

Moderator: How aware are family doctors and pediatricians that children are at risk for lupus? What are we doing to make them aware?

Dr. Tucker: Unfortunately, physicians in medical school have to know a lot of material. What they learn on pediatric rheumatology could fit into a walnut shell. There was a woman who had lupus for over a year and it was not until her urine turned brown that her family doctor realized that there was a problem. That shouldn't have to happen. One way we are trying to address this is with a study in our program to document how long it takes from a child's first symptom, to get to the family doctor, to get to the pediatric rheumatologist. The next steps are to look at that information and try to target the college of family physicians and the medical students at UBC and think about how we can better educate family practitioners.