Dr. Wang’s interest in rheumatology started at an early age when his mother was diagnosed with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). He accompanied her to doctor’s appointments and witnessed her frustration as she received treatments that never seemed to improve her well-being or quality of life. Although he had planned a career as a concert violinist, the experience refocused Dr. Wang’s attention on understanding the immune system and the cause of lupus. His research training began in high school, working in the laboratory of Frank Arnett, MD, at the University of Texas at Houston Medical School where he studied the role of human genetics in autoimmune diseases and submitted his first scientific publication. As an undergraduate at Harvard, he spent his time in the lab studying how molecular tools and animal models help us understand human autoimmune disease.

Dr. Wang earned his PhD at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and received additional training at the University of Paris. He came to New Haven, with his wife, to complete an internal medicine residency and rheumatology fellowship at Yale and continue his scientific training, working with Yale mentor Ruslan Medzhitov, PhD, an internationally known investigator in immunobiology. His work in the laboratory at Yale led to what Dr. Wang describes as an intellectual awakening. “Dr. Medzhitov equipped me with the tools to begin addressing one of the questions I had asked at the outset of my scientific inquiry—a question that has frustrated scientists for decades: How does the immune system unleash toxic compounds to eliminate bacteria and viruses yet deliver minimal damage to us?”

Dr. Wang’s research goal is “to help gain a better understanding of how inflammation and metabolism are connected, and to leverage this knowledge to develop new therapies that could improve the lives of patients afflicted with diseases like SLE.”

Dr. Wang continues his active research program and clinical work while also taking time to travel internationally to play violin concerts. He and his wife, Krista, are climbing enthusiasts and are raising two young children, James and Colette Claire.

“My family continues to rock climb, and I think it is a great analogy for the scientific pursuit. It takes a great team and solid equipment to keep you safe on the mountain. And although the mountain is hard to climb and there are
moments when failure appears inevitable, every time we tape our bleeding fingers, buck up and tie in and dare to face the rock after falling time and time again, we are that much closer to the summit.”

You Can Make a Difference

Support talented innovative investigators like Dr. Wang who understand the personal impact of autoimmune disease and are committed to innovative research that will lead to insights and treatments that will improve quality of life for people affected by these conditions.

To learn more, please contact Erin Shreve in the Office of Development at (203) 436-8529 or erin.shreve@yale.edu. Thank you for your interest in partnering with us.