, including the Original Greek Festival, Fiestas Patrias, the Asian American Festival, Festa Italiana, and the



Houston International Festival. Other annual events include the International Jazz Festival, Art Car Weekend, and the Texas Renaissance Festival.

In Houston, dining is a pastime, and the region pleases palates with more than 11,000 restaurants. Houston has everything from award-winning fine dining establishments to casual barbecue joints and everything in between. The metro area also offers a variety of international cuisine, including Ethiopian, Mediterranean, Vietnamese, and Indian cuisines. Sports fans have their pick of professional teams to root for, including the Houston Texans (NFL), the Houston Astros (MLB), the Houston Dynamos (MLS), and the Houston Rockets (NBA).

Houston is also home to more than two dozen Fortune 500 companies. The region was ranked among the top manufacturing metro areas in the U.S. Houston is an aerospace hub with NASA's Johnson Space Center. The city has earned dozens of top rankings in areas such as job growth, race/class interaction, industrial construction, quality of life, and [more](#).



## SEARCH TEAM

---

### **Ron Chod, MD, MBA**

Managing Director

Grant Cooper

(314) 449-1595

[chod@grantcooper.com](mailto:chod@grantcooper.com)

### **Corey Lohnes, PhD**

Managing Director

Grant Cooper

314-449-1572

[lohnesh@grantcooper.com](mailto:lohnesh@grantcooper.com)

### **Judy Kliethermes**

Senior Consultant

314-449-1583

[judy@grantcooper.com](mailto:judy@grantcooper.com)

### **Jill Robinson**

Executive Assistant

312-579-8472

[jill.robinson@divsearch.com](mailto:jill.robinson@divsearch.com)