



VERITY Newsletter

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

OCTOBER 2019

VERITY Updates

- **VERITY has recently held** the VERITY IAC and VERITY EAC committee meetings. For more information about the meetings and attendees, see below.
- **VERITY at the ACR 2019** conference on Tuesday, November 12th at the Meet the Funders: NIH & Foundation Roundtable Grant Discussion from 7:30AM - 9:00AM.

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VERITY Advisory Committee Round-Up

In the beginning of October 2019, VERITY held two meetings with both the VERITY Internal Advisory Committee (IAC) and the VERITY External Advisory Committee (EAC). Both committees had an hour-long meeting with the executive members of VERITY to provide feedback on the progress made and the possibilities for VERITY in the future.

On October 3rd, 2019, the VERITY IAC committee members discussed the growth VERITY has experienced over the past year. The Internal Advisory Committee consists of 9 local experts from around Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital who have relevant research experience that continues to be helpful to VERITY (see below).

VERITY Internal Advisory Committee

- Elliott Antman, Cardiovascular medicine & medical education
- Julie Buring, Epidemiology
- Candace Feldman, Rheumatic disease clinical research
- Elliot Israel, Pulmonology & pragmatic clinical trials
- James Kang, Orthopedic surgery research
- Isaac Kohane, Biomedical informatics
- Paul Ridker, Cardiovascular medicine and trials
- Sebastian Schneeweiss, Pharmacoepidemiology & effectiveness
- Mary Beth Son, Pediatric rheumatic disease clinical research

October 7th, 2019, the VERITY EAC met to also discuss VERITY as a whole and what may be beneficial going forward. The External Advisory Committee membership includes three rheumatologists, a bioinformatician, and a patient that has worked closely with the Arthritis Foundation (see below).

VERITY External Advisory Committee

- William Adams, MD
Boston Medical Center, Boston, MA
- Brian Feldman, MD, MSc, FRCPC
Toronto SickKids, Toronto, Canada
- Gillian Hawker, MD, MSc
University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
- Michael Katzman
BlueCross BlueShield of MA, Boston, MA
- Timothy McAlindon, MD, MPH
Tufts Medical Center, Boston, MA

Both meetings provided the VERITY team with very positive feedback on what we have done over the past year and some very promising ideas for VERITY's future. We thank the committee members for their time and invaluable advice and feedback. We look forward to our next meeting to be held in the fall of 2020.

VERITY Publications

Nascimben J, Cubbison C, Lape EC, **Katz JN**. Strategies for Managing the Costs of Chronic Illness in the Context of Limited Financial Resources: A Qualitative Study in Dominican Persons With Arthritis. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)*. 2019 Oct;71(10):1379-1386.

Solomon DH, Yu Z, **Katz JN**, Bitton A, Corrigan C, Fraenkel L, Harrold LR, Smolen JS, Losina **E**, **Lu B**. Adverse Events and Resource Use Before and After Treat-to-Target in Rheumatoid Arthritis: A Post Hoc Analysis of a Randomized Controlled Trial. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)*. 2019 Sep;71(9):1243-1248.

Sparks JA, He X, Huang J, Fletcher EA, Zaccardelli A, Friedlander HM, Gill RR, Hatabu H, Nishino M, Murphy DJ, Iannaccone CK, Mahmoud TG, Frits ML, **Lu B**, Rosas IO, Dellaripa PF, Weinblatt ME, Karlson EW, **Shadick NA**, Doyle TJ. Rheumatoid Arthritis Disease Activity Predicting Incident Clinically Apparent Rheumatoid Arthritis-Associated Interstitial Lung Disease: A Prospective Cohort Study. *Arthritis Rheumatol*. 2019 Sep;71(9):1472-1482.

Liu X, Tedeschi SK, **Lu B**, Zaccardelli A, Speyer CB, **Costenbader KH**, Karlson EW, **Sparks JA**.

Program Award for Culture of Excellence in Mentoring

Harvard Medical School has established this mentoring award to recognize the efforts of a department, division, office or program to foster innovation and sustainability in mentoring while building a culture of mentoring. The 2019 recipients of this award include the Rheumatology Mentoring Suite at Brigham and Women's Hospital (including VERITY). For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/2IAatPL>.

Long-Term Physical Activity and Subsequent Risk for Rheumatoid Arthritis Among Women: A Prospective Cohort Study. *Arthritis Rheumatol*. 2019 Sep;71(9):1460-1471.

Katz JN, Shrestha S, **Losina E**, Jones MH, Marx RG, Mandl LA, Levy BA, MacFarlane LA, Spindler KP, Silva GS; MeTEOR Investigators, Collins JE. Five-year outcome of operative and non-operative management of meniscal tear in persons greater than 45 years old. *Arthritis Rheumatol*. 2019 Aug 20.

Huang S, He X, Doyle TJ, Zaccardelli A, Marshall AA, Friedlander HM, Blaustein RB, Smith EA, **Cui J**, Iannaccone CK, Mahmoud TG, Weinblatt ME, Dellaripa PF, **Shadick NA**, **Sparks JA**. Association of rheumatoid arthritis-related autoantibodies with pulmonary function test abnormalities in a rheumatoid arthritis registry. *Clin Rheumatol*. 2019 Aug 13.

VERITY at the ACR

This year, the American College of Rheumatology is holding their annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia. VERITY will have a table at the "Meet the Funders: NIH & Foundation Roundtable Grant Discussion" on **Tuesday, November 12th at 7:30AM-9:00AM**. The ACR conference will be held at Georgia World Congress Center, 285 Andrew Young International Blvd NW, Atlanta, GA 30313.

VERITY Member Spotlight: Kazuki Yoshida, MD



Kazuki Yoshida, MD, ScD, is an Associate Epidemiologist and Instructor in Medicine in the Section of Clinical Sciences at Brigham and Women's Hospital. He initially trained as an internist/rheumatologist in Japan before coming to Boston, MA. Dr. Yoshida received his Doctor of Science degree jointly from the Department of Epidemiology and Department of Biostatistics at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. His research has ranged from applied work in rheumatoid arthritis treatment strategies to methodological work in propensity score methods (related software at <https://github.com/kaz-yos>). Dr. Yoshida's current interest includes use of the causal inference framework to design and conduct robust observational studies as well as approaches to measurement issues in rheumatic diseases and their comorbidities.

***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.