



## VERITY Updates

- **VERITY announces the dates for the upcoming 2022 VERITY course.** More details below.

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## Preparing for 2022: Looking Back at the 2018 and 2020 VERITY/Brigham Courses in Rheumatology Clinical Research

As we look forward to our next VERITY/Brigham Course in 2022, we take a moment to reflect on our past successes in conducting the 2018 and 2020 VERITY/Brigham Courses in Rheumatology Clinical Research. In May of 2018, VERITY held the inaugural VERITY/Brigham Course in Rheumatology Clinical Research. The course was attended by 15 trainees and junior faculty from across the US. They arrived at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, MA for the 6-day intensive course that presented a variety of lectures and workshops, given by faculty from Brigham and Women's Hospital, Toronto Sick Kids and Boston Children's Hospital. Both adult and pediatric physicians attended the course to refine their specific aims or methods sections of ongoing research projects. The initial course received rave reviews from the attendees and faculty alike. Given the success of our 2018 course, VERITY continued and planned the 2020 Course. As we entered 2020, we were met with COVID-19 and decided that the VERITY course would be held virtually. The virtual platform enabled VERITY to open the course to the VERITY Research Community, providing access to the course's live, didactic lectures. In addition to the 17 full-course attendees, over 50 VERITY Community members were able to register for the course and participate in the lectures. Rheumatologists from seven countries and five continents were able to attend this virtual course. Even without in-person meetings, the 2020 course enabled our full-course attendees to meet with VERITY faculty and receive feedback on their ongoing projects. This VERITY course continues to be used as a model for other virtual courses. The next VERITY course will be held as a hybrid course in the spring of 2022 (May 16-19, 2022), and we are excited to "see" (either in-person or virtual) members of our VERITY community and meet a few new members along the way. For more information on our past courses and to stay updated on the upcoming course offerings from VERITY, please visit <http://www.verityresearch.org/>.

**Just Announced**  
**The VERITY 2022**  
**Course will be held from**  
**May 16 to May 19, 2022**

The next VERITY/Brigham Courses in Rheumatology Clinical Research held in May of 2022. More information (application details and deadline, course schedule, etc.) will be sent along to the VERITY Members and be posted to <https://www.verityresearch.org/>.

### VERITY Publications

Martin LW, Prisco LC, Huang W, McDermott G, Shadick NA, Doyle TJ, Sparks JA. Prevalence and risk factors of bronchiectasis in rheumatoid arthritis: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Semin Arthritis Rheum.* 2021 Oct;51(5):1067-1080.

Zhang M, Selzer F, Losina E, Collins JE, Katz JN. Impact of Pre-operative and Incident Musculoskeletal Problematic Areas on Post-operative Outcomes After Total Knee Replacement. *ACR Open Rheumatol.* 2021 Sep;3(9):583-592.

Cai T, Cai F, Dahal KP, Cremone G, Lam E, Golnik C, Seyok T, Hong C, Cai T, Liao KP. Improving the Efficiency of Clinical Trial Recruitment Using an Ensemble Machine Learning to Assist With Eligibility Screening. *ACR Open Rheumatol.* 2021 Sep;3(9):593-600.

Hsu TY, D'Silva KM, Patel NJ, Wang J, Mueller AA, Fu X, Prisco L, Martin L, Vanni KMM, Zaccardelli A, Cook C, Choi HK, Zhang Y, Gravallesse EM, Wallace ZS, Sparks JA. Laboratory trends, hyperinflammation, and clinical outcomes for patients with a systemic rheumatic disease admitted to hospital for COVID-19: a retrospective, comparative cohort study. *Lancet Rheumatol.* 2021 Sep;3(9):e638-e647.

Sparks JA, Wallace ZS, Seet AM, Gianfrancesco MA, Izadi Z, Hyrich KL, Strangfeld A, Gossec L, Carmona L, Mateus EF, Lawson-Tovey S, Trupin L, Rush S, Katz P, Schmajuk G, Jacobsohn L, Wise L, Gilbert EL, Duarte-García A, Valenzuela-Almada MO, Pons-Estel GJ, Isnardi CA, Berbotto GA, Hsu TY, D'Silva KM, Patel NJ, Kearsley-Fleet L, Schäfer M, Ribeiro SLE, Al Emadi S, Tidblad L, Scirè CA, Raffiner B, Thomas T, Flipo RM, Avouac J, Seror R, Bernardes M, Cunha MM, Hasseli R, Schulze-Koops H, Müller-Ladner U, Specker C, Souza VA, Mota LMHD, Gomides APM, Dieudé P, Nikiphorou E, Kronzer VL, Singh N, Ugarte-Gil MF, Wallace B, Akpabio A, Thomas R, Bhana S, Costello W, Grainger R, Hausmann JS, Liew JW, Siro-tich E, Sufka P, Robinson PC, Machado PM, Yazdany J; COVID-19 Global Rheumatology Alliance. Associations of baseline use of biologic or targeted synthetic DMARDs with COVID-19 severity in rheumatoid arthritis: Results from the COVID-19 Global Rheumatology Alliance physician registry. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2021 Sep;80(9):1137-1146.

Nguyen L, Agaronnik N, Ferrone ML, Katz JN, Schoenfeld AJ. Evaluating ambulatory function as an outcome following treatment for spinal metastases: a systematic review. *Spine J.* 2021 Sep;21(9):1430-1439.

Putman M, Sattui SE, Sparks JA, Liew JW, Grainger R, Duarte-García A. Reply. *Arthritis Rheumatol.* 2021 Sep;73(9):1767-1768.

Dilorio MA, Sobieszczyk PS, Xu C, Huang W, Ford JA, Zhao SS, Solomon DH, Docken WP, Tedeschi SK. Associations among temporal and large artery abnormalities on vascular ultrasound in giant cell arteritis. *Scand J Rheumatol.* 2021 Sep;50(5):381-389.

Barbhaiya M, Tedeschi S, Sparks JA, Leatherwood C, Karlson EW, Willett WC, Lu B, Costenbader KH. Association of Dietary Quality With Risk of Incident Systemic Lupus Erythematosus in the Nurses' Health Study and Nurses' Health Study II. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken).* 2021 Sep;73(9):1250-1258.

Collins JE, Neogi T, Losina E. Trajectories of Structural Disease Progression in Knee Osteoarthritis. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken).* 2021 Sep;73(9):1354-1362.

## VERITY Member Spotlight: Siobhan Case, M.D., M.H.S.

Siobhan Case, MD MHS, is a fourth-year fellow in pediatric and adult rheumatology at Brigham and Women's and Boston Children's Hospitals. During fellowship she participated in the virtual VERITY program in spring of 2020. As a med-peds trained rheumatology fellow, Dr. Case's clinical and research efforts are centered on understanding the unique aspects of care for patients with childhood-onset rheumatic disease across the age spectrum, including during the transition from pediatric to adult care. During medical school, including a year as a Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellow, she studied the confluence of multiple chronic conditions and how patients understand trade-offs in their care that inform decision-making, including evaluation of innovative tools for patients to use in clinical encounters. As Dr. Case's clinical interest evolved into rheumatology, she began examining the challenges patients face in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), including predictors of disability in childhood-onset lupus in the Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance (CARRA) registry, and focus groups looking at barriers to medication adherence and transition to adult care. A recent publication under mentorship of Dr. Karen Costenbader described a case-control study looking at the relationship between post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and incident SLE in a diverse Medicaid population and found that patients who had a prior diagnosis of PTSD had twice the odds of a later diagnosis of SLE, even after accounting for sociodemographic characteristics and other risk factors. She also focuses on disparities in care, and received a Health Equity Pilot Grant as a co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Candace Feldman to create a team of peer supporters for Black or Latinx patients with rheumatoid arthritis or lupus.



Dr. Case is grateful to a team of wonderful mentors, including Drs. Candace Feldman, Mary Beth Son, Karen Costenbader, and Peter Nigrovic. As a young investigator, she aspires to continue building bridges between pediatric and adult rheumatology to better understand how to more effectively engage this vulnerable population in quality care that leverages the knowledge of more common adult rheumatic diseases while illuminating unique aspects of childhood-onset disease.

\*\*\*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.

Please visit [verityresearch.org](http://verityresearch.org) for more information.