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USSONAR 2024 Spring Newsletter
Thursday, March 28, 2024 3:14:13 PM



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President's Message

Dear Ultrasound Friends,

Spring is here and I am deeply honored and excited to serve as your new incoming 2024 USSONAR president, along with our board members VP Jonathan Samuels MD RhMSUS, Secretary Anthony Reginato MD, PhD RhMSUS, Treasurer Catherine Bakewell MD, RhMSUS, and member-at large Jane Nishio MD, RhMSUS. It is hard to believe that I have now been using ultrasound in my daily clinical practice, in the education of physicians and APPs in clinical practice and in training, and as part of clinical research for well over a decade now. I “grew up” with USSONAR, participating as a fellow, and recall when I first started as an attending, a prominent physician telling me that “ultrasound is a fad,” however I’m happy to report that ultrasound is here to stay!

As per USSONAR’s mission of promoting the use of rheumatologic ultrasonography (RhUS) to advance the care of patients with rheumatic disease, I remain enthusiastic about our progress in expanding use of RhUS which is changing the way rheumatology is practiced. But there is still more to learn and more we can do to help ensure that this valuable skillset continues to be taught and appropriately used to decrease diagnostic uncertainty and improve our understanding of arthritis and rheumatic diseases.

But first off, I’d like to give a special shout out to our past president Dr. Karina Torralba, who has been a powerhouse in leading our organization in and out of the pandemic, increasing recognition and growth of our organization while simultaneously working collaboratively with Dr. John Fitzgerald and the American College of Rheumatology and panels of RhUS experts to

update ultrasound use guidelines in a joint ACR-USSONAR effort. Her passion for RhUS has been shared widely with anyone who will listen on the importance of the continued need for ultrasound education and strategies to overcome barriers of clinical implementation so that we can empower rheumatologists to differentiate inflammatory v. mechanical disease, monitor disease activity, and perform US-guided procedures, thus optimizing the care of our patients. I hope to continue the juggernaut of progress that she has skillfully started. Next, a COLOSSAL thank you to our Fundamentals program director Dr. Norm Madsen, and assistant program director Dr. Michelene Hearth-Holmes, as well as to our super-reading mentors who have been actively teaching and providing feedback to our biggest USSONAR class yet. To-date, over 450 participants have graduated from the USSONAR Fundamentals program and our membership program has >500 members and continues to grow. It is with great appreciation, I also thank our generous corporate sponsors who also see the vision of USSONAR and its mission, as well as our management group SRAHEC who helps with the administrative support of our group.

One of my goals for this year is to increase our membership involvement in USSONAR activities and continue to expand ways that we can connect and learn from each other. Back in the day, there were only a few of us ultrasound enthusiasts, but now we are many and need to get to know each other. We want to hear from you. We want you to get involved. As you read through updates in this spring newsletter, think about how you may want to join in the "ultrasound fun." In addition to our upcoming CME courses and webinar events, I'm especially excited for some new USSONAR initiatives including Member Spotlights with Dr. Zineb Aouhab, our new Ultrasound Case Video series led by Drs. Janeth Vinh and Phil Chu, and the brand new asynchronous Journal Club platform for ultrasound articles led by Drs. Lily Kao, Karla Criner, and Melissa Band. If you want to see something that USSONAR is not doing, tell me- I'm an email away.

Happy scanning,
Minna Kohler, MD, RhMSUS

Big Thanks to our Sponsors!

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2023-2024 USSONAR Schedule of Events

April 22 nd	USSONAR Webinar Series: Click here to learn more
May 17 th - 19 th	2024 Multi-track Ultrasound in Rheumatology Conference with Hands-on Scanning, optional cadaveric lab.
May	Fundamentals Course Virtual Knowledge & Skills Assessment
Fall 2024	Fundamentals Application window opens

Don't miss out!



2024 Multi-Track Ultrasound in Rheumatology Conference
May 17th - 18th, 2024 | May 19th, 2024
Tampa, Florida | OPTIONAL CADAVER LAB

Tracks will include Intermediate MSK, Beyond Joints, Systemic Rheumatic Ultrasound, Comprehensive Pediatrics, Ultrasound-Guided Synovial Biopsy, and Cadaveric Labs with ultrasound-guided injections.

NOW CME & MOC ACCREDITED

Join us at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay & the University of South Florida's Center for Advanced Medical Learning and Simulation (CAMLs)

USSONAR | SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE & REGISTER

You are invited to attend the **2024 USSONAR Multi-Track Ultrasound in Rheumatology Conference**, with in-person, hands-on ultrasound training in diagnostic and procedural skills at the [Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, 2900 Bayport Dr., Tampa, Florida](#) on May 17 -18. The May 19th lab-based courses will be held at the [University of South Florida Health Center for Advanced Medical Learning and Simulation \(CAMLs\)](#), located at 124 S Franklin St, Tampa, Florida:

The conference is now approved for **Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit & Maintenance of Certification (MOC) points**. [See credit statements on the conference website.](#)

[Register here!](#)

USSONAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

VuMedi is the largest healthcare video education platform, serving more than 600,000 physicians and healthcare professionals and **USSONAR** is now on it!

If you have an interesting case to present we are looking for submissions.

Please contact **Dr. Phillip Chu** - philip.chu@duke.edu
and **Dr. Janeth - Yinh** jyinh@mgh.harvard.edu

[CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR VIDEOS](#)

Ways to get involved with USSONAR

USSONAR Committees looking for members!

These current USSONAR committees are actively looking for members if interested please reach out to:

- Advocacy Task Force - Ryan Jessee - rcjessee@gmail.com
- Membership Committee- Zineb Aouhab - zinebaouhab@hotmail.com
- Education Committee - Edward Oberle - droberleej@gmail.com
- Educational Fundamentals Course Committee - Norm Madsen - norm@spintriplet.com
- Research Committee - Fawad Aslam - fawadaslam2@gmail.com
- Media & Communications Committee - Philip Chu - philip.chu@duke.edu>
- Bylaws Committee - Jane Nishio - nishiom@sbcglobal.net>
- Peds Committee - Edward Oberle - droberleej@gmail.com

Membership

We are currently working on bringing in several membership features.

A membership survey will be emailed out to all USSONAR members in the next few weeks.

Research Committee

The USSONAR research committee is here to assist the membership with any research questions pertaining to ultrasound research.

If you already have a project that you want to discuss or have questions about the feasibility of an idea or need expert input on a study protocol or any similar matter, please do not hesitate to reach out.

You can contact the research committee chair, **Fawad Aslam**, at fawadaslam2@gmail.com

Introducing the USSONAR Journal Club!

Your participation is key to making this asynchronous Journal Club platform a success!

The more you engage, the more everyone benefits!

We encourage you to peruse the article summaries and leave your thoughts in the comment box at any time.

[Click here to join the Journal Club](#)

We are also looking for volunteers to join the

Journal Club Committee!

Stay current on the latest research in ultrasound in rheumatology and help add impactful articles to the USSONAR collection.

If interested, please contact **Lily Kao** - lilykao@gmail.com.



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