



VERITY Updates

- **VERITY/Brigham 2018 Course in Rheumatology Clinical Research** proved to be a great resource for 15 trainees and junior faculty from around the US. Please see more below.
- **VERITY Pilot & Feasibility Research Award** was established recently. For more information on the P&F Research Award, please see below.

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VERITY/Brigham 2018 Course in Rheumatology Clinical Research

On Monday, May 7th, 2018, 15 trainees and junior faculty from across the US, arrived at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, MA for the VERITY/Brigham Course in Rheumatology Clinical Research. The attendees consisted of 8 adult and 7 pediatric physicians that attended the course to refine the specific aims or methods sections of their research projects. The VERITY course lasted 6 days with a variety of lectures and workshops given by faculty from Brigham and Women's Hospital, Toronto Sick Kids and Boston Children's Hospital. Below are photos from the first, successful VERITY/Brigham Course in Rheumatology Clinical Research of 2018. The next VERITY course will be held in 2020. For more information, please visit www.verityresearch.org.

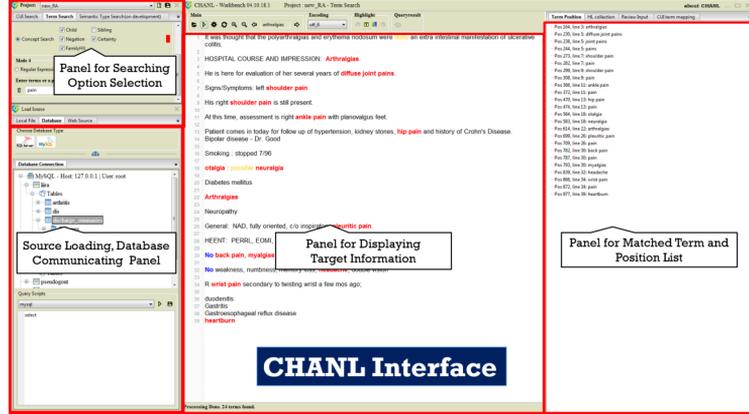


VERITY/Brigham 2018 Course Attendees

- **Fatima Barbar-Smiley**
Nationwide Children's Hospital/Ohio State Univ
- **Anna Broder**
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- **Christina Downey**
Loma Linda University Medical Center
- **Dinah Foer**
Brigham and Women's Hospital
- **Julia Ford**
Brigham and Women's Hospital
- **Mark Hall**
Univ of TX Health Sciences Ctr at San Antonio
- **Karen James**
University of Utah
- **Aleksander Lenert**
University of Kentucky
- **Evan Mulvihill**
Nationwide Children's Hospital/Ohio State Univ
- **Erin Penn**
Brigham and Women's Hospital
- **Vaneet Sandhu**
Loma Linda University Medical Center
- **Emily Smitherman**
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
- **Rebecca Tractman**
Hospital for Special Surgery/Weill Cornell Med School
- **Leandra Woolnough**
UT Southwestern Medical Center
- **Shima Yasin**
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

VERITY Bioinformatics Core

Dr. Zongqi Xia is a neurologist and Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh who studies multiple sclerosis and has a specific interest in understanding risk factors for MS relapse and flare. The VERITY Bioinformatics Resource Core is customizing CHANL, our chart review tool, to assist Dr. Xia in finding notes describing MS flare. CHANL, developed by Dr. Tianrun Cai, is a chart review tool that can be used to perform intelligent searches not only for multiple keywords simultaneously but can automatically identify other terms and concepts related to the keyword in the notes. All identified information can be highlighted and easily be located which dramatically improve the accuracy and efficiency of chart review. Dr. Cai is working with Dr. Xia to customize CHANL to highlight terms that are related to relapse and flare in the notes, to facilitate identification in CHANL's easy to use interface to review notes.



VERITY Publications

Kreps DJ, Halperin F, Desai SP, Zhang ZZ, **Losina E**, Olson AT, Karlson EW, Bermas BL, **Sparks JA**. Association of weight loss with improved disease activity in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: A retrospective analysis using electronic medical record data. *Int J Clin Rheumatol*. 2018;13(1):1-10. doi: 10.4172/1758-4272.1000154. PubMed PMID: 29606976; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5875117.

Sparks JA, Costenbader KH. Rheumatoid arthritis in 2017: Protective dietary and hormonal factors brought to light. *Nat Rev Rheumatol*. 2018 Feb;14(2):71-72. doi: 10.1038/nrrheum.2017.216. Epub 2018 Jan 11. PubMed PMID: 29323341; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5783757.

Tedeschi SK, **Solomon DH, Liao KP**. Pseudogout among Patients Fulfilling a Billing Code Algorithm for Calcium Pyrophosphate Deposition Disease. *Rheumatol Int*. 2018 Jun;38(6):1083-1088. doi: 10.1007/s00296-018-4029-x. Epub 2018 Apr 17. PubMed PMID: 29666904; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5975352.

Hresko A, Lin J, **Solomon DH**. Medical Care Costs Associated with Rheumatoid Arthritis in the US: A Systematic Literature Review and Meta-analysis. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)*. 2018 Jan 5. doi: 10.1002/acr.23512. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 29316377. [Epub ahead of print]

Yu Z, Yang N, Everett BM, **Frits M**, Iannaccone C, Coblyn J, Weinblatt M, **Shadick N, Solomon DH, Liao KP**. Impact of changes in inflammation on estimated 10-year cardiovascular risk in rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis Rheumatol*. 2018 Apr 20. doi: 10.1002/art.40532. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 29676517. [Epub ahead of print]

VERITY Member Spotlight-Leandra U. Woolnough, MD, MSCS



Dr. Leandra U. Woolnough recently accepted a position as an assistant professor at the University of Florida Division of Pediatric Rheumatology. Dr. Woolnough's research focuses on defining the role of musculoskeletal (MSK) ultrasound (US) in the management of children with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA). Her goal is to develop quantitative reproducible MSK US measures to identify JIA patients at risk for flare or more severe disease, facilitating appropriate treatment. Dr. Woolnough received a full travel scholarship from the Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance (CARRA) to participate in the VERITY 2018 research workshop. Using skills in study design garnered through the VERITY program, Dr. Woolnough aims to identify a high-risk JIA phenotype incorporating clinical and imaging features that could be applied in JIA clinical cohorts.

***For each issue, the newsletter will feature a VERITY member. For more information, please contact Jackie Stratton (jstratton1@bwh.harvard.edu) or visit verityresearch.org to become a VERITY member.

Please visit verityresearch.org for more information.