

Biographical Sketch



Alan J. Bridges, MD

Professor of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
Chief of Staff,
William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital
Madison, Wisconsin

Alan J. Bridges, MD, is Professor of Medicine in the Division of Rheumatology at the University of Wisconsin (UW) School of Medicine and Public Health and Chief of Staff at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin. He also directs the UW Hospital Immunology Laboratory. He received his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria. Dr. Bridges completed an internship at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria, followed by a residency in Internal Medicine and a fellowship in Rheumatology at UW-Madison, where he was also Chief Medical Resident. He is board-certified in Internal Medicine and Rheumatology.

Dr. Bridges has published more than 55 articles in peer-reviewed journals in the areas of rheumatoid arthritis, autoantibody testing, and medical education. He has served on numerous local, regional, and national committees, and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Rheumatology.



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Karen E. Hansen, MD, MS

Associate Professor of Medicine,
Division of Rheumatology
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
Madison, Wisconsin

Dr. Hansen is a tenured Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Rheumatology at the University of Wisconsin (UW) School of Medicine and Public Health in Madison.

Dr. Hansen received her medical degree and a Master's Degree in Clinical Investigation at UW-Madison, where she also completed an internship and residency and served as Chief Medical Resident. She completed a fellowship in Rheumatology at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina. Dr. Hansen is board-certified in Internal Medicine and Rheumatology. She practices rheumatology at the University of Wisconsin and conducts clinical research studies sponsored by the NIH.

A frequent national and international speaker, Dr. Hansen has presented on such topics as skeletal diseases causing fracture, vitamin D and bone health, and factors affecting calcium absorption. She has authored or co-authored numerous book chapters, abstracts, and articles and is an ad hoc reviewer for many journals, including *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, the *Journal of Bone and Mineral Research*, and *Osteoporosis International*. Dr. Hansen is a member of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research, and the American College of Rheumatology.



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Alvin F. Wells, MD, PhD

Director,
Rheumatology and Immunotherapy Center
Franklin, Wisconsin

Alvin F. Wells, MD, PhD, is Director of and a practicing rheumatologist at the Rheumatology and Immunotherapy Center in Franklin, Wisconsin. He is also Adjunct Assistant Professor of Rheumatology at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Dr. Wells received his medical degree from the University of South Florida in Tampa, and completed his postgraduate training in Internal Medicine and Rheumatology at Duke University. He received his PhD in Immunology from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, where he developed an animal model for Reiter's syndrome. Dr. Wells is a past recipient of the prestigious Fogarty Biomedical Research Award from the National Institutes of Health, which allowed him to undertake a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at Uppsala University in Sweden.

With over 15 years of research experience, Dr. Wells has special interest in chronic inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, and the rejection of renal transplants with an emphasis on connective tissue components, inflammatory mediators, and cytokines. He is an internationally renowned speaker and researcher and has received research support from the Arthritis Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. He is the recipient of several awards, including the 2003 Abbott President's Award, the 2001 Merck Young Investigator Award, and the 1999 University of South Carolina School of Medicine Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Wells is a member of the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine and of the American College of Rheumatology. He has authored or coauthored several articles appearing in journals such as *Arthritis & Rheumatism*, *Journal of Immunology Research*, *Annals of Plastic Surgery*, and *Anticancer Research*.

