

# USSONAR Summer Newsletter



August 2024

## ***In this issue:***

President's Message | 24-25 Fundamentals Course | 2024 Multi-Track Conference |  
23-24 Fundamentals Recap | Schedule of Events | Get Involved | Membership Survey |  
Journal Club | Webinar Series | Research Committee

## Presidents Message



Dear Ultrasound Friends,

Happy Summer! As you hopefully have a chance to enjoy some summer fun and relaxation, I'm delighted to share with you some updates from our busy spring season with USSONAR. We are always looking for more people to get involved in USSONAR- so please check out this newsletter for the different ways you can get involved.

Congratulations to the Fundamentals program director Dr. Norm Madsen, and assistant program director Dr. Michelene Hearth-Holmes, as well as our super-reading mentors and final examiners for ushering in another hardworking, dedicated class of 2024 USSONAR graduates! We are so proud of the incredible learning and work that each and every Fundamentals participant put in to successfully complete our flagship program. Enhancing the skills of rheumatologists with the power of point-of-care rheumatologic ultrasound (US) to identify and monitor inflammatory disease and perform targeted US-guided procedures is improving the way we can optimize clinical and research care for our patients. To those of you who will be moving into new jobs, or implementing your new skillset into your existing practice, we want to be supportive of your continued growth and hope you will continue to take advantage of our upcoming webinars, CME opportunities, and ways to connect with other members. Please let us know if you need advice or support in any challenges you come across in starting up, or expanding ultrasound services within your practice.

In April 2024, we launched the new USSONAR journal club which any USSONAR member can sign up for to participate asynchronously in discussions on rheumatology ultrasound articles of interest. Thanks to Lily Kao, Karla Criner and Melissa Band for leading these discussions.

We also continued our USSONAR webinar series with an update on ultrasound for crystalline arthritis with Dr. Ralf Thiele and our Ultrasound Case Series sharing videos of clinical cases where ultrasound was helpful in diagnosis or management (Phillip Chu, Janeth Vinh, Jen Medlin, Kamini Shah, Lily Kao). [If you missed any of these great talks, please log into the USSONAR members](#)

[website to view previous webinars, ultrasound cases](#). Future webinar topics and dates will be announced.

In May 2024, we had our “mega event” CME Multi-track Ultrasound Course in Tampa, Florida, which included 4 different courses: Intermediate Musculoskeletal Ultrasound, the 1st stand-alone Comprehensive Pediatric Ultrasound, Beyond Joints: Systemic Rheumatic Ultrasound [Sjogrens/Salivary Gland US, ILD/Lung US, Myositis/ Muscle US, MSKUS manifestations of SLE, Large Vessel Vasculitis US (PMR and GCA), and novel Ocular US], and Ultrasound-Guided Synovial Biopsy (UGSBy) courses. We also had full enrollment in the popular optional cadaver lab for US-guided musculoskeletal injections. A huge kudos to our planning committee/co-course directors Drs. Fawad Aslam, Lily Kao, Janeth Vinh (MSKUS & cadaver lab), Ed Oberle (Peds), Myrna Albayda and me (Beyond Joints), Art Mandelin (UGSBy) for creating an exciting agenda and tirelessly organizing all the moving parts for months prior to our big event. A special shout out to our enthusiastic patient recruiters Yih Chang Lin and Natalie Faith, as well as our Florida pediatric rheum colleagues, for finding the largest variety to-date of different pathology for learners to scan and differentiate normal v. abnormal. Huge recognition also needs to be mentioned for the steadfast dedication of Dr. Jane Nishio, board member-at-large who served as logistics director for the event. And thanks would not be complete without the incredible support from our sponsors, as well as the administrative support of USSONAR's management team at SRAHEC. We look forward to planning for our next 2025 CME event and updates will be provided by email and through our USSONAR website events list as plans finalize.

In June 2024, our USSONAR board members Drs. Catherine Bakewell and Anthony “Tony” Reginato represented our growing USSONAR organization at EULAR to continue raise awareness for ultrasound educational needs for rheumatology fellows-in training, physicians and advanced practice provider (APPs).

Lastly, we are excited to announce that the American College of Rheumatology has opted to bring back the ACR Fundamentals Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Course at ACR Convergence 2024 in Washington D.C., led by USSONAR faculty Drs. Janeth Vinh and Fawad Aslam and other USSONAR members.

If you want to see something that USSONAR is not doing, tell me- I'm an email away.

Happy scanning,  
Minna Kohler, MD, RhMSUS

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## 2024-2025 Fundamentals Training Program - Application is now open!

The application for the **2024-2025 USSONAR Fundamentals of Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Course** is now open at <https://www.ussonar.org/training-program>.

The **USSONAR Fundamentals of Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Course** is an 8-month in-depth training program on the use of musculoskeletal ultrasound to provide improved patient care. In addition to self-paced interactive online modules and assignments, accepted applicants will also submit 50 scan images for review by our expert faculty mentors.

A live, hands-on workshop with patient scanning models will take place January 31-February 2, 2025 in Tampa, Florida. Attendance is mandatory for accepted applicants.

Course requirements are detailed in the [Program Director Letter of Support \(for fellows\)](#) and the [Letter of Agreement \(for non-fellows\)](#). Please be sure you read, initial, and sign this letter as part of your application if you would like to participate. [Find additional information about the application here.](#)

This year we will be holding a [Fundamentals Applicant Informational Zoom Meeting](#) on **Sunday, August 25th at 8:00 PM EST**. Attendance is required for all fellows and optional, but highly recommended, for non-fellows.

Additional information about the course can be found in the [2024-2025 course syllabus](#).

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## 2024 Multi-track Ultrasound in Rheumatology Conference was a success!

More than 110 attendees traveled to Tampa, FL for the 2024 USSONAR Multi-track Ultrasound in Rheumatology Conference, May 17-19. Attendees hailed from 26 US states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Canada.



A group shot of our faculty, enjoying a break on the terrace with Tampa Bay in the background.



Hands-on scanning session with live patient models.





USSONAR President Minna Kohler presents Karina Torralba, USSONAR past president, a plaque in recognition and appreciation of her contributions to USSONAR.

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## 2023-2024 Fundamentals Training Program Wrap up!

Congratulations to our 58 trainees who have earned their certificate this last month wrapping up another successful 8 month training program.

This year we had:

- **126 applied, 66 were accepted into the program**
  - ( 52 Fellows, 14 non-fellows)
- **51** of our mentors dedicated themselves to reading scans
- We had participants from **26** states & **2** countries
- **4419** scans were read



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PMR=polymyalgia rheumatica.

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A square advertisement with a purple-to-pink gradient background. At the top left is the Cosentyx logo (a white stylized flower) followed by "Cosentyx®" and "(secukinumab)" in white. To the right, separated by a vertical line, is the text "Here with you" in white. Below this, centered, is the question "What can **COSENTYX®** do for your patients?" in white. Underneath is a white button with the text "See the data" and a right-pointing triangle. In the bottom right corner, in small white text, is "8/23 301604".A square advertisement with a purple-to-pink gradient background. At the top left is the Cosentyx logo (a white stylized flower) followed by "Cosentyx®" and "(secukinumab)" in white. To the right, separated by a vertical line, is the text "Here with you" in white. Below this, centered, is the question "What can **COSENTYX®** do for your patients?" in white. Underneath is a white button with the text "See the data" and a right-pointing triangle. In the bottom right corner, in small white text, is "8/23 301604".

Silver





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## 2024 USSONAR Schedule of Events

August 25	<b>Fundamentals Applicant Informational Zoom Meeting</b> 8 PM ET on Zoom: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83704756021?pwd=jnQogpDhQBfDmUjBfAXdZEgsfiXHfy.1">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83704756021?pwd=jnQogpDhQBfDmUjBfAXdZEgsfiXHfy.1</a>
August 30	<b>Fundamentals Training Program Application window closes</b>
November 15	<b>USSONAR Annual Business meeting &amp; Networking Reception</b> Washington D.C   More information to come
October 1	<b>Fundamentals Training Program begins.</b>
February 2025	<b>Fundamentals Mid-Year Hands-On Course with Cadaver Lab</b> Tampa, Florida
Spring 2025	<b>Multi-track Ultrasound CME Conference</b> Date and location TBA

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## 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 Committee** - Ryan Jessee - [rcjessee@gmail.com](mailto:rcjessee@gmail.com)
- **Membership Committee**- Zineb Aouhab - [zinebaouhab@hotmail.com](mailto:zinebaouhab@hotmail.com)
- **Educational Fundamentals Course Committee** - Norm Madsen - [norm@spintriplet.com](mailto:norm@spintriplet.com)
- **Media & Communications Committee** - Philip Chu - [philip.chu@duke.edu](mailto:philip.chu@duke.edu)
- **Bylaws Committee** - Jane Nishio - [mjnishiomd@gmail.com](mailto:mjnishiomd@gmail.com)
- **Peds Committee** - Edward Oberle - [droberleej@gmail.com](mailto:droberleej@gmail.com)

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## Membership Survey

We are currently working on bringing in several membership features.  
If you have time please take our quick survey.

[Click here to take our survey](#)

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## Webinar Series

Did you miss the latest Webinar Series session, *The business of Ultrasound: Acquiring an Ultrasound Machine*? [Catch up with the recording here.](#)

[View other previous webinars here.](#) Additional webinar topics and dates are forthcoming.

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## 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](mailto:fawadaslam2@gmail.com)

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## Introducing the USSONAR Journal Club!

Stay current on the latest research in ultrasound in rheumatology. 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!**

Help add impactful articles to the USSONAR collection.

If interested, please contact Lily Kao - [lilykao@gmail.com](mailto:lilykao@gmail.com).

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