



Prof. Dr. Akgün İNCE

Prof. Dr. Akgün İnce is an internationally esteemed rheumatologist, clinical researcher, and educator recognized for over thirty years of work dedicated to advancing patient care and scientific understanding in the fields of autoimmune and musculoskeletal diseases. Since 2001, he has served as a Rheumatologist and Director of Clinical Research at Arthritis Consultants, Inc. in St. Louis, Missouri, where he leads one of the region's most active rheumatology research programs. Dr. İnce is widely recognized for his expertise in rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, axial spondyloarthritis, psoriatic arthritis, osteoarthritis, fibromyalgia, and gout. Born in Zeytinburnu, Istanbul, as the child of an immigrant family, Dr. Akgün İnce attended public schools and graduated from Istanbul University Istanbul Faculty of Medicine in 1989 after ranking highly in the national university entrance exam (OSYM) in 1983. Following his residency in internal medicine at Istanbul University Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Medicine, he pursued subspecialty training in Rheumatology at the St. Louis University Health Sciences Centre. He subsequently completed his internal medicine residency and rheumatology fellowship programs at St. Louis University, establishing the foundation of his clinical and academic career. Dr. İnce joined the academic faculty of St. Louis University in 1998, where he rose through the ranks to Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and ultimately Clinical Professor. His academic influence is international; at the age of 30, he also earned the title of Associate Professor of Internal Medicine in Türkiye. Between 2022 and 2025, he served as the Chief of the Rheumatology Division at Mercy Hospital St. Louis, where he led program development and clinical quality processes. Having renewed his Rheumatology Board Certification—initially obtained in 1999—in 2009 and 2019, Dr. İnce is highly regarded by both his colleagues and patients. Upon receiving this certification, he became only the second Turkish physician in the United States to achieve this distinction. His consistent commitment to clinical excellence and patient-centred care is reflected in his repeated recognition with prestigious awards such as Castle Connolly Top Doctor (2019–present), St. Louis Magazine Top Doctor (2014–present), and Best Doctors in America (2011–2017). Dr. İnce is a Member and Fellow of the American College of Rheumatology, and a member of the American College of Physicians and the St. Louis Rheumatism Association, the latter of which he served as President between 2001 and 2002. As a clinical researcher, Dr. İnce has served as a principal investigator or investigator in more than 50 Phase II–IV

clinical trials. With over 30 years of research experience, he has contributed to the development of biological agents, targeted synthetic therapies, and innovative treatment approaches for rheumatological diseases. His research portfolio includes collaborations with international pharmaceutical companies and numerous critical studies that have shaped modern treatment standards. Dr. Ince has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles, presentations, and book chapters in areas such as rheumatoid arthritis, axial spondyloarthritis, biological therapies, and disease activity measurements. Through his scientific contributions and clinical leadership, he is esteemed by his colleagues and patients as a trusted expert, continuing to advance high-quality care, research, and education in the field of rheumatology. He is married and the father of one child; His wife, Didem, is an orthodontist, and his son, Deniz Can, is a resident doctor in the Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.