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USSONAR

USSONAR **NEWSLETTER** Spring 2022

Greetings from the Board

It takes a village of people ... to build a village!

Things are happening around USSONAR - we are gearing up our committees with members, preparing to revamp our organization and website to make it more member-friendly. We just held our quarterly Board meeting with Committee chairs in attendance.

We are also reorganizing ourselves to welcome more members who have interests in various rheumatic disease states or manifestations. While the Fundamentals course run by Gene Kissin remains our cornerstone event, we have grown so much more since 2010 when we held our first course to today when we have much more members with varied interests.

I welcome you to read on and find out what is happening.

Sincerely,



Karina Torralba, MD, MACM, RhMSUS, CCD
USSONAR Board

Platinum Sponsorship



“AbbVie’s mission is to discover and deliver innovative medicines that solve serious

health issues today and address the medical challenges of tomorrow. We strive to have a remarkable impact on people's lives across several key therapeutic areas: immunology, oncology, neuroscience, eye care, virology, women's health and gastroenterology, in addition to products and services across its Allergan Aesthetics portfolio."

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RINVOQ[®]
upadacitinib

For active psoriatic arthritis (PsA) in adult TNFi-IR patients¹

DEFY EXPECTATIONS
Challenge treatment goals in **PsA**

IR=intolerance or inadequate response;
TNFi=tumor necrosis factor inhibitor

[Full Prescribing Information >](#)

INDICATION AND IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION¹

RINVOQ is indicated for the treatment of adults with active psoriatic arthritis who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more TNF blockers.

Limitation of Use: Use of RINVOQ in combination with other JAK inhibitors, biologic DMARDs, or with potent immunosuppressants, such as azathioprine and cyclosporine, is not recommended.

As you may have seen, AbbVie recently announced the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved RINVOQ® (upadacitinib) for the treatment of adults with moderately-to-severely active ulcerative colitis.

[For more information click here](#)

Gold Sponsorship



USSONAR Updates

USSONAR has officially been granted its
501c3 status!



Website changes coming up!

If you click on “Membership” today on the USSONAR website - all you get is a blank page. Come July 2022, this will all change.

USSONAR has signed on with Memberclicks as of the end of February. The goal is to have a website that is functional for our members and allow it to have more interactive features where members can set up their own profiles, sign up for committees, submit forms, etc. Between now and the end of June, we will be working with the various committees to figure out how the website can best serve the needs of its members.

Board, 2021 Sept

As of September 1, 2021, the board is now composed of the following persons.

Each one has a term of 2 years each.



President

Karina Torralba, MD, MACM, RhMSUS
Loma Linda University
Loma Linda, CA

Vice President

Amy Cannella, MD, MS, RhMSUS
University of Nebraska
Omaha, NE



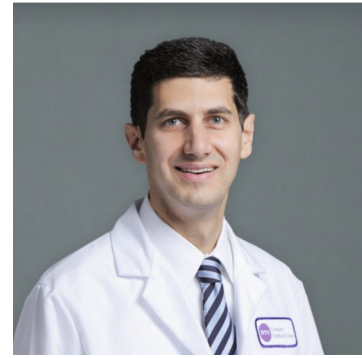
Secretary

Minna Kohler, MD, RhMSUS
Harvard Medical School
Boston, MA



Treasurer

Jonathan Samuels, MD, RhMSUS
New York University
New York, NY



Immediate Past President

Paul DeMarco, MD, RhMSUS
Arthritis & Rheumatism Associates PC
Wheaton, MD

Past Presidents:

Gurjit Kaeley, MD, RhMSUS, University of Florida, Jacksonville, FL
Eugene Kissin, MD, RhMSUS, Boston University, Boston, MA
Amy Evangelisto, MD, RhMSUS, Voorhees, NJ
Jay Higgs, MD, RhMSUS, San Antonio, TX; Past Financial Officer
Midori Jane Nishio, MD, RhMSUS, Walnut Creek, CA

USSONAR Most Recent Publications by USSONAR members since
2019

Committee Updates



Fundamentals Education Committee

Eugene Kissin, MD, RhMSUS
Boston University Medical Center

Dan Malone, MD, RMSK
Innovative and Interventional Rheumatology, Madison, WI

Norm Madsen, MD, MSc, BMBS, RhMSUS
University of Rochester, Rochester, NY

Narandra Bethina, MD, RhMSUS
University of Vermont, Burlington, VT

Janeth Yinh, MD, RhMSUS
MGH/Harvard, Boston, MA

Karina Torralba, MD, RhMSUS (Board Liaison)

Due to concerns caused by the covid omicron variant, the mid year course was held virtually using Butterfly Teleguidance.

Kudos to Gene Kissin and his crew for making adjustments to the program!

The final exams will be accomplished by June 19.

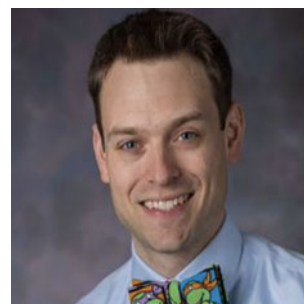
Advanced Course Updates



5th Annual Advanced Course Conference: Adventures in Ultrasound August 6, 2021 concluded featuring various talks including those on synovial biopsy by Ami Ben-Artzi, vasculitis by Mark Matza, ankle and foot procedures by Minna Kohler, lung ultrasound by Karina Torralba, Sjogren's syndrome sonography by Gene Kissin, and emerging techniques by Dan Malone. About 100 people tuned in for this conference.

Since September, we have been holding monthly grand rounds centering on the theme of "USSONAR Gives You A Hand". The last session will be held on April 28. See roster/table for details. Last year's theme was "Putting your Best Foot Forward"

We are currently exploring doing a series of Journal clubs for Summer 2022-Spring 2023 using an interactive educational platform. We will keep you posted on this exciting development.



USSONAR Grand Rounds 2021-2022

8/26/2021 The Finger	<u>Sonoanatomy of the Finger</u> Finger Ligaments: Anatomy and Key Injuries Trigger Finger	Lily Kao Jane Nishio Charles Pritchard
9/30/2021 Pediatric Hand and Wrist	Normal development and Anatomy Abnormalities in Development Hand and Wrist in JIA	Johannes Roth
10/28/2021. Mechanical Hand Conditions	DeQuervain's and Dupuytren's Intersection Syndrome	Paul DeMarco Dan Malone
1/27/2021 Nerve	US Diagnosis – CTS and US Guided Injection MSK Ultrasound in an international setting	Rany Al-Haj Veronika Sharp
2/24/2022 Masses	Neoplasms in the Hand and Wrist Ganglion Cysts Case Studies	Jemima Albayda Janeth Yinh Minna Kohler
3/31/2022 Psoriatic Finger	Dactylitis US of the Nail Post-operative Hand and Wrist	Elizabeth Russell Amy Cannella Scott Pollock
4/28/2022 Systemic Disease	Grading Systems in RA Diabetic Hand Case Studies	Gurjit Kaeley Michlene Hearth-Holmes Cheung Yue

USSONAR Image Bank: Call for members!

Reem Alkilany and Jay Higgs are spearheading the effort to develop our Image Bank. With the revamp of the website, we are looking at housing the bank on the website using learning management software.

The goals of this image bank are to contribute to the educational mission of USSONAR with images that help learners develop their anatomy and pathology



recognition skills; provide USSONAR members a set of images they can use to prepare educational presentations; and provide a high-quality product, the benefit of which encourages membership in USSONAR.

We are calling on members who are interested to sign up to be part of the development and image review committee for the Image bank. Please email us at ussonar@srahec.org, with “Image Bank Committee” on the subject line. Please note we require USSONAR membership to be on a committee.

July 2022 Advanced Skills Course



Coming out of COVID, the need to reset the stage for live courses is due. To prepare for our courses in 2023, a course focusing on the advanced application of rheumatologic ultrasound will be held at the Hilton Hotel Universal Studios.

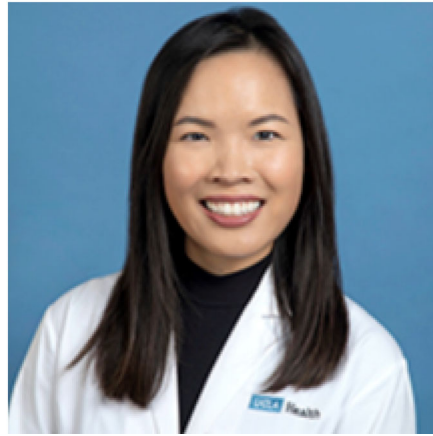
The agenda features sessions on synovitis scoring, image acquisition for myositis, interstitial lung disease, Sjogren's syndrome, and large vessel vasculitis. After the course, special interest groups in these disease states, including Lupus will be formed. These SIGs will serve as fora for individuals with a shared interest to develop research and/or education projects.

Scientific chairs are Myma Albayda and Minna Kohler. The logistics and Finance chairs are Karina Torralba and Jane Nishio.

The session leads are Robert Fairchild (ILD/Scleroderma), Mark Matza (Vasculitis), Veena Ranganath and Gurjit Kaeley (Synovitis), Jemima Albayda (Myositis), and Veronika Sharp and Akaluck "Ben" Thatayikom (Sjogren's Syndrome).

Membership Committee





Membership continues to grow!

We continue to have people sign up for lifetime membership!

With the revamp of the website, we hope to streamline membership sign-up and participation in USSONAR. To all 2021 Fundamentals course grads, a one-year access to the website will expire as of June 2022. Access can resume via signing up for membership.

The committee is headed up by Michelene Hearth-Holmes. Its new members are Zineb Aouhab, Marven Cabling, and Kristal Choi.

Call for members!

If you wish to join a committee, the membership committee might just be for you! Please email us at ussonar@srahec.org with “*USSONAR Membership Committee*” in the subject line. Please note we require **USSONAR** membership to be on a committee.

Nominations Committee



Welcoming our revamped Nominations Core members - Tony Reginato and Amy Cannella!

Its first meeting was just held on April 11 via Zoom. Monthly meetings to be held.

This committee is tasked to develop criteria for membership in various committees and provide guidance for the organizational makeup of **USSONAR**.



Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee

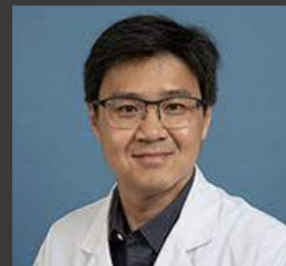
Ryan Jessee, MD, [RhMSUS](#) (Chair)
Durham VA Medical Center
[SoundRheumDiagnostics](#)
[@rcjessee](#)

Shereen N. Mahmood, MD, [RhMSUS](#)
Montefiore Medical Center / Albert
Einstein College of Medicine

Amanda Schnell, MD, [RhMSUS](#)
University of Alabama

Howard Yang, MD, [RhMSUS](#)
UCLA

Paul DeMarco, MD, [RhMSUS](#) (Board
Liaison)

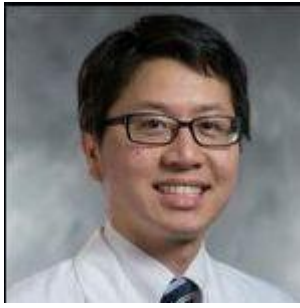


CPT efforts are underway to get a CPT code for Temporal artery ultrasound coding with the American College of Rheumatology.

AMA RUC meeting was held **January 12-15, 2022** where results of physician work survey including ultrasound were discussed. Minutes for RUC-reviewed items for CPT 2023 will not be available until CMS publishes the proposed rule in Summer 2022.

The committee is developing material to inform members regarding reimbursement updates for the rheumatologic musculoskeletal ultrasound.

Media and Communications Committee



We have reorganized the Media committee - Phillip Chu is the chair, with Jonathan Dau as member, and Minna Kohler as Board Liaison.

USSONAR Membership [Facebook](#)

USSONAR [Twitter](#)

The Facebook page is now set to private and is exclusive for use by USSONAR members. Let us know if you would like to post interesting cases, have questions, or want to provide literature updates.

You can message anyone of the Admins

Research Committee



Fawad Aslam, MD, RhMSUS (Chair)
Mayo Clinic - Arizona

Jane Nishio, MD, RhMSUS
Walnut Creek, CA

Bryant England, MD
University of Nebraska

Krishna Chaganti, MD
UCSF

Hulya Bukulmez, MD
Case Western Reserve University

Eugene Kissin, MD, RhMSUS
Boston University

Amy Cannella, MD, RhMSUS
(Board Liaison)

Dr. Hulya Bukulmez joined the committee as a pediatric representative member.

The committee is near the finalization of a document governing its standard operating procedures and functioning. This will soon be shared with the leadership.

The committee is currently working on two internally proposed projects.



USSONAR Pediatrics Committee

CO-CHAIRS

- **Deirdre De Ranieri MD RhMSUS**
- **Clara Lin MD RhMSUS**

MEMBERS

- **Heather Benham DNP APRN CPNP-PC RhMSUS**
- **Johannes Roth MD PhD FRCPC RhMSUS**
- **Patty Vega-Fernandez MD MSc RhMSUS & Tracy Ting MD MSc RhMSUS**
- **Karina Torralba, MD, RhMSUS (Board Liaison)**



Ongoing Projects

- Development of novel ultrasound image acquisition protocols and scoring systems of the Pediatric Joints
 - Knee (published)
 - Ankle (submitted)
 - Elbow, Wrist, and Finger Joints (finalizing)
- MUSICAL (Musculoskeletal UltraSound In Childhood Arthritis Limited-examination)
 - a comprehensive, reliable, time-efficient assessment of synovitis
- Detection of subclinical synovitis in children with Oligoarticular JIA
- US Pediatric Fellowship Survey to Program Directors to assess interest, prevalence, and training of MSUS in Pediatrics
 - data analysis phase
- US Pediatric Fellowship Survey to current fellows and recent graduates to assess interest and exposure to MSUS

- survey to be published soon

Intro to ultrasound course for Pediatric Fellows?

There are a total of 39 pediatric rheumatology fellowship programs in North America (36 US, 3 Canada)
 Based on recent survey of fellowship programs, there is a need for MSUS education for pediatric rheumatology fellows
 Laura (Ballenger) Pratt proposed creating a basic US course for pediatric fellows
 In very early phase of brainstorming!!



Updates: 2021 Revision in completed!

YearlyReview/Revision

Works with Board to match ByLaws with growth of USSONAR

ByLaws Committee

Jane Nishio, MD, RhMSUS
 Walnut Creek, CA

Jay Higgs, MD, RhMSUS
 San Antonio, TX

Amy Cannella, MD, RhMSUS
 (Board Liaison)

Clara Lin MD RhMSUS
 Denver, CO

Summary of 2021 Bylaws changes

- Simplify membership categories: now Full, Emeritus, and Corporate
- Update Board duties and specify yearly obligations to membership including quarterly meeting tasks of reviewing work of standing committees, the passage of the yearly budget, reviewing Bylaws changes, and ensuring all projects are consistent with the goals of the organization.
- Clarify Board composition, duties of officers, terms, define terms of resignation and election of new members and committee persons
- Update standing committees to 7 (Bylaws, Membership, Education, Research, Media and Communications, Nominations, and Pediatrics) and describe their goals.
- Establish Ad Hoc committees: Advocacy, OMERACT, Synovial Biopsy

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