



## VERITY Updates

- **VERITY Pilot & Feasibility Research Award** was awarded to VERITY Course attendee, Aleksander Lenert of the University of Kentucky. Please see below for more info.
- **VERITY at the ACR 2018** conference on Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Meet the Funders meeting from 8:30AM to 10:00AM.

VERITY (NIH-P30-AR072577) is funded by NIH-NIAMS.

### VERITY Pilot & Feasibility Research Award - Aleksander Lenert

In May of 2018, VERITY established the VERITY Pilot & Feasibility (P&F) Research Award. This award is a NIAMS-supported, \$20,000 grant aimed at providing seed funding for new projects as well as to offer an opportunity to the VERITY Research Community to develop skills in proposal preparation. Aleksander Lenert, University of Kentucky, heard of the P&F grant while attending the 2018 VERITY Course in Rheumatology Clinical Research. On July 16<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Lenert received word that he would receive the VERITY P&F award of 2018. Dr. Lenert is working on developing an algorithm to identify autoinflammatory syndrome within in a EMR-based cohort. He will be working with the VERITY Bioinformatics core and collaborators at the University of Kentucky. We look forward to this collaboration and hearing of his success. VERITY plans to distribute one P&F grant per year for the next three years.

## VERITY Publications

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 Ten-Year Cardiovascular Risk in Rheumatoid Arthritis. *Arthritis Rheumatol*. 2018 Apr 20. doi: 10.1002/art.40532. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 29676517.

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.

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.

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; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6033682.

### VERITY at the ACR

This year, the American College of Rheumatology is holding their annual conference in Chicago, Illinois.

VERITY will have a table at the "Meet the Funders: NIH & Foundation Roundtable Grant Discussion" on Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30AM-10:00AM. The ACR conference will be held at McCormick Place, 2301 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60616.

### VERITY Methodology Core

Mr. Jason Young is a medical student who contacted Dr. Losina to request some assistance in designing the study to better understand opioid prescription patterns after orthopedic surgery in different parts of the world. The VERITY Methodology Core personnel, including Dr. Losina and Ms. Swastina Shrestha, a VERITY Methodology Core statistician, helped Jason to develop a series of vignette cases that described different orthopedic procedures performed in patients of different age and gender and developed analysis plan. Mr. Young conducted the study presenting vignettes to orthopedic residents from

Haiti, the Netherlands and the United States. After the data had been collected and given to the VERITY Methodology Core, Ms. Shrestha performed statistical analyses summarizing results of this study. She also helped Jason to compile the tables and statistical analysis section for the manuscript summarizing this study. Jason Young plans on using the summarized data for an upcoming paper on the subject.

### VERITY Member Spotlight - Jamie Collins, PhD.



Jamie Collins is a biostatistician at the Orthopaedic and Arthritis Center for Outcomes Research (OrACORe) in the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery at BWH and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Harvard Medical School. She is the director of OrACORe's Biometry Consulting Unit, providing analytic and methodologic support to faculty in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. Her current research focuses on novel statistical techniques to estimate disease progression in knee osteoarthritis. Current analytic projects include latent class growth analysis to identify trajectories of structural and symptomatic progression, and item response theory methods to quantify the burden of disease across multiple ordinal ratings both within and across joint features.

\*\*\*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](http://verityresearch.org) to become a VERITY member.

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