**Clinical Research Advisors (and potential co-mentors) (all UCSD-based).**

Theclinical-translational researchers bolster all program themes, not simply Theme 3. All are clinical investigators and educators, are involved in training our Rheumatology Fellows. They are valuable members of mentoring teams. They also will lead clinical observerships for our PhD predoctoral and postdoctoral trainees. Each also brings collaborative and career development/role model skill sets, and access to patient cohorts for research.

**i.** [**Ken Kalunian, MD.**](http://profiles.ucsd.edu/kenneth.kalunian)Dr. Kalunian is an SLE clinical trialist, involved in multiple major SLE consortia. He is Steering Committee Chair of the Lupus Clinical Investigator Network, and Executive Director of Lupus Foundation of America. His own UCSD cohort alone has more than 500 subjects.

**ii.** [**Arthur Kavanaugh, MD.**](https://medschool.ucsd.edu/research/kavanaugh-lab/Pages/default.aspx)Dr. Kavanaugh is a translational researcher and clinical trialist in systemic inflammatory autoimmune diseases, particularly the study of biologics and outcomes in spondyloarthropathy and RA. He has a particular interest in biomarker and imaging studies. He directs the UCSD clinical Rheumatology clinical trials unit. His UCSD spondyloarthropathy cohort numbers more than one thousand.

**iii.** [**Susan Lee, MD.**](http://profiles.ucsd.edu/susan.lee)A UCSD T32 graduate, Dr. Lee’s work focuses on quality of care, outcomes, tele-medicine, and musculoskeletal ultrasound as a diagnostic measure. She is co-PI for a national multi-center VA OA study of therapeutic ultrasound.

**iv.** [**Arnold Ceponis, MD., PhD.**](http://providers.ucsd.edu/details/11947/arnold-ceponis-rheumatology-la_jolla-san_diego?FreeText:Last+name=Ceponis) Our Rheumatology Fellowship Director, Dr. Ceponis brings a unique blend of experience in arthritis immunopathology, industry research, and imaging expertise and clinical research, including innovative use of diagnostic ultrasound to predict and diagnose bleeds in hemophilic arthropathy. He collaborates with Dr. Firestein by doing closed ultrasound-guided synovial biopsies on well-characterized subjects with RA and SLE in the Accelerating Medicines Partnership (AMP).