

# ADVOCATING

for Rheumatology

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**MACRA Flexibility**— CMS agrees to add options to avoid penalties by “picking your pace” in 2017

**2016 YEAR IN REVIEW**

**Advocated for \$ increases** in research appropriations bills

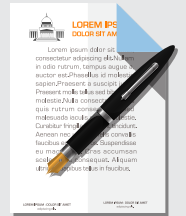


**ACR testimony to FDA** and other briefings on biosimilars

**Flex IT**— H.R. 5001 and S. 2822: bicameral/bipartisan 90-day reporting period legislation



**Coalition Leadership**— Part B Demo Coalition, Cognitive Specialty Coalition, Coalition for Accessible Treatments, NIAMS, Flex-IT Coalition



**Reversed downcoding decision** in Palmetto MAC region



Worked with payer to **identify and fix error** in coverage for DXA



**Part B Drug Payment Demonstration**— Garnered bipartisan opposition to demonstration as proposed

**Stopped coverage change** proposed by NC payer for steroid injections with ACR and other stakeholders



ASSOCIATION OF RHEUMATOLOGY HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

A DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RHEUMATOLOGY



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RHEUMATOLOGY

EDUCATION • TREATMENT • RESEARCH

BY THE NUMBERS

7,800+

ACR/ARHP member emails to Congress on policy issues

250+ meetings in Congressional offices

state society educational sessions on MACRA

40+ RheumPAC-supported fundraisers for members of Congress and candidates

635 bills reviewed/monitored

11 state legislative wins

42 published letters to the editor [including the Los Angeles Times and The Wall Street Journal]

29 news media stories on the CMS Part B Reimbursement Project

6 states passed biosimilars bills

4 states enacted step therapy law

40 Active Affiliate rheum societies

21 letters & 12 meetings with payers on policy and coverage issues