



# VERITY Newsletter

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

JANUARY 2020

## VERITY Updates

- **Happy New Year** from VERITY! We are looking forward to 2020 and hope you are as well!

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## VERITY: Looking Back and Moving Forward

As we enter an exciting new year and decade, we can't help but think about where VERITY started and how it has grown in the rheumatology world. As you may know, VERITY (Value and Evidence in Rheumatology using bioInformaTics, and advanced anaLYtics) is a NIAMS-funded P30 that is organized around central scientific themes that can be applied to multiple rheumatic and musculoskeletal (MSK) diseases. VERITY consists of 3 cores: Enrichment core, Bioinformatics core, and Methodology core. As VERITY has grown, so have the cores. Both the Bioinformatics Core and the Methodology Core have expanded the services offered as well as the staff and collaborators. Both cores have received many requests for assistance on a variety of projects. The Enrichment Core has also grown and become quite popular. The 2018 VERITY Course was met with wonderful reviews from attendees and faculty alike. The Enrichment Core has also provided 2 VERITY Pilot & Feasibility Research Awards. The first award went to Dr. Aleksander Lenert, MD, FRCPC, of University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, who worked closely with the VERITY Bioinformatics Core to develop an NLP-based phenotyping algorithm to build a cohort for autoinflammatory syndromes. The second award was given to Dr. Lily Li, MD, of Brigham and Women's Hospital, who is working with the VERITY Methodology Core to study the clinical impact of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) adverse drug reactions (ADRs) on opioid use disorder. Both Dr. Lenert and Dr. Li remain consistent contributors to the VERITY Research Community.

The VERITY Research Community itself has grown exponentially. The Research Community has gone from 47 members in our first six months to 125 today. The Community has a range of professional ranks and years of experience for members all over the world. We hope to continue this growth and remain a resource for our VERITY Research Community.

The year 2020 holds much for VERITY including the highly anticipated second VERITY/Brigham Course in Rheumatology Clinical Research that is to be held in May of 2020 as well as the release of another VERITY Pilot & Feasibility Research Award. More to come from VERITY and we thank you for your continued support of VERITY. VERITY wishes you a happy new year and a successful 2020.

## VERITY Publications

Schoenfeld AJ, Schwab JH, Ferrone ML, Blucher JA, Balboni TA, Barton LB, Chi JH, Kang JD, **Losina E, Katz JN**. Non-operative management of spinal metastases: A prognostic model for failure. *Clin Neurol Neurosurg*. 2020 Jan;188:105574.

Williams JN, Speyer CB, Kreps DJ, Kimbrough DJ, **Costenbader K**, Bhattacharyya S. Spinal cord syndromes in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus: differentiating lupus myelitis, neuromyelitis optica, and multiple sclerosis. *Lupus*. 2019 Dec;28(14):1656-1662.

Kronzer VL, Crowson CS, **Sparks JA**, Myasoedova E, Davis JM 3rd. Comorbidities As Risk Factors for Rheumatoid Arthritis and Their Accrual After Diagnosis. *Mayo Clin Proc*. 2019 Dec;94(12):2488-2498.

Breslow RG, **Shrestha S**, Feroe AG, **Katz JN**, Troyanos C, Collins JE. Medical Tent Utilization at 10-km Road Races: Injury, Illness, and Influencing Factors. *Med Sci Sports Exerc*. 2019 Dec;51(12):2451-2457.

Zhang Y, **Cai T**, Yu S, Cho K, **Hong C**, Sun J, Huang J, Ho YL, Ananthakrishnan AN, Xia Z, Shaw SY, Gainer V, Castro V, Link N, Honerlaw J, **Huang S**, Gagnon D, Karlson EW, Plenge RM, Szolovits P, Savova G, Churchill S, O'Donnell C, Murphy SN, Gaziano JM, Kohane I, **Cai T, Liao KP**. High-throughput phenotyping with electronic medical record data using a common semi-supervised approach (PheCAP). *Nat Protoc*. 2019 Dec;14(12):3426-3444.

Zaccardelli A, Liu X, Ford JA, **Cui J, Lu B**, Chu SH, Schur PH, Speyer CB, **Costenbader KH**, Robinson WH, Sokolove J, Karlson EW, Camargo CA Jr, **Sparks JA**. Asthma and elevation of anti-citrullinated protein antibodies prior to the onset of rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis Res Ther*. 2019 Nov 21;21(1):246.

Agarwal-Harding KJ, Chokotho L, Young S, Mkandawire N, Chawinga M, **Losina E, Katz JN**. Assessing the capacity of Malawi's district and central hospitals to manage traumatic diaphyseal femoral fractures in adults. *PLoS One*. 2019 Nov 20;14(11):e0225254.

## VERITY Member Spotlight: April Jorge, MD



April Jorge, MD is an adult rheumatologist at Massachusetts General Hospital and an Instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Her clinical and research interests focus on improving outcomes for patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and related diseases. Her ongoing and recent work includes clinical epidemiology studies evaluating clinical outcomes and predictors in patients with SLE and lupus nephritis, under the guidance of Dr. Hyon Choi and Dr. Karen Costenbader. Dr. Jorge is currently working to understanding trade-offs between retinopathy risk and SLE outcomes associated with hydroxychloroquine dosing. She is also interested in leveraging electronic health record (EHR) data and other large databases to study clinical outcomes and conduct clinical effectiveness studies. Along with Dr. Candace Feldman and several members of the BWH Bioinformatics Core, she recently helped develop a machine-learning EHR algorithm to identify patients with SLE. She is interested in applying bioinformatics approaches to detect SLE flares and to identify subtypes of patients with SLE, with the ultimate goal of informing better patient care.

\*\*\*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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