



VERITY Newsletter

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

AUGUST 2019

VERITY Updates

- **VERITY releases the application** for the next VERITY/Brigham Course in Rheumatology Clinical Research to be held in May 2020. More information below.

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Presenting from Afar

On July 31st, Dr. Beth Wallace, University of Michigan, was the first VERITY member to Present from Afar. She presented at the VERITY/SCS Weekly Seminar in Boston, MA, from her office in Michigan. Dr. Beth Wallace, MD, MS, is a rheumatologist and health services researcher, currently a Clinical Lecturer at Michigan Medicine and Advanced Fellow in Health Services Research and Development at the Ann Arbor VA Center for Clinical Management Research.

Dr. Wallace found VERITY at the Meet the Funders Roundtable at the ACR Annual meeting in Chicago in 2018 and has been working with Dr. Daniel Solomon from BWH/VERITY. They thought it would be beneficial for her to present her aims for an upcoming K award to a broader audience. Dr. Wallace used BlueJeans© to stream her presentation. Dr. Wallace presented her work using SMART design to develop dynamic treatment regimens for glucocorticoid tapering in RA. Dr. Wallace's research interests are in using innovative methodologies such as machine learning and novel clinical trial designs to optimize treatment outcomes for patients with rheumatic disease.



This presentation was a success for all, and we would like to extend the opportunity to Present from Afar to trainees and other VERITY Research Community members across the country. If you would like additional information about VERITY's Present from Afar, please contact Jackie Stratton (jstratton1@bwh.harvard.edu).

VERITY Course 2020

VERITY has released the application for the VERITY 2020 Course.

The VERITY Course is a free course in rheumatic disease epidemiology and patient-oriented research. Participants will refine specific aims for grant or develop methods/statistical analyses for ongoing/proposed clinical research projects.

For access to the VERITY application, please visit

<http://www.verityresearch.org/>.

VERITY Publications

Kronzer VL, Crowson CS, **Sparks JA**, Vassallo R, Davis JM 3rd. Investigating Asthma, Allergic Disease, Passive Smoke Exposure, and Risk of Rheumatoid Arthritis. *Arthritis Rheumatol*. 2019 Aug;71(8):1217-1224.

Schoenfeld AJ, **Losina E**, Ferrone ML, Schwab JH, Chi JH, Blucher JA, Silva GS, Chen AT, Harris MB, Kang JD, **Katz JN**. Ambulatory status after surgical and nonsurgical treatment for spinal metastasis. *Cancer*. 2019 Aug 1;125(15):2631-2637.

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 Aug;49(1):84-90.

Losina E, Silva GS, Smith KC, **Collins JE**, Hunter DJ, **Shrestha S**, Messier SP, Yelin EH, Suter LG, Paltiel AD, **Katz JN**. Quality-Adjusted Life-Years Lost Due to Physical Inactivity in the United States Osteoarthritis Population. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)*. 2019 Jul 26.

Zhao SS, Yoshida K, Jones GT, Hughes DM, Duffield SJ, Tedeschi SK, Lyu H, Moots RJ, **Solomon DH**, Goodson NJ. Smoking status and cause-specific discontinuation of tumour necrosis factor inhibitors in axial spondyloarthritis. *Arthritis Res Ther*. 2019 Jul 22;21(1):177.

Young JD, Bhashyam AR, Qudsi RA, Parisien RL, **Shrestha S**, van der Vliet QMJ, Fils J, **Losina E**, Dyer GSM. Cross-Cultural Comparison of Postoperative Discharge Opioid Prescribing After Orthopaedic Trauma Surgery. *J Bone Joint Surg Am*. 2019 Jul 17;101(14):1286-1293.

Liu X, Tedeschi SK, Barbhuiya M, Leatherwood CL, Speyer CB, **Lu B**, **Costenbader KH**, Karlson EW, **Sparks JA**. Impact and Timing of Smoking Cessation on Reducing Risk of Rheumatoid Arthritis Among Women in the Nurses' Health Studies. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)*. 2019 Jul;71(7):914-924.

Zaccardelli A, Friedlander HM, Ford JA, **Sparks JA**. Potential of Lifestyle Changes for Reducing the Risk of Developing Rheumatoid Arthritis: Is an Ounce of Prevention Worth a Pound of Cure? *Clin Ther*. 2019 Jul;41(7):1323-1345.

VERITY Member Spotlight: Shima Yasin, MD, MSc



Dr. Yasin is an academic research fellow (PGY-7) at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) and is currently pursuing a PhD degree in Epidemiology with emphasis on clinical and translational research at the University of Cincinnati. She just completed her clinical fellowship in Pediatric Rheumatology at CCHMC, during which she worked closely with her mentors: Drs. Schulert and Grom on Systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (sJIA). Dr. Yasin's first two projects landed as podium presentations at the 2017 and 2018 ACR/ARHP annual meetings and were recognized with multiple national and international awards. Two of her studies entitled "IL-18 as a Biomarker Linking Systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis and Macrophage Activation Syndrome" and "IL-18 As Therapeutic Target In A Patient With Resistant Systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis and Recurrent Macrophage Activation Syndrome" were recently published in *Rheumatology*. She is currently working on finding new biomarkers and diagnostic score for sJIA as well as risk factors for developing lung disease in patients with sJIA. Dr. Yasin was an attendee of the 2018 VERITY/Brigham Course in Rheumatology Clinical Research.

***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.