



## FACT SHEET

### JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS (JIA)

- Nearly 300,000 children in the United States have arthritis (1 in 250 kids)
- There are more than 6,400 children living with arthritis in Indiana alone
- The average age of onset is two years old
- JIA is one of the most common chronic illnesses among children
- Early symptoms can include joint pain, stiffness and swelling
- The cause of most forms of JIA are unknown
- There is no known cure

### PEDIATRIC RHEUMATOLOGIST SHORTAGE

- There are fewer than 200 practicing board-certified pediatric rheumatologists nationwide. Only three of them currently practice in Indiana
- In 2007, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released a report describing the above problem as “severe” and calling for a 75 percent increase in the number of pediatric rheumatologists nationwide
- The number of pediatric rheumatologists is declining due to the maturing age of those currently certified
- Pediatric rheumatology is the fourth smallest medical sub-specialty in America according to the American Board of Pediatrics
- In 2007, there were only 26 first year fellows in pediatric rheumatology funded in the entire United States. That is fewer than the number of first year residents training at Riley Hospital in general pediatrics each year.
- 9 states in the United States do not have a practicing pediatric rheumatologist
- On average, children must travel 57 miles to reach the nearest pediatric rheumatologist

### THE IMPLICATIONS

- If left untreated, JIA can lead to a limited range of motion, joint deformity and altered growth patterns not to mention irreversible joint damage and severe disability