



Judith A. James, MD, PhD

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Dr. James' research interests focus on understanding the etiology and pathogenesis of lupus, Sjogren's syndrome and related disorders, the evolution and pathogenic mechanisms of autoantibodies in systemic rheumatic disease, the interplay of genetic risk and environmental responses in systemic autoimmunity and unique drivers of disease severity in First Americans and rural autoimmune rheumatic disease patients. Her work has made seminal contributions to understanding how autoimmune diseases start and the concept of humoral epitope spreading. She has published nearly 400 articles. Dr. James currently serves as the principal investigator for several large, multi-investigator NIH-funded grants, such as the U54 Oklahoma Shared Clinical & Translational Resources (NIGMS), UM1 Autoimmunity Center of Excellence (NIAID; national Network Clinical Chair), UC2 Accelerating Medicines Partnership in Autoimmune and Immune-Mediated Diseases (FNIH/NIH; NIAMS lead) (National Network PI), S06 Native American Research Center of Health (NIGMS) and P30 Rheumatic Disease Research Cores Center (NIAMS).

Dr. James has received several prestigious awards including the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the Dubois' Lectureship from the ACR/RRF, the Evelyn Hess Award for outstanding lupus research, the Distinguished Basic/Translational Investigator from the American College of Rheumatology, and the Stanley J. Korsmeyer Award from the American Society of Clinical Investigation. She was a member of NIAMS Council with the National Institutes of Health and served as the elected Secretary-Treasurer of the American Society of Clinical Investigation. She was elected to the Association of American Physicians where she was recently elected as a Council member. Dr. James also provided testimony supporting the NIH at the Noel Laureates' Hearing for the US House Appropriations Subcommittee. Dr. James is a board-certified adult Rheumatologist, seeing patients at OMRF, OUHSC and the Cherokee Nation. Dr. James was recently elected to the National Academy of Medicine for her "pioneering work understanding early autoimmunity", her extensive mentoring history and her commitment to improve health for Indigenous populations.