

Principal Investigator and Clinical Excellence Fellow,

Ageing, Rheumatology, and Regenerative Medicine, Division of Medicine, UCL.

Service lead, Lupus-unit, UCLH

Honorary consultant Rheumatologist, University College London Hospital.

Visiting honorary clinical scientist - Wellcome Sanger Institute.

Qualifications:

- PhD, University College London (UCL), Awarded Nov/2023
- CCT in Rheumatology and General Internal Medicine, Oct/2023.
- Specialty Certificate Examination (Rheumatology), 2018.
- MRCP (UK), Royal College of Physicians, 2012.
- MBBS, Dhaka Medical College, 2007.

Previous position:

- Consultant Rheumatologist, Cambridge University Hospital (2023-2024).
- Act-up Consultant, North Middlesex University Hospital (2023).
- Clinical Research Fellow and PhD student (2020-2023).
- Rheumatology Trainee Registrar - London rotation (2015-2019).
- Rheumatology Registrar, Singapore General Hospital (2012-2015).
- Basic Medical Training and foundation year (2007-2012).

Basic Science to Clinical Translational Achievements:

2020–Present: Identified a biomarker for clinical response to combination therapy (currently under patent application), leading to co-investigation of the first biomarker enrichment trial in lupus.

Grants:

- APS Support (PI): Project Grant – investigating IgA1 anti-D1 in APS (10/01/2026; £19,965)
- UCL Rheumatology Charity (PI)– funding for a PhD student (01/Oct/2025; £1,00,000).
- LUPUS UK 2025 (PI): Project Grant to support PhD student – investigating Microbiome in SLE (1 Sep 2025 – 31 Aug 2025; £24,560.00).
- NIHR BRC UCLH 2024 (Co-PI): Clinical Fellow to support a biomarker enrichment trial on IgA2 anti-DNA antibodies and belimumab response in SLE (1 Oct 2025 – 30 Sep 2026; £92,063.00).
- LUPUS UK 2025 (Co-PI): Research nurse to support a biomarker enrichment trial on IgA2 anti-DNA antibodies and belimumab response in SLE (1 Mar 2025 – 28 Feb 2026; £24,500.00).
- LUPUS UK 2024 (Co-PI): Research nurse to support a biomarker enrichment trial on IgA2 anti-DNA antibodies and belimumab response in SLE (1 Mar 2025 – 28 Feb 2026; £24,942.00).
- Versus Arthritis and NIHR (Co-PI): STRATIFY Lupus, a biomarker enrichment trial on IgA2 anti-DNA antibodies and belimumab response in SLE (1 Mar 2025 – 31 May 2029; £1,685,743.57).
- Versus Arthritis 2022 (Co-PI): Study on IgA2 anti-DNA antibodies as biomarkers of organ involvement and belimumab response in SLE (1 Jul 2022 – 31 Aug 2026; £243,868.41).

Publications:

Original articles: (Bold IF>10)

- **McCluskey, D., Shipa, M, Chowdhury K, James, J.A., Cooney, L.A., Ehrenstein MR. IgA2+ B cells and IgA2 anti-dsDNA antibodies are selectively targeted by belimumab after rituximab therapy in systemic lupus erythematosus. Cell Reports Med. 2025;6(8):102247.**
- **Shipa M, Santos LR, Nguyen DX, Embleton-Thirsk A, Parvaz M, Heptinstall LL, Pepper RJ, Isenberg DA, Gordon C, Ehrenstein MR. Identification of biomarkers to stratify response to B-cell-targeted therapies in systemic lupus erythematosus: an exploratory analysis of a randomised controlled trial. The Lancet Rheumatology. 2023;5(1):e24-e35.**
- **Shipa M, Embleton-Thirsk A, Parvaz M, Santos LR, Muller P, Chowdhury K, Isenberg DA, Doré CJ, Gordon C, Ehrenstein MR. Effectiveness of Belimumab After Rituximab in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus : A Randomized Controlled Trial. Ann Intern Med. 2021;174(12):1647-57.**
- Shipa MR, Heyer N, Mansoor R, Deakin CT, Madenidou AV, Bouraioui A, Fisher C, Leandro M, Ciurtin C, Sen D. Adalimumab or etanercept as first line biologic therapy in enthesitis related arthritis (ERA) - a drug-survival single centre study spanning 10 years. Semin Arthritis Rheum. 2022;55:152038.
- Shipa MRA, Di Cicco M, Balogh E, Nitu NA, Mainuddin MD, Bhadauria N, Mukerjee D, Roussou E. Drug-survival profiling of second-line biologic therapy in rheumatoid arthritis: Choice of another tumour

necrosis factor inhibitor or a biologic of different mode of action? Modern rheumatology / the Japan Rheumatism Association. 2023;33(4):700-7.

- Shipa MRA, Langley L, Sacks B, Yeoh SA, Mainuddin MD, Mukerjee D, Castelino M, Ehrenstein MR. Increased erythrocyte mean corpuscular volume by methotrexate predicts clinical response in psoriatic arthritis. Rheumatology (Oxford, England). 2022;61(9):e270-e3.
- **Shipa MRA, Amarnani R, Yeoh SA, Mainuddin MD, Ehrenstein MR. Early reduction in circulating monocyte count predicts maintenance of remission in patients with rheumatoid arthritis treated with anti-TNF therapy. Ann Rheum Dis. 2021;80(12):1628-9.**
- Shipa MRA, Yeoh S-A, Embleton-Thirsk A, Mukerjee D, Ehrenstein MR. The synergistic efficacy of hydroxychloroquine with methotrexate is accompanied by increased erythrocyte mean corpuscular volume. Rheumatology. 2021.
- Gupta R, Shipa M, Yeoh SA, Buck P, Ehrenstein MR. An unfavourable outcome following switching intravenous abatacept and tocilizumab to subcutaneous forms during the COVID-19 pandemic. Rheumatology (Oxford, England). 2021;60(2):977-9.
- **Greenwood M, Shipa M, Yeoh S-A, Roussou E, Mukerjee D, Ehrenstein MR. Methotrexate reduces withdrawal rates of TNF inhibitors due to ineffectiveness in rheumatoid arthritis but only in patients who are seropositive. Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases. 2020;79(11):1516-7.**

Editorials and reviews:

- Ehrenstein MR, Shipa M. SLE is not a one-size-fits-all disease. Journal of Experimental Medicine. 2023;220(6). (Impact factor –17.6).

Book Chapters:

- Shipa, M., Isenberg, D. Pregnancy and myositis – Practical management of pregnant patient with rheumatology disease (Oxford University Press 2021).

Case reports and abstracts

- >30 will be supplied upon request.

Awards:

- Junior Investigator Award, American College of Physicians, 2022.
- Top 10 EULAR Abstract, 2022.
- Travel Bursary award EULAR Education 2019, 2022.
- Gordon Davies Essex Rheumatology Association Silver Award, 2016 (Oral Presentation).
- Best Teacher Award, elected by DUKES Medical Students of Singapore, 2013.

Scientific Talks (International/National-selected): last 5 years and oral presentation

- Annual Conference of British society of rheumatology (BSR) –2021, 2023, 2024
- EULAR annual conference 2022 –2021,2022,2023.
- ACR – 2021.
- Royal Society of Medicine (RSM) journal club –2022.
- Autoimmunity annual conference 2022 –2022.

Mentorships:

- Supervisor a PhD student, MSc, MRes.
- Named Educational Supervisor of junior medical doctors

Organisation:

- Co-chair and Host 1st BILAG advanced SLE course 31 Jan 2026
- Host and organise 2nd and 3rd scientific session for Visibility and Global Affairs: 2021 & 2022

Public/Host:

- **EULAR TV news 2023, and 2024.**
- Presentation at PPE group, Sep 2022 – “BEAT-LUPUS – A Journey to Beat Lupus”.

Professional Affiliations:

- BILAG-UK – 2023-present
- EMEUNET - Sub-committee member (Visibility and Global Affairs) – 2020-2024.
- Member, British Society of Rheumatology.
- General Medical council.
- Royal College of physicians, UK.
- British Medical Association.

Dear Members of the SLEuro Committee,

I am writing to express my strong motivation to serve as a committee member within SLEuro. As Service Lead for the Lupus Unit at University College London Hospitals (UCLH)—one of the largest lupus services in Europe—and as a Principal Investigator and Clinical Excellence Fellow at UCL, my clinical and academic career is unwaveringly committed to improving the lives of people with SLE and related autoimmune conditions. I regard SLEuro as the premier forum for collaborative, pan-European efforts to advance science, harmonise care standards, and train the next generation of specialists. I am eager to contribute actively to this vital mission.

My research programme bridges basic immunology and clinical trial design, with a primary focus on mechanistic endotyping and biomarker-driven precision medicine. Specifically, I investigate B-cell-targeted therapies and IgA2 anti-DNA responses. My track record in this area includes co-leading the first biomarker-enrichment trials in SLE (STRATIFY Lupus) and serving as first author on the BEAT-Lupus trial. I am currently establishing my own independent laboratory as an early-career researcher, supported by several competitive academic grants from bodies including Versus Arthritis, NIHR, LUPUS UK, APS Support, and the UCL Rheumatology Charity. I intend to bring this translational perspective to SLEuro's scientific agenda, contributing effectively to task forces, educational mentorship and networking.

Beyond the laboratory, I remain deeply dedicated to high-quality multidisciplinary clinical care and service development. At UCLH, I lead a complex lupus cohort, working continuously to embed research and innovation within routine care pathways. My commitment to education is evidenced by my active membership in BILAG-UK and my recent role as co-chair and host of the inaugural BILAG Advanced SLE Course, where I gained practical experience in designing and delivering advanced specialist education. Within SLEuro, I would be particularly keen to lead educational activities, including courses, webinars, and curriculum development, alongside networking and scientific events.

I also offer a sustained track record of international engagement, having delivered invited talks at EULAR, ACR, and BSR. My tenure on the EMEUNET Visibility and Global Affairs sub-committee and as a presenter for EULAR TV has equipped me with robust skills in communication, stakeholder engagement, and cross-border collaboration. Crucially, I am committed to inclusivity; I currently lead a diverse Patient Participation Group in London with a specific focus on Black representation, ensuring that minority voices are central to our work. Joining the SLEuro committee would empower me to champion this ethos at a European level, ensuring our representation is as broad and inclusive as possible.

If selected, I would approach the committee role with energy, reliability, and a clear focus on delivery. Concretely, I aim to help develop and implement: (1) SLEuro-endorsed educational initiatives; (2) collaborative mentorship and exchange platforms that link European centres for research; and (3) robust interfaces with patient and public partners to ensure our scientific priorities remain anchored in patient need. My background, spanning clinical service leadership, translational science, and international advocacy, positions me to contribute meaningfully to SLEuro's strategic objectives.

Thank you for considering my application. It would be an honour to support SLEuro's work as a committee member, and I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Society's efforts to advance excellence and equity in lupus care and research across Europe.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Muhammad R.A. Shipa, PhD.
Principal Investigator and Clinical Excellence Fellow, UCL
Honorary Consultant Rheumatologist and Service Lead, Lupus Unit, UCLH