Dr. Seong Cho received his medical degree from Kyung-Hee University of Seoul, Korea, in February 1989. He pursued post-doctoral research in the Division of Pediatric Allergy/Immunology, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) California, 1997, after completing his ear, nose, and throat (ENT) residency at the Kyung-Hee University Medical Center, Seoul, Korea. After he completed his Internal Medicine residency training at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee, and his Allergy-Immunology fellowship at Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois, he became an assistant professor at Northwestern University.

Later he joined the Division of Allergy/Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine, Morsani College of Medicine, University of South Florida in February 2015, where he was promoted to Associate Professor in August 2016, then to Full Professor in August 2022.

He is board-certified in internal medicine, allergy/immunology in the USA, and otolaryngology in Korea. He received the American College of Allergy Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI) First Place Clemens von Pirquet Award, 2008, and the American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) GSK Fellow Career Development Award in 2009 during his fellowship in allergy/immunology. Other research awards include awards from the National Institutes of Health (NIH, K23 and U01) and the American Heart Association (National Scientist Development Award). His research interest includes the pathogenesis of asthma and chronic rhinosinusitis/nasal polyps and the role of mast cells in airway remodeling and other mast cell-related disorders.

Dr. Cho is a clinical investigator who is currently participating in 5 clinical trials as the principal investigator (PI). He is a physician-scientist who is funded by an NIH U01 grant as the mechanistic PI and has published more than 90 peer-reviewed articles including in the Lancet and JACI. He has submitted two patent applications on “the role of soy isoflavones in treatment and prevention of asthma” as an inventor via USF. He has served several NIH study sections as an Ad hoc reviewer since 2018 and the AAAAI and ACAAI Rhinitis, Rhinosinusitis, and Ocular Allergy Committee as the chair. He has also served the USF Faculty Senate since 2018.

Dr. Cho and his colleagues discovered that human mast cells are a novel and major source of plasminogen activator and inhibitor-1 (PAI-1), and that mast cell-derived PAI-1 plays an essential role in asthma and viral-induced asthma exacerbation. Furthermore, his research team found that PAI-1 inhibition by a specific inhibitor or soy isoflavones reduces airway inflammation and remodeling. He is currently conducting an NIH-funded clinical/translational study on PAI-1, collaborating with investigators at Northwestern University.

Another area of investigation is the age-related differences in the pathogenesis of chronic sinusitis and nasal polyps. His laboratory discovered that mitochondrial oxidative stress is

related to nasal polyp formation, especially in the elderly, and blocking this pathway would be a novel and innovative treatment option for chronic sinusitis and nasal polyposis.