The Johns Hopkins Myositis Center, one of the first multidisciplinary centers of its kind that focuses on the diagnosis and management of myositis, combines the expertise of rheumatologists, neurologists and pulmonologists who are committed to the treatment of this rare disease. The Center is conveniently located at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

Patients referred to the Myositis Center can expect:

• **Multidisciplinary Care:** Johns Hopkins Myositis Center specialists make a diagnosis after evaluating each patient and reviewing results of tests that include muscle enzyme levels, electromyography, muscle biopsy, pulmonary function and MRI. The Center brings together not only physicians with extensive experience in diagnosing, researching and treating myositis, but nutritionists and physical and occupational therapists as well.

• **Convenience:** Same-day testing and appointments with multiple specialists are typically scheduled to minimize doctor visits and avoid delays in diagnosis and treatment.

• **Community:** Because myositis is so rare, the Center provides a much-needed opportunity for patients to meet other myositis patients, learn more about the disease and be continually updated on breakthroughs regarding treatment options.
About Myositis

Affecting approximately 50,000 Americans, the chronic muscle inflammation known as myositis is complex and can be difficult to diagnose and treat. There are different types of myositis, which the Johns Hopkins Myositis Center evaluates, diagnoses and treats:

- Polymyositis
- Dermatomyositis
- Inclusion body myositis
- Toxic myopathies (caused by toxic exposure to drugs or toxins such as statins)

**Symptoms of myositis may include:**

- Trouble rising from a chair
- Difficulty climbing stairs or lifting arms
- Tired feeling after standing or walking
- Trouble swallowing or breathing
- Muscle pain and soreness that does not resolve after a few weeks
- Elevations in muscle enzymes (CPK or aldolase) shown by blood tests

A definite diagnosis of myositis usually includes weakness of the shoulder and/or hip muscles. A patchy, reddish rash on the knuckles or eyelids, when coupled with other significant symptoms like muscle weakness, may indicate the presence of dermatomyositis.