# Schedule for 2026 VERITY/Brigham Course in Rheumatology Clinical Research

**Director:** Jeffrey Sparks MD MMSc; **Co-Directors**: Karen Costenbader MD MPH; Jeffrey Katz MD MSc; Daniel Solomon MD MPH

**Faculty**: Kelli Allen, PhD; Bryce Binstadt, MD, PhD; S. Louis Bridges, Jr., MD, PhD; Lindsey Criswell, MD, MPH, DSc; Jamie Collins PhD; Brian Feldman, MD, MPH**; Candace Feldman, MD, MPH, ScD; Aleksander Lenert, MD, MS, FRCPC; Katherine Liao, MD, MPH; Elena Losina, PhD; Gregory McDermott, MD; Peter Nigrovic, MD; Misti Paudel, PhD, MPH; Nancy Shadick, MD, MPH; Karen Smith, PhD; Mary Beth Son, MD; Sara Tedeschi, MD, MPH; Kevin Wei, MD, PhD

| Date | Mornings | | | | Afternoons | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Time (ET) | Title | Faculty | Room | Time (ET) | Title | Faculty | Room |
| **Tuesday, April 7, 2026** | 9-9:20 | Introduction to the 2026 VERITY course | Jeffrey Sparks<br>Daniel Solomon | 2nd floor conf. | 1-1:45 | Challenges in measurement | Brian Feldman | 2nd floor conf. |
| | 9:20-10 | Specific Aims page pearls | Karen Costenbader | 2nd floor conf. | 2-2:45 | Introduction to cost-effectiveness research | Karen Smith | 2nd floor conf. |
| | 10-10:45 | Roadmap to a research career in rheumatology | Jeffrey Sparks | 2nd floor conf. | 3-4:30 | Office hours* | VERITY faculty | 2nd floor conf. |
| | 11-12 | Target trial emulation | Daniel Solomon | 2nd floor conf. | 4:30 | Course photo<br>Welcome reception* | | 1st floor atrium |
| | 12-12:30 | Personal path to NIH K award funding | Aleksander Lenert | 2nd floor conf. | | | | |
| **Wednesday, April 8, 2026** | 9-9:45 | Secondary analysis of large datasets | Gregory McDermott | 2nd floor conf. | 1-5 | Breakout sessions* | VERITY faculty | |
| | 10-10:45 | Machine learning statistical approaches | Jaime Collins | 2nd floor conf. | 1:30-2:30 | Pediatric rheumatology breakout session* | Brian Feldman<br>Peter Nigrovic<br>Mary Beth Son | |
| | 11-11:30 | Pearls for mentees and rising mentors | Jeffrey Katz<br>Sara Tedeschi | 2nd floor conf. | | | | |
| | 11:30-12:15 | Top 10 statistical analysis mistakes to avoid from statisticians | Elena Losina<br>Misti Paudel<br>Jamie Collins | 2nd floor conf. | | | | |
| **Thursday, April 9, 2026** | 9-10 | Keynote: NIAMS perspective for supporting early investigators | Lindsey Criswell, NIAMS | 2nd floor conf. | 12:30 | BWH Rheumatology tour (optional)* | Jeffrey Sparks | |
| | 10-10:45 | Analyzing unstructured data using large language models | Katherine Liao | 2nd floor conf. | 1-2:30 | Mock grant review | Elena Losina<br>Daniel Solomon<br>Sara Tedeschi<br>Jamie Collins<br>Jeffrey Sparks | 2nd floor conf. |
| | 11-12 | Q&A with journal editors: Pearls & pitfalls for getting your research published | Daniel Solomon<br>S. Louis Bridges, Jr. *(A&R)*<br>Kelli Allen *(AC&R)* | 2nd floor conf. | 2:30-3:15 | Community engagement and social drivers | Candace Feldman | 2nd floor conf. |
| | | | | | 3:30-5 | Office hours* | VERITY faculty | |
| **Friday, April 10, 2026** | 9-9:45 | Q&A: Diversifying your research portfolio | Daniel Solomon<br>Karen Costenbader<br>Jeffrey Sparks | 2nd floor conf. | 12:30-1 | VERITY course wrap-up | Jeffrey Sparks<br>Daniel Solomon | 2nd floor conf. |
| | 10-11 | Immunology lecture | Lindsey Criswell, NIAMS | Zinner Breakout | 1-5 | Final presentations* | VERITY faculty | |
| | 11:15-12 | RRF reflections for early investigators in rheumatology | Bryce Binstadt, RRF President | 2nd floor conf. | | | | |

*For full-course attendees only (not available for streaming by virtual attendees).

**Dr. Brian Feldman's involvement in the VERITY course is not funded by the VERITY P30 or other US federal funds.

Please note – this schedule is subject to change.