



VERITY Newsletter

A newsletter brought to you by VERITY at Brigham & Women's Hospital

FEBRUARY 2019

VERITY Updates

- **VERITY Course attendee**, Anna Border, MD, presented her continued work at the SCS Seminar Series at BWH. Read more below.

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Continuing Connections

Nearly a year after the first VERITY/Brigham Course in Rheumatology Clinical Research, VERITY and the course attendees continue growing their relationship. Over the past 10 months, many attendees have remained in touch with the VERITY group and have shown great advancement with the projects they presented at the course. On Wednesday, February 13th, 2018 VERITY course attendee, Anna Broder, MD, Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center, returned to BWH to present an update on her project. At the Seminar, Dr. Broder showed the evolution of her work on the use of hydroxychloroquine and its potential effect on the morbidity and mortality in lupus-related ESRD. There was a spirited discussion and she gained additional feedback on her next steps. Along with Dr. Broder, others have remained a constant in the VERITY Research Community. Rebecca Trachtman, MD, MS, of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, remains in contact with VERITY the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, remains in contact with her VERITY mentor (Daniel Solomon) and highlighted her work on

VERITY Bioinformatics Core

Over the past few months, Dr. Steven Sizheng Zhao, University of Liverpool, UK, has been working with the VERITY Bioinformatics Core on using electronic medical records (EMR) to create a cohort of patients with ankylosing spondylitis (AS). AS is a chronic inflammatory disease predominantly affecting the spine, characterized by significant pain and functional impairment. Unlike many rheumatic diseases, symptoms typically begin in early adulthood, with potentially significant impact on quality of life and work productivity over the life-course. Besides specialist registries, studies are often limited by difficulties in identifying AS cohorts, partly due to its low prevalence. Dr. Zhao has been working with the Bioinformatics Core to create an algorithm that will assist in identifying AS patients from the EMR, utilizing the Core's CHANL software to assist chart review, as well as natural language processing software to process clinical records. The cohort identified by the algorithm will be used to study mental health related comorbidities, while the algorithm itself can be used for future research in the US and abroad.

juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) in the VERITY Member Spotlight feature back in November 2018. Dr. Trachtman was recently awarded the \$50,000 CARRA Large Grant for a study that will evaluate the use of two biomarkers together, procalcitonin and calprotectin, to distinguish disease flare from infection in children with systemic JIA. Dr. Aleks Lenert, University of Kentucky, was the 2018 Pilot & Feasibility Research Award winner and is currently working with the VERITY Bioinformatics Core to develop an algorithm to identify autoinflammatory syndrome within electronic medical records. VERITY hopes to continue building on these relationships initially made at the VERITY Course. For more information on the VERITY/Brigham Course in Rheumatology Clinical Research, please visit <http://www.verityresearch.org/>.

VERITY Publications

Lyu H, Yoshida K, Tedeschi SK, Zhao S, Xu C, Nigwekar SU, Leder BZ, **Solomon DH**. Intervals between bone mineral density testing with dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry scans in clinical practice. *Osteoporos Int*. 2019 Jan 24.

Sparks JA, O'Reilly EJ, Barbaiya M, Tedeschi SK, Malspeis S, **Lu B**, Willett WC, **Costenbader KH**, Karlson EW. Association of fish intake and smoking with risk of rheumatoid arthritis and age of onset: a prospective cohort study. *BMC Musculoskelet Disord*. 2019 Jan 5;20(1):2.

Jorge A, Castro VM, Barnado A, Gainer V, Hong C, **Cai T**, **Cai T**, Carroll R, Denny JC, Crofford L, **Costenbader KH**, **Liao KP**, Karlson EW, Feldman CH. Identifying lupus patients in electronic health records: Development and validation of machine learning algorithms and application of rule-based algorithms. *Semin Arthritis Rheum*. 2019 Jan 4. pii: S0049-0172(18)30651-6.

Sparks JA, Barbaiya M, Tedeschi SK, Leatherwood CL, Tabung FK, Speyer CB, Malspeis S, **Costenbader KH**, Karlson EW, **Lu B**. Inflammatory dietary pattern and risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis in women. *Clin Rheumatol*. 2019 Jan;38(1):243-250.

Ford JA, Liu X, Marshall AA, Zaccardelli A, Prado MG, Wiyarand C, **Lu B**, Karlson EW, Schur PH, Deane KD, **Sparks JA**. Impact of Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide Antibody Level on Progression to Rheumatoid Arthritis in Clinically Tested CCP-Positive Patients Without RA. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)*. 2018 Dec 20.

Marshall AA, Zaccardelli A, Yu Z, Prado MG, Liu X, Miller Kroouze R, Kalia SS, Green RC, Triedman NA, **Lu B**, Deane KD, Iversen MD, Karlson EW, **Sparks JA**. Effect of communicating personalized rheumatoid arthritis risk on concern for developing RA: A randomized controlled trial. *Patient Educ Couns*. 2018 Dec 10. pii: S0738-3991(18)30557-3.

Upcoming VERITY Seminars

February 27, 9:00AM-10:00AM

VERITY/SCS Seminar Series
ICD9 to ICD10 Conversion Project
Presenter: Seoyoung Kim, MD, ScD, MSCE

March 13, 9:00AM-10:00AM

VERITY/SCS Seminar Series
Presenter: Jeffrey Sparks, MD, MMSC

March 14, 12:30PM-1:30PM

VERITY/SCS Journal Club
Faculty Discussant: Elena Losina

March 27, 9:00AM-10:00AM

VERITY/SCS Seminar Series
Presenter: Katherine Liao, MD, MPH

***Please visit <http://www.verityresearch.org/> to learn more about the meetings and our live-streaming through BlueJeans®.

VERITY Member Spotlight - Julia Ford, MD

Julia Ford, MD is a second-year rheumatology fellow at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She was a participant in the inaugural VERITY course held in May 2018. At the VERITY course, she presented and refined the study design of her ongoing research project during didactic lectures, breakout sessions, and one-on-one meetings with VERITY faculty. Her study, entitled "Impact of Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide Antibody Level on Progression to Rheumatoid Arthritis in Clinically Tested CCP-Positive Patients Without RA", was subsequently presented as an oral abstract at the 2018 ACR Annual Meeting and was accepted for publication at *Arthritis Care & Research* in December 2018. She is currently working with Dr. Jeffrey Sparks to investigate asthma and COPD as risk factors for incident rheumatoid arthritis in the Nurses' Health Studies. Julia also has clinical and research interests in vasculitis, and is working with Dr. Sara Tedeschi to investigate the use of temporal artery ultrasound for the diagnosis and management of giant cell arteritis.



***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.