

USSONAR Fall Newsletter



October 2024

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President's Message



Minna Kohler MD, RhMSUS

Dear Ultrasound Friends,

Happy Fall! Did you know that October is Medical Ultrasound Awareness Month? Originally created to raise public awareness of the medical uses of ultrasound. It's a chance for you as members of USSONAR to help promote the value of ultrasound use in rheumatology. If you are on social media, I encourage you to share how you use ultrasound in your daily practice or how ultrasound has positively impacted the care of one of your patients, and tag @USSONAR_Rh on X, Linked In, or Facebook.

October also marks the start of our 2024-2025 Fundamentals Musculoskeletal Ultrasound program led by Dr. Norm Madsen (URMC), along with Michelene Hearth-Holmes (UNMC). We're off to a great start with a record number of 115 rheumatologists who participated in the September application/eligibility month. We have our largest class to-date with a total of 75 participants accepted into the full program: 56 fellows (with 3 from peds rheum), and 19 non-fellow participants (2 from peds rheum). Planning is already underway for the February 2025 Fundamentals Hands-on Course in Tampa, Florida led by USSONAR Vice President Dr. Jonathan Samuels (NYU) and USSONAR Fundamentals Education Committee member Dr. Jen Medlin (UNMC). In addition to scanning normal and pathologic joints with our expert faculty, we are happy to announce the return of our cadaver injection lab to the Fundamentals program.

In order to accommodate the larger class, we have also expanded our USSONAR faculty mentor readers to 84. Thanks to all of our dedicated mentors for their expert image feedback and teaching of scanning pearls and pitfalls.

Say hello and welcome to our new mentors!

- Samar Aboulenain
- Eric Anderson
- Sarah Baluta
- Pankaj Bansal
- Mohammad Bardi
- Hulya Bukulmez
- Erin Chew
- Arthur Mandelin
- Jena Nimri
- Suraj Timilsina
- Seth VanDerVeer
- Irene Yang-Velez
- Yongdong (Dan) Zhao

And a huge shoutout to our top mentor scan readers! We are amazed and appreciate you!

- Lily Kao (510)
- Fawad Aslam (281)
- Prashant Kaushik (226)
- Jon Arnason (121)
- Jen Medlin (117)

We are looking forward to seeing USSONAR members at ACR Convergence in November 2024. We want to highlight the impact and work of USSONAR at ACR. We will be sending a list of abstracts and posters related to RhUS that have USSONAR member involvement and hope this will help promote ideas, inspiration, conversations, collaboration and support among members of our organization. We are now **816 members strong** and continuing to grow as patients and the medical community begin to realize the value of Point-of-Care rheumatologic ultrasound. *(We will do our best to include everyone we can identify, but please send any work you are presenting to be included in the list to ussonar@srahec.org or Dr. Phil Chu, USSONAR communications/media chair Phillip.chu@duke.edu)*

Lastly, in addition to the return of the ACR ultrasound pre-courses, taught by USSONAR faculty under the co-directorship of Dr. Fawad Aslam and Dr. Janeth Vinh, please make an effort to support and attend the session on the ACR ultrasound guidance update in inflammatory arthritis (RA, PsA) led by Dr. Veena Ranganath (former ACR RhMSUS committee chair and longtime USSONAR member), Dr. Gurjit Kaeley (former USSONAR president), and Dr. Catherine Bakewell (current USSONAR treasurer). See the recent article in The Rheumatologist <https://www.the-rheumatologist.org/article/new-guideline-proposed-for-ultrasound-in-psa-ra/>

As always, if you'd like to see something that USSONAR is not doing, tell me- I am an email away.

Happy scanning,

Minna Kohler MD, RhMSUS

USSONAR President 2024-2025

Big Thanks to our Sponsors!

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a treatment that helps
to outsmart
PMR inflammation.

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PMR=polymyalgia rheumatica.

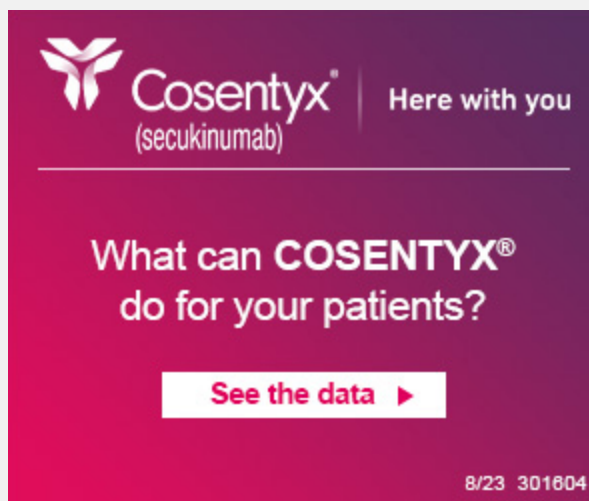


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Gold





Silver



2024 - 2025 USSONAR Schedule of Events

Nov. 11th 2024

USSONAR Annual Business and Networking Meeting

Yours Truly DC Hotel, 1143 New Hampshire Ave NW, Washington, DC 20037

Jan. 31 - Feb. 2, 2025

Fundamentals Mid-Year Hands-On Course with Cadaver Lab

Tampa, Florida

Aug. 1 - 3, 2025

3rd Annual Multi-track Ultrasound in Rheumatology Conference

Denver, Colorado

- Intermediate Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Course
- Ultrasound in Vasculitis Course
- Cadaver Musculoskeletal Injection Lab, including US guided synovial biopsy station

[Click here to sign up to be notified!](#)

USSONAR Annual Business and Networking Meeting

Friday, November 15, 2024 | 7pm - 9pm

Join us for an inspiring evening of insights and networking!

Enjoy updates from the Board and Committees while indulging in delicious heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

This event is open to all USSONAR members and prospective members. Don't miss your chance to connect and engage with our vibrant community! **Registration closes November 8th!**

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

Location:

Yours Truly DC Hotel

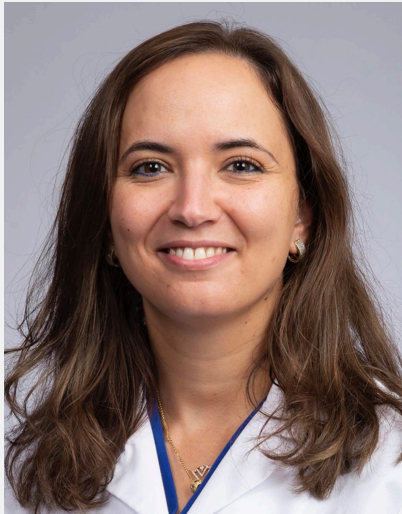
1143 New Hampshire Ave NW

Washington, DC 20037



Congratulations to Dr. Amy Cannella from University of Nebraska Medical Center! She will be awarded the 2024 ACR Distinguished Fellowship Program Director Award.

Dr. Cannella has been a longtime USSONAR faculty mentor, and also served on the USSONAR board in the past as treasurer, secretary and vice president. She currently serves on the USSONAR research committee and has numerous publications including those related to ultrasound education. Dr. Cannella is a pioneer in teaching and implementing rheum ultrasound



Dr. Zineb Aouhab

Membership Spotlight | By Dr. Zineb Aouhab

In this newsletter we are introducing the new USSONAR **Membership Spotlight** where Dr. Aouhab, will interview our featured USSONAR member.

This week we are featuring Dr. Natalie A. Faith, with Florida Medical Clinic Orlando Health.

How did the use ultrasound impact your career as a rheumatologist?

- I have been in private practice as a rheumatologist since 2008. I started MSK US training in 2011 and was the first rheumatologist to incorporate MSK US into my practice in 2012. We have portable machines for point of care diagnostics and injections. We also have in-house sonographers who perform diagnostic US scans for evaluation of synovitis, enthesitis, gout, and salivary glands. I also have also trained one of our sonographers to scan for GCA. When we developed RA and PsA treatment pathways in 2016 and 2017 respectively, we decided to incorporate positive MSK US results as a requirement before starting a 1st time biologic or tsDMARD as a way to improve value of care and improve success of my clinic's ACO.*



Dr. Natalie A. Faith

We also track MSK US response to different therapies as structured data and use this information when making therapeutic decisions as treat to target approach. I have a particular interest in enthesitis. I have taught an ACR workshop on enthesitis and PsA, and have contributed to an editorial in the Journal of Rheumatology. I have helped teach MSK US to rheumatology fellows in office, via lecture, and at an US workshop. More recently, I became a member of the USSONAR Bylaws committee and helped recruit patient models for a USSONAR multitrack course. I will be the next USSONAR Bylaws committee chair which will allow me the honor to serve on the USSONAR board.

How did ultrasound training prepare you to practice rheumatology?

- I earned RhMSUS certification in 2013 and RMSK certification in 2016. It has made a huge difference in my ability to make accurate diagnoses as well as offering additional therapeutic options with US guided injections. Being able to identify Doppler positive enthesitis on US has really helped more accurately identify SpA patients. I have identified many inflammatory arthritis patients with gout as the primary or secondary cause. Knowing sonoanatomy well improves my ability to diagnose inflammatory and non-inflammatory joint diseases without US.*

What are some of the challenges you may have faced implementing ultrasound in your practice? How did you overcome them?

- *I first started performing MSK myself using a portable US machine and dictating the results to my in house medical scribe. My partners saw the lengthy US scan time as a barrier to patient access to care. So we shortly hired our 1st MSK sonographer and currently have 3 MSK sonographers and 3 premium US machines.*
- *For several years, one of our sonographers was scanning temporal and axillary arteries for GCA evaluation. Due to reimbursement issues, we can no longer perform that protocol in house. I am currently training a cardiology-based sonographer to perform the protocol and have a cardiologist colleague provide the report.*

How do you imagine the future of MSK US?

- *I would like to see the use of AI increase ability to accurately read and report MSK US studies to improve reporting efficiency. This is particularly important in private practice. I am curious to see how results of US guided synovial biopsy will impact inflammatory arthritis therapeutic decisions if it becomes more widely available apart from research settings.*

Join Us in Shaping the Future of USSONAR!

Are you passionate about advancing USSONAR's mission? We invite you to become an active member of a committee! This is a fantastic opportunity to collaborate with like-minded professionals, share your expertise, and make a meaningful impact.

Current Committees Seeking Members:

- **Advocacy Committee**
Champion the voice of sonographers with Ryan Jessee: rcjessee@gmail.com
- **Membership Committee**
Help grow our community with Zineb Aouhab: zinebaouhab@hotmail.com
- **Educational Fundamentals Course Committee**
Contribute to the development of the educational resources for our Fundamentals Program with Norm Madsen: norm@spintriplet.com
- **Media & Communications Committee**
Enhance our outreach and messaging with Philip Chu: philip.chu@duke.edu
- **Bylaws Committee**
Play a key role in shaping our organization's governance with Natalie A. Faith: nfaith@floridamedicalclinic.com
- **Peds Committee**
Focus on pediatric sonography initiatives with Edward Oberle: droberleej@gmail.com
- **Journal Club**
Lily Kao - lilykao@gmail.com.

Ready to Get Involved?

Reach out to the committee chairperson of your interest and become part of a vibrant community dedicated to excellence in sonography!

Are you interested in joining a special interest group?

Lupus US Special Interest Group- contact Hulya Bukulmez hxb38@case.com

Sjogrens/ Salivary Gland US Special Interest Group- Howard Yang HHYang@mednet.ucla.edu

Vasculitis US Special Interest Group- Minna Kohler mkohler@mgh.harvard.edu

We would also like to hear from you!

If you have any updates, honors, or publications that you'd like to share with the USSONAR community, please send your information to ussonar@srahec.org. We'd love to review your submissions for inclusion in our upcoming newsletters!

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.

Membership Survey



We're hard at work on new membership features and we'd love your input!

Have a moment?

Please take our quick survey to help us shape the future of your membership experience. Your feedback is crucial to making it even better!

Thank you for being an essential part of our community. We can't wait to hear your thoughts!

[Click here to take our survey](#)

USSONAR VIDEO ARCHIVE



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.

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 committee chair, Fawad Asghar, at fawad.asghar2@gmail.com



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