

## Arthritis Walk



[www.arthritiswalk.org](http://www.arthritiswalk.org)



### **Arthritis Walk Medical Honoree**

**Karen Onel, MD**

**Chicago, IL**

Dr. Karen Onel, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at The University of Chicago Medicine, Comer Children's Hospital is an expert in pediatric rheumatology. Additionally, Dr. Onel also serves the pediatric arthritis community at Shriners Hospital for Children in Chicago a few days per month. She specializes in the diagnosis and care of children with lupus, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, vasculitis, uveitis, dermatomyositis and musculoskeletal pain. Working with a team of nurses and social workers, Dr. Onel creates long-term treatment plans to improve the quality of life for her patients.

An active researcher, Dr. Onel serves as the principal investigator for several studies that aim to provide a greater understanding of the mechanisms of rheumatic illnesses in children. She has examined the relationship between physical function measures and quality of life in children with systemic lupus and worked to establish treatment plans for children with arthritis. Her work has been funded by numerous organizations including the Arthritis Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Onel has authored numerous papers, reviews and book chapters on pediatric rheumatology. In addition, she serves as a reviewer for several scientific journals, including *Arthritis and Rheumatism* and *Pediatric Rheumatology*. She has been named one of the "Top Doctors" in the city by Chicago magazine.

In her spare time Dr. Onel enjoys spending time with her family, reading, going to concerts, theatre, and baseball games. This avid New York Yankee fan has become a follower of the Chicago White Sox since becoming a true Southsider.

She is actively involved with several organizations including CARRA (Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance) American College of Rheumatology and Hyde Park School of Dance.

When asked about her thoughts on arthritis she said, "I am proud of how far we have come and I am hopeful for a cure!" We are thrilled with the work Dr. Onel has done and we are proud to have her as the 2013 Greater Chicago Arthritis Walk Medical Honoree.

### **About the Arthritis Foundation**

The Arthritis Foundation ([www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org)) is committed to raising awareness and reducing the unacceptable impact of arthritis, which strikes one in every five adults and 300,000 children, and is the nation's leading cause of disability. To conquer this painful, debilitating disease, we support education, research, advocacy and other vital programs and services.