



VERITY Updates

- Don't forget to submit your VERITY P&F Research Award Application due June 15.

VERITY (NIH-P30-AR072577) is funded by NIH-NIAMS.

2022 VERITY/Brigham Course in Rheumatology Clinical Research

The third VERITY Course in Rheumatology Clinical Research took place May 16th - May 19th at Brigham and Women's Hospital. We created a hybrid format to accommodate travel restrictions. Despite the logistical complexities with a hybrid format, this year's course proved to be a great success in refining attendees' research studies, discussion of clinical research topics, and one-on-one mentoring. Everyone enjoyed some normality in being able to collaborate in-person and build community. This year's program accepted 25 full-course attendees from all over the country to engage with didactic lectures from faculty and guests, and work towards developing their research protocols and/or specific aims for a grant proposal. Throughout the four-day course, we were delighted to also have 36 VERITY Community members virtually attending the lectures from 9 different countries on 5 different continents. Our 25 full attendees had the opportunity to meet with VERITY faculty and received feedback on their ongoing projects. We were thrilled by the enthusiasm from attendees as they eagerly participated throughout lectures and worked to advance their research. We anticipate that the success of this year's hybrid model will continue during future VERITY courses, as we intend to accommodate all those who wish to participate. We thank our wonderful research community for supporting this course and look forward to many more in the future!



VERITY 2022 Pilot & Feasibility Research Award

Don't forget to submit your VERITY Pilot & Feasibility Research Award application.

The 2022 award application is due

Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 5:00PM ET

Any applications submitted after that time will not be accepted. For additional information on the VERITY P&F Research Award, please visit <http://verityresearch.org/>.

VERITY Publications

Liew J, Gianfrancesco M, Harrison C, Izadi Z, Rush S, Lawson-Tovey S, Jacobsohn L, Ja C, Hyrich KL, Gossec L, Strangfeld A, Carmona L, Schäfer M, Frãzao-Mateus E, Bulina I, Stafford F, Tufan A, Graver C, Yardımcı GK, Zepa J, Al Emadi S, Cook C, Abutiban F, Dey D, Katigbak G, Kaufman L, Kowalski E, Martínez-Martínez MU, Patel NJ, Reyes-Cordero G, Salido E, Smith E, Snow D, Sparks J, Wise L, Bhana S, Gore-Massy M, Grainger R, Hausmann J, Sirotych E, Sufka P, Wallace Z, Machado PM, Robinson PC, Yazdany J. SARS-CoV-2 breakthrough infections among vaccinated individuals with rheumatic disease: results from the COVID-19 Global Rheumatology Alliance provider registry. *RMD Open*. 2022 Apr;8(1):e002187.

Yoshida K, Harrold LR, Middaugh N, Guan H, Stryker S, Karis E, Solomon DH. Time-Varying Association of Rheumatoid Arthritis Disease Activity to Subsequent Cardiovascular Risk. *ACR Open Rheumatol*. 2022 Apr 10.

Verma A, Tsao NL, Thomann LO, Ho YL, Iyengar SK, Luoh SW, Carr R, Crawford DC, Efirid JT, Huffman JE, Hung A, Ivey KL, Levin MG, Lynch J, Natarajan P, Pyarajan S, Bick AG, Costa L, Genovese G, Hauger R, Madduri R, Pathak GA, Polimanti R, Voight B, Vujkovic M, Zekavat SM, Zhao H, Ritchie MD; VA Million Veteran Program COVID-19 Science Initiative, Chang KM, Cho K, Casas JP, Tsao PS, Gaziano JM, O'Donnell C, Damrauer SM, Liao KP. A Phenome-Wide Association Study of genes associated with COVID-19 severity reveals shared genetics with complex diseases in the Million Veteran Program. *PLoS Genet*. 2022 Apr 28;18(4):e1010113.

Joems EK, Adams TN, Sparks JA, Newton CA, Bemmas B, Karp D, Makris UE. Interstitial Pneumonia with Autoimmune Features: What the Rheumatologist Needs to Know. *Curr Rheumatol Rep*. 2022 Jun 1:1-14.

VERITY Member Spotlight: Jessica Williams, MD, MPH

Jessica Williams, M.D., M.P.H is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Rheumatology at Emory University School of Medicine. Dr. Williams is a graduate of Emory University School of Medicine (MD, 2015), Emory University Rollins School of Public Health (MPH in Epidemiology, 2015), Harvard/Brigham and Women's Hospital Internal Medicine Residency (2018), and Harvard/Brigham and Women's Hospital Rheumatology Fellowship (2021). She is passionate about clinical research to advance care for patients living with lupus, with a focus on diverse and underserved patient populations. Her research to date has resulted in twenty-four publications and two oral presentations at the American College of Rheumatology annual meetings. Her recent first-author publications have focused on increasing diversity in lupus clinical trials, racial disparities in contraception care among reproductive age-women with lupus, and use of an integrated care management program to uncover social determinants of health needs among patients with lupus. Dr. Williams is also a practicing rheumatologist at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, where she supervises Emory rheumatology fellows in both the clinic and inpatient consult setting.



Dr. Williams was recently awarded a grant from the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation Diversity in Clinical Trials Career Development Program to study clinical trial perceptions and barriers among a large, population-based, predominantly Black cohort of patients with lupus and to implement the Phase III REGENCY clinical trial for lupus nephritis in a predominantly Black, safety-net clinic setting. She has also received research awards from the Rheumatology Research Foundation and the American Society of Hematology, as well as a Health Equity Innovation Program research grant from the Brigham and Women's Hospital Department of Medicine to implement a nurse-led pilot clinical trial to reduce acute care utilization and improve preventive care among high-risk patients with lupus. Her other current projects include implementation of a lupus patient navigator program in the Grady Lupus Clinic, development of a lupus cohort in rural Georgia, exploring risk factors for suicidality among patients with lupus, and exploring social determinant of health risk factors for recurrent acute care use among patients with lupus.

***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.