Pre-Meeting Courses: November 3–4, 2017
Scientific Sessions: November 4–8, 2017

Important Dates
REGISTRATION
Registration ............................................. Now Open
Early Bird Registration ......................... Deadline: August 16
Advance Registration ............................. Deadline: October 18

ABSTRACTS
Late-Breaking Abstract Submission ............ Opens: August 29
....................................................... Deadline: September 26, Noon ET

Rheumatology.org/Annual-Meeting
REASONS WHY YOU SHOULDN'T MISS THE 2017 MEETING

Receive cutting-edge content and hands-on knowledge
Get firsthand access to groundbreaking findings that will be revealed at the meeting.

The meeting offers diverse learning formats that:
- Foster knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices
- Allow you to explore what is relevant to your needs and what challenges you to broaden your practice of rheumatology

Meet rheumatology experts and visionaries in person
Witness the brightest leaders in rheumatology sharing their latest research techniques, and clinical applications.

2017 OPENING LECTURE:
Emerging and Re-Emerging Infectious Diseases: From AIDS to Zika
Speaker: Anthony S. Fauci, MD, Director of NIAID, National Institutes of Health

Session Overview: Against a constant background of established infectious diseases, new infections inevitably emerge and old infections re-emerge in epidemic form, greatly magnifying the global burden of disease. Although major advances have been achieved in the development of countermeasures such as diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccine, the ease of world travel and increased global interdependence have added layers of complexity to efforts to contain emerging diseases. HIV/AIDS, the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014–2016, and the recent emergence of Zika virus in the western hemisphere are three examples of important emerging infectious diseases in the modern world. Other emerging infections have been less catastrophic than these examples; however, they have also taken a substantial toll in terms of morbidity and mortality and economic losses. Be informed about research and public health efforts to combat a range of emergent infectious diseases—from HIV/AIDS to Zika.
Network with rheumatology professionals and create personal connections

The ACR/ARHP Annual Meeting is the largest rheumatology meeting in the world, with 16,000+ attendees coming together to advance careers, meet new mentors, and form connections for professional growth. Engage with a diverse audience and build meaningful interactions with peers from around the globe.

Face-to-face meetings capture the attention of participants, inspire positive emotional climates, and drive collaboration by building meaningful interactions.

**NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES**

- First-Timers Orientation
- Opening Reception
- Discipline Round Tables
- Topic Round Tables
- Exhibit Hall Networking
- Career Connection
- Poster Tours
- Study Groups

Make your voice heard

Submitting an abstract contributes to the advancement of rheumatology research.

Face-to-face meetings offer the ability to network and engage with a handshake that simply cannot be replicated via a virtual process.

2016 SUBMISSIONS:

- Submissions received from 66 countries
- 61% International
- 39% Domestic

Accepted abstracts are published in the *Arthritis & Rheumatology* journal and receive international news media coverage, in addition to thousands of web and social media impressions. The 2010–2016 acceptance average was 75%.
Customize your experience
Maximize your time and align the meeting's educational offerings with your personal and professional interests!

Attendees by Primary Specialty
- Adult Rheumatologist 61%
- Pediatric Rheumatologist 5%
- Non-Physician Healthcare Provider 3%
- Other Physician 8%
- Other Rheumatology Professional (Pharma, Researcher, etc.) 23%

Attendees by Work Setting
- Academic Setting 40%
- Biomedical Industry 19%
- Hospital-Based Practice 11%
- Other Clinical Setting 7%
- Other Non-Clinical Setting 7%
- Solo Practice 6%
- Single Specialty Group Practice 5%
- Government Clinical/Non-Clinical Setting 4%
- Retired 1%

Age Range of Attendees
- 30 years and younger 10%
- 31-35 years 16%
- 36-40 years 15%
- 41-45 years 15%
- 46-50 years 12%
- 51-55 years 10%
- 56-60 years 9%
- 61-65 years 7%
- 66-70 years 4%
- 71-75 years 2%

Meet your compliance and certification needs

Earn Continuing Education Credits
- Attend designated interactive MOC sessions with complementary online activities—at no additional cost to you

Earn MOC points
- Pain Management
- Patient Safety
- Ethics

Over 100 companies exhibit to showcase the latest technology in rheumatology.

Learn about new rheumatology products and services

Capture value
- Tickets for hundreds of Workshops and Meet the Professor sessions are reasonably priced, and your registration for the scientific sessions offers access to hundreds of high-impact educational sessions.

The meeting comprises over 300 hours of online content. Registered attendees get free online access with SessionSelect. Access sessions you missed and experience education at your own pace and convenience.

Face-to-face meetings create a shared sense of purpose, foster empathy across expertise and experience, and create camaraderie that positions rheumatology practice and patient care delivery for success.
TOP 3 REASONS JOINED US in 2016

1. Professional development
2. Networking with colleagues
3. Earn continuing medical education (CME) credits

SNEAK PEEK OF 2017 SESSIONS

BASIC SCIENCE

Precision Medicine for Rheumatic Disease: Closer Than You Think?
Emerging technology may soon give rheumatologists the opportunity to individualize or personalize care, says Lindsey Criswell, MD, basic science sub-chair. At this session, recent advances in transcriptional profiling in pediatric lupus patients will demonstrate the potential value of immunomonitoring for stratification of patients into discrete molecular groups. “What we are learning about precision medicine may be applied to our complex diseases in rheumatology,” she says. “Our access to bigger data sets due to electronic medical records gives us better tools to take advantage of that information. Rheumatologists around the world are able to capture data on a large scale during routine clinical care, and as scientists and leaders in rheumatology, we are thinking about the potential promise of precision medicine—and now we can take advantage of it. This is a vision, and it is relevant to scientists and physicians worldwide.”

Checkpoint Inhibitors and Immune-Related Adverse Events
This basic science session will focus on checkpoint inhibitors and what they can teach us about autoimmunity, says Dr. Criswell. “Immune therapies are a revolution in the treatment of cancer, but in the initial observations among physicians, we are developing clear evidence of autoimmunity among these patients,” she says. “We hope that this new area of therapeutics for cancer and their potential adverse events, clearly autoimmune manifestations, will produce clues for us on autoimmunity in rheumatic diseases.”

Therapeutic Genome Editing: Prospects and Challenges
One potential breakthrough related to precision medicine is gene editing, an area of research and discussion for close to 20 years. This session’s panel of global experts will present the latest data on gene therapy technology and discuss how close we may be to clinical applications. “We are at a point now where we may soon be able to intervene to manipulate a patient’s genome as a therapeutic approach. If we learn to do this in human cells, it could be applied to any disease, including autoimmune rheumatic diseases,” she says. “What we recognize now is that there is an opportunity to develop genome editing to a point where we can use it in the clinical setting.”

Science of Novel Immunotherapy
At this basic science session, speakers will present cutting-edge information on the dysregulation of cell processes related to malignancy and inflammation, and the development of novel, targeted immunotherapy treatments for autoimmune diseases. “This information is very valuable for rheumatologists to understand, because we are now seeing all of these effects in patients who receive these therapies. So we can try to elucidate the mechanisms of autoimmunity in these patients,” says Dr. Criswell. The session will explore how therapeutic targeting of selective production and degradation of non-encoding and regulatory gene sequences may potentially affect the dysregulating cell processes integral to malignant transformation and inflammatory responses.

Adiposity and Arthritis
Obesity is becoming a more common health condition among patients in many global regions, and its connections to diseases like osteoarthritis are always of interest to rheumatologists. But what about the links between adipose tissue and autoimmunity? This session will explore the latest science in this intriguing area of rheumatic disease. “We now more fully understand how the state of adiposity is actually highly inflammatory. There is a definite relationship between adipose tissue and inflammation that wasn’t really understood in the past. We are seeing an increased risk to obesity or a severity that goes beyond just the biomechanical impact.”

CLINICAL SCIENCE/CLINICAL PRACTICE

“Clinical sessions this year will delve into cutting-edge research findings that are of great interest to rheumatologists,” says Gregory C. Gardner, MD, clinical science sub-chair. Sessions will present brand-new classification criteria for lupus and clinical practice guidelines for ANCA-associated vasculitis and management of psoriatic arthritis, he says. “These sessions will appeal to all practicing rheumatologists around the world. We’ll have updates on hot topics like myositis, as well as a session on management of osteoarthritis beyond the guidelines. This information will be very useful to all clinical rheumatologists.”

Autoimmunity and Cancer
Immune checkpoint inhibitors such as pembrolizumab, nivolumab, and ipilimumab are exciting breakthroughs in treatment of many cancers, but “immunotherapy” may have autoimmune manifestations as an adverse effect, says Dr. Gardner. This session will explore why these therapies, which harness the body’s immune system to fight tumors, may also trigger autoimmune symptoms. “Many more patients are using checkpoint inhibitors for cancer therapy, but these drugs and patient cases may teach us something about autoimmune disease as well,” says Dr. Gardner. “Rheumatologists will probably start seeing more patients with autoimmune disease because they’re on checkpoint inhibitors, so we want to explore how these treatments can give us insight on mechanisms of autoimmunity.” The session will also explore the links between cancer and autoimmunity that may lead to improved therapies for both conditions.

Giant Cell Arteritis Update and Vasculitis Mimics
In recent years, rheumatologists have gained vastly improved understanding of vasculitis, leading to new, more accurate classification criteria and treatment approaches for these often complex, challenging diseases in our patients, says Dr. Gardner. “For giant cell arteritis, there are new therapies coming out and attendees can get a thorough update on treatment options,” he says. Vasculitis mimics often must be ruled out when diagnosing patients, so this session will be informative and practical for clinicians. “There are several great sessions on vasculitis this year’s Annual Meeting, including new classification criteria for ANCA-associated vasculitis. Now that we understand these diseases better, we are coming up with more specific therapies, particularly for EGPA (Churg-Strauss disease). All of these great sessions on vasculitis will help all practicing rheumatologists in their daily clinical work.”

Controversies in Diagnosis and Management of Gout and Asymptomatic Hyperuricemia
Managing patients with gout and related conditions can offer rheumatologists many challenging clinical scenarios, and the expert panel at this session will share their views on how to treat these patients, says Dr. Gardner. With gout prevalence rising in many countries around the world, clinicians will find this session both thought-provoking and practical. “We often see patients with high uric acid who are not symptomatic. Should we be treating high uric acid in these patients without gout symptoms, or does this cause other problems?” he says. Management of OA: Beyond the Guidelines
Current treatment guidelines for osteoarthritis focus on managing symptoms but not addressing disease progression. Clinicians will enjoy this information-packed, practical session on treating osteoarthritis, says Dr. Gardner. “Our speakers will explore the current literature on osteoarthritis, and discuss some new treatments like stem cells harvested from the patient’s fat and blood cells, which is so interesting, as well as cutting-edge research in ways to preserve or regrow cartilage,” he says.

Series on Anatomy for Rheumatologists
“We will continue our popular series on anatomy for the rheumatologist, making it very practical and office-based. So many rheumatologists are now using ultrasound, too, so we will have sessions to make sure that you are well versed in anatomy,” he says. “We’ll have an update on metabolic bone diseases, a nice review on sarcoidosis—we haven’t done that for a while—and our popular TechMed sessions, which teach us how to use the latest technology to better communicate and care for our patients.”

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Keynote Address
Everyone with a rheumatic disease can reap healthy benefits from physical activity, but is that powerful, positive message getting through to our patients? Pamela Peeke, MD, world-renowned expert on the positive impact of exercise on health, and behavioral scientist and CDC Senior Fellow Teresa Brady, PhD, will “both talk about movement and how it’s every provider’s responsibility to talk
SNEAK PEEK OF 2017 SESSIONS

continued from inside

About this with our patients,” says Christine Stamatos, DNP, ANP-C, who chairs this year’s ARHP Annual Meeting Planning Committee. “We need to make sure that our patients are all moving and doing exercise beyond their physical therapy. Movement and building muscle mass are optimal for function.”

Weekend Warriors: Sports Medicine for Rheumatology

ARHP sessions in 2017 will focus on movement: how to encourage patients to be active, as well as approaches to prevent and treat soft-tissue injuries, says Ms. Stamatos. In this joint ACR/ARHP session, speakers will discuss common injuries seen in aging patients with osteoarthritis who may live with persistent pain and don’t differentiate their injury pain. Learn how to adjust activity for the injured patient to prevent delayed healing and keep patients on the move.

Understanding the “Who” and “How” in Your Data: Moderators and Mediators in Research

Explore the latest concepts of moderation and mediation in research design and analysis at this engaging ARHP session. Speaker and ARHP President Afton Hassett, PsyD, will share real-world research examples of moderation and mediation with the goal of helping researchers identify applications for their own projects. Learn how these types of variables can affect interpretation of results in your studies.

Death and Devastation: The Effect on Care Providers

At this powerful session, speakers will delve into one of the most personal subjects for health professionals today: dealing with the loss of a long-term patient. “We will have a session that talks about death and the devastation that you feel when you lose a patient. Health professionals must deal with their own feelings of loss and even guilt,” says Ms. Stamatos. “Our speakers will provide practical approaches to dealing with these feelings.”

BUSINESS/ADMINISTRATION (B/A)

In your rheumatology practice, it’s a constant challenge to keep up with new and evolving guidelines, laws, and regulations. Practice managers, business administrators, and clinicians can get the latest knowledge and practical tips at 2017 business/administration track sessions.

Refocusing Your Practice: Innovation, Improvement, and Insights for Today’s Rheumatology Practice

Speakers will share the latest tools and tips to ensure that your practice is fiscally sound and efficient in its operations. The session includes a fresh update on “quality measures from the practice manager’s standpoint, including key rheumatology quality measures that you should meet,” says Antanya A. Chung, ACR director of practice management. “We’ll go over the MIPS criteria to measure and report that can put you in the best possible position to avoid penalties, and be aligned with both Medicare and private payer guidelines. We want to make sure every rheumatology practice is hitting the right markers. We’ll include questions to ask your patients and what to document.”

Reshaping the Relationship Between Physicians and PBMs

Is there a hotter topic in medicine today than the rising cost of therapies and how rheumatologists must intervene to ensure patients’ drugs are covered by insurance? This joint ACR/ARHP session will address the relationship between rheumatology practices and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), says Colin Edgerton, MD, AMPC. “PBMs have come to recent attention as a major negative force in the practice of rheumatology. PBMs are driving much of the step edit and prior authorization requirements that rheumatologists and practice managers must deal with today, adding to our overwhelming administrative burdens,” says Dr. Edgerton. “PBMs are also under scrutiny for increasing drug prices through kickback schemes such as rebates. This session will educate us on the history of PBMs, their structure and function, and explore ways to influence and improve the therapeutic market.”

Biosimilar Medicine: Changing the Landscape in Healthcare

As rising drug prices are the hottest topic in medicine, biosimilars may be one way to alleviate the burden—but what do rheumatologists need to know? “This session will update physicians on the rapidly changing biosimilar landscape. It will address important changes to state legislation efforts and review market reception of the first biosimilar agents,” says Dr. Edgerton.

Performance-Based Contracting: Emerging Issues and Considerations

Rheumatology practices are businesses that must adapt to new reimbursement landscapes to thrive. “This session will explore how physicians negotiate with payers in a value-based care environment,” says Dr. Edgerton. “Fee for service is being replaced by value-based care, yet physicians are familiar mainly with FFS contracting. Performance-based contracting is a new concept. We’ll explore the issues of calculating your return on investment for value-based care, and bring you up to date on payment models for sharing savings with payers.”

Holy MACRA! How to Survive and Thrive in the New Era of MACRA, MIPS, and APMs

We know MIPS and MACRA are on everyone’s minds in this first reporting year. Get the latest information and guidance to ensure success in this new landscape.

DON’T MISS THIS YEAR’S ACR/ARHP ANNUAL MEETING!

ENJOY THE EXCITING CITY ON THE COAST OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN—SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA!

Take advantage of the early bird registration discount!

Save up to $200 by registering before August 16. Visit www.rheumatology.org/Annual-Meeting to register.

Need to justify attending the ACR/ARHP Annual Meeting?

Access our Attendance Justification Toolkit: http://acr.tw/ACRatj