



# 2022 Fellows Conference

## Saturday, March 19

InterContinental: Mark Hopkins | San Francisco, CA



# ABOUT CSRO

Established as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in 2003, the Coalition of State Rheumatology Organization (CSRO) is **comprised of nearly every active state rheumatology society in the nation**, more than 30 state and regional professional rheumatology societies in total.

The mission of CSRO is **to advocate for excellence in the field of rheumatology, ensuring access to the highest quality care for the management of rheumatologic and musculoskeletal disease**. CSRO is dedicated to empowering rheumatologists and their practices with resources to proactively increase patient access to rheumatologic care and medication, and to improve the practice environment for rheumatologists in private practice.

In this endeavor, CSRO is pleased to offer a wide range of materials to state and regional rheumatology organizations and their members, host seminal advocacy events, support advocacy activities by individual state societies, and advocate on the state and national level on behalf of rheumatologists.

## STATE & FEDERAL ADVOCACY

The challenging health care environment greatly affects the way rheumatologists manage their practices. It can interfere with patient access to care and force rheumatologists to make difficult decisions. State legislatures are considering an increasing amount of legislation of impact to the rheumatologic community.

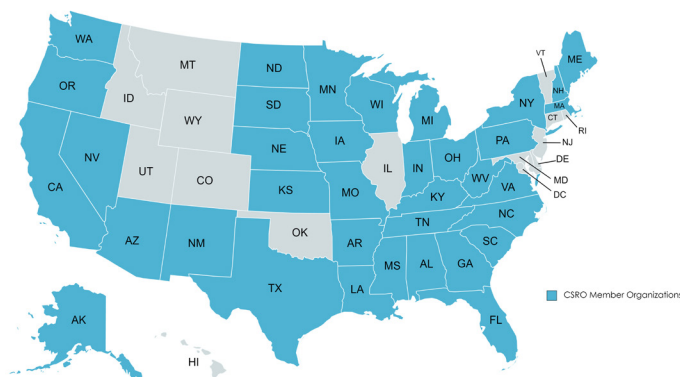
In response, rheumatologists must be engaged at both the state and federal levels to protect their patients and their livelihood. **CSRO is at the forefront of state, federal, and payer policies working to grant access, affordability, and relief for the rheumatology community by focusing on nonpartisan education of legislators, government officials and the corporate community on the impact that policy and procedural changes may have to the patient's quality of care and disease management options.**

CSRO also collaborates with patient organizations and other national societies to elevate awareness and provide a forum for an exchange of ideas, fostering a collaborative environment.

## STATE SOCIETY SUPPORT

CSRO actively seeks opportunities to assist state and regional organizations to become formal societies. Through its efforts, CSRO has been instrumental in the founding and developing of a number of state societies. The organization also provides support to states looking to increase the activities and advocacy of current membership.

As an organization, it continues to work with states that have no active society and reaches out to more than 4,000 rheumatologists on the CSRO mailing list.



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# AGENDA

All activities will be located in the **Peacock Court** unless otherwise noted.  
*Times, speakers and topics are subject to change.*

## SATURDAY, MARCH 19

- 7:00 a.m.**                      **Breakfast**  
Location: *Room of the Dons*
- 7:45 a.m.**                      **Welcome**  
Madelaine Feldman, MD, FACR
- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**        **So You Want to Go into Private Practice? Rheuminations**  
Herbert S. Baraf, MD, FACP, MACR
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.**        **Choosing a Career Path: Truths About Becoming a Rheumatologist Panel**  
*Panelists:* Erin Arnold, MD, FACR; Amish Dave, MD, MPH; Sheetal Desai, MD, MSED  
*Moderator:* Gary Feldman, MD
- 9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**      **Break**
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**     **Incorporating Telemedicine in Rheumatology Practice**  
Alireza Meysami, MD, CPE, RhMSUS, FACR, FACP
- 10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**     **Insurance 101**  
Greg Schimizzi, MD
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**    **The Anatomy of a Lawsuit**  
James Haliczzer, Esq
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**     **Lunch & Networking**  
Location: *Room of the Dons*
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**        **Early Career Financial Management**  
James Dahle, MD, FACEP
- 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.**        **Work-Life Balance: Truths About Becoming a Rheumatologist Panel**  
*Panelists:* Kostas Botsoglou, MD; Lianne Gensler, MD; Ekaterini Zapantis, MD  
*Moderator:* Grace Wright, MD, PhD, FACR
- 2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**        **Break**
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.**        **Physician Employment and Contracts**  
Steve McCoy, Esq
- 3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**        **Important Issues in Coding**  
Jean Acevedo, LHRM, CPC, CHC, CENT, AAPC Fellow
- 4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**        **Closing Remarks**  
Madelaine Feldman, MD, FACR
- 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**        **Dinner Reception & Networking**  
Location: *Room of the Dons*

# FELLOWS CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



## **Jean Acevedo, LHRM, CPC, CHC, CENTC, AAPC Fellow**

Jean has over 30 years of health care experience. She has a particular expertise in chart audits, compliance & education relative to physician documentation and coding. Jean has also been an expert witness in civil litigations and an investigative consultant for the DOJ and FBI in Federal fraud cases. Jean has demonstrated particular expertise in all facets of rheumatology documentation and coding working with small and large rheumatology practices across the country for more than a decade. She has been a speaker at many of the rheumatology physicians' annual meetings including STAR, the Florida Society of Rheumatology and the National Organization of Rheumatology Managers (NORM). She presented 3 sessions on the 2021 E/M Documentation and Coding changes at the American College of Rheumatology's annual ACR Convergence conference in November 2020. She is a frequently sought after speaker as she possesses the unique perspective of avoiding risk and liability while optimizing reimbursement in the highly regulated health care industry.



## **Erin L. Arnold, MD, FACP**

Dr. Arnold is a native of the North Shore of Chicago where she currently resides with her husband and two sons. Dr. Arnold received her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, completed her residency training at the University of Chicago and her Rheumatology fellowship at the University of California Los Angeles where she was awarded funding by the Arthritis Foundation. Dr. Arnold was the first American Rheumatologist to be trained in Diagnostic and Interventional Musculoskeletal Ultrasound during her fellowship at UCLA. She has played an active role in the RRF and ACR where she served on the Board of Directors for both organizations. During her board membership she was involved in the ACR's strategic planning meetings and task forces for "the ideal Rheumatology practice", Musculoskeletal Ultrasound, and leadership development fellowship. Dr. Arnold has also represented the ACR on the American College of Radiology's Imaging task force and has acted as the ACR liaison for the Arthritis Foundation's Public Policy committee.

Dr. Arnold is founder and principal of Arnold Arthritis and Rheumatology. She is dedicated to providing innovative care to patients with arthritis in an optimistic, professional and compassionate environment. Dr. Arnold's approach to patient care emphasizes an aggressive approach to achieve remission of disease by incorporating multiple modalities (state of the art lab measurements, innovative imaging modalities and biologic therapy) to achieve this goal. She has developed a unique ultrasound exam accredited by the AIUM, to diagnose inflammatory and crystal induced arthritis and to follow the patient's response to therapy. Dr. Arnold is committed to providing timely access to Rheumatology care and has designed her practice around the principles of chronic disease management.



## **Herbert S. Baraf, MD, FACP, MACR**

Dr. Baraf is founding member and former managing partner of Arthritis and Rheumatism Associates (ARA), one of the largest private rheumatology practices in the United States with 23 rheumatologists in seven locations. He holds academic appointments as Clinical Professor of Medicine at George Washington University in Washington, DC, and Associate Clinical Professor at the University of Maryland in Baltimore.

He earned his medical degree from the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York, and completed his internship and residency at the George Washington University Hospital. Dr. Baraf did his fellowship training in rheumatology at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

Dr. Baraf has served on numerous committees of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR), contributing to programming for its annual meeting, helping to develop quality of care measures and, more recently, lobbying Congress for more rational payment systems for patient care. His efforts were instrumental in the ACR's development of freestanding musculoskeletal ultrasound courses for rheumatologists.

As the founder of the Center for Rheumatology and Bone Research, a division of his practice, Dr. Baraf has served as principal investigator on over 400 clinical trials of treatments for gout, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, Sjögren's syndrome, and other disorders. He formerly served on the board of directors of the Sjögren's Foundation.

He is an author of more than 30 peer-reviewed papers and has presented his work at numerous national and international meetings. Dr. Baraf was named a Master of the ACR in 2012. In 2014 the ACR conferred upon him the Paulding Phelps Award for "for outstanding service to patients, community and the practice of medicine."



## **Kostas Botsoglou, MD**

Dr. Botsoglou is a managing partner and founding member of the Rheumatology Center of Western New York in Cheektowaga, New York. He completed his residency at University at Buffalo School of Medicine and his Rheumatology fellowship at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Dr. Botsoglou has been a member of the Coalition of State Rheumatology's Board of Directors since 2016.



# FELLOWS CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



## **James M. Dahle, MD, FACEP**

Dr. Dahle is a practicing emergency physician and veteran from Salt Lake City, UT. He became interested in personal finance and investing after becoming disillusioned with the way he was treated by several unscrupulous financial professionals.

In an effort to help his fellow physicians and other high-income professionals avoid the same errors, he started The White Coat Investor website in 2011. It rapidly grew into the most widely-read, physician-specific personal finance and investing website in the world. He has written three Amazon best-selling books, publishes a weekly podcast, developed multiple online courses, and holds an annual conference all aimed at helping his fellow physicians become more financially literate.

He is convinced that increasing the financial security of doctors enables them to be better partners, parents, and doctors along with reducing burnout, decreasing suicide risk, and improving patient care. He has been featured in Forbes and CNN and is a regular columnist for ACEP Now. Dr. Dahle enjoys canyoneering, skiing, biking and spending time with his wife and four kids.



## **Amish J. Dave, MD, MPH**

Dr. Dave, MD, MPH is a rheumatologist at Virginia Mason Franciscan Health practicing in Seattle and Bainbridge Island, WA. Dr. Dave is chair of the Public Health Committee of King County Medical Society, a board member for the Washington State

Medical Association, and an alternate delegate for Washington state for the American Medical Association.

He is co-chair of the Arthritis Foundation Great West Chapter, a board member of the Washington Chapter of the American College of Physicians Executive Council, a board member of the Humanity in Action Foundation, and a board member of Indian-American Community Services. In addition to being a full-time clinical rheumatologist and educator, he is a public health advocate and passionate about local, state, and national reform in rheumatology issues.



## **Sheetal Desai, MD MSEd**

Dr. Sheetal Desai, MD, is the Chief of Rheumatology and Program Director at the University of California, Irvine. She received her MD and Master's in Medical Education from the University of Southern California and completed her Internal

Medicine residency and Rheumatology Fellowship at UCLA. Clinically she specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Inflammatory Myositis and Scleroderma through multidisciplinary clinics with Nephrology, Neuromuscular and Dermatology. She loves education and is an avid presenter at local, regional and national conferences.



## **Gary R. Feldman, MD**

Dr. Feldman is the Medical Director of Pacific Arthritis Care Center and the Osteoporosis Diagnostic Medical Center. Dr. Feldman has been in practice for over 34 years and is Board Certified in Rheumatology and Internal Medicine.

He received his medical degree from Tufts University and completed his post-graduate training at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Dr. Feldman is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He is active in teaching and clinical research.

Dr. Feldman currently serves as the Vice President of the Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations and has served as President of the California Rheumatology Alliance, a Fellow of the American College of Rheumatology and a member of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, California Medical Association, and the International Society for Clinical Densitometry. Dr. Feldman specializes in Osteoporosis evaluation, treatment and prevention by providing DEXA evaluations, consultation, and continuing care for this condition, as well as all other outpatient Rheumatology.



## **Madelaine A. Feldman, MD, FACR**

Dr. Madelaine Feldman is a rheumatologist in private practice with The Rheumatology Group in New Orleans, LA. She is President of the Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations, Chair of the Alliance for Safe Biologic Medicines and past

member of the American College of Rheumatology insurance subcommittee.

Dr. Feldman is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at Tulane University School of Medicine, and lectures extensively to patients, physicians, regulators, and legislators both locally and nationally, speaking before the Health subcommittee of Energy and Commerce in 2019. She has spoken and written on the drug supply channel, particularly the effect that formulary construction and utilization management tools have on pricing and access to drugs (availability & affordability).

Dr. Feldman is honored to be the recipient of the American College of Rheumatology's 2021 Innovation in Clinical Care award. She received the Distinguished Service Award for Tulane Medical School, was named one of the Top Women in New Orleans by City Business in 2017 and is the former radio talk show host of "Driving with Dr. Mattie."

# FELLOWS CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



## **Lianne S. Gensler, MD**

Dr Gensler is a Professor of Medicine at UCSF, where she also trained as a resident and fellow. She is the Program Director for the Rheumatology Fellowship Program and the Director of the Spondyloarthritis clinic and research program. Dr. Gensler served as a board member and the chair of the Spondyloarthritis Research and Treatment Network (SPARTAN) and currently serves on the Executive committee for the Assessment of Spondyloarthritis International society (ASAS). She is a member of the ACR ViTLs working group and has been the recipient of the Ira M. Goldstein Teaching Award in Rheumatology, the Spondylitis Association Young Investigator Award, and the UCSF Research Mentoring Award. She has also been inducted into the Council of Master Clinicians at UCSF.



## **James S. Haliczzer, Esq.**

Mr. Haliczzer, co-founder of Haliczzer Pettis & Schwamm, P.A. and its managing partner, has been involved in dozens of trials involving numerous substantive areas of the law including medical and legal malpractice, personal injury, wrongful death, commercial and construction litigation. He concentrates his practice at this time in the trial of complex cases involving medical malpractice, personal injury/wrongful death, and business disputes. Mr. Haliczzer has the unique experience of having successfully represented both defendants and plaintiffs. He has lectured throughout the country on issues as varied as legal and medical malpractice, general insurance law and risk management/quality assurance programs.

Mr. Haliczzer has been recognized by numerous organizations for his skills as a trial lawyer. In addition to being listed in Best Lawyers in America® since 2010, Mr. Haliczzer was named as the 2015 Miami “Lawyer of the Year” in Medical Malpractice Law by Best Lawyers in America®. Only a single lawyer in each practice area and designated metropolitan area is honored as the “Lawyer of the Year,” making this accolade particularly significant. He holds an AV Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell’s Peer Review Ratings service, the highest possible rating indicating excellence in the practice of law and the highest ethical standards. He has been listed in Florida Trend Magazine’s Florida Legal Elite featuring the top 1.6% of lawyers in the State of Florida as voted by his peers, Florida Super Lawyers, and the South Florida Legal Guide “Top Lawyers” for nine consecutive years.

Mr. Haliczzer has been involved in numerous professional and community activities. He has served as a member of the Broward, Florida, American, and Federal Bar Associations, participating in such areas as professional ethics, attorney misconduct, and the unauthorized practice of law; the American Academy of Healthcare Attorneys; and the Florida Bar Committees on Ethics and Professionalism. He resides in Fort Lauderdale, Florida with his wife since 1987. They have one son, a writer in New Orleans.



## **Steve McCoy, Esq.**

Mr. McCoy is a graduate of the University of Virginia and the University of Virginia School of Law. He spent 11 years in private practice as a partner in the health law section of Williams Mullen, in Richmond, Virginia, where he represented physicians, hospitals and other health care providers.

He left Williams Mullen to serve as general counsel to Patient First Corporation, a provider of primary and urgent care services that employs over 600 physicians and extenders at 76 locations across the mid-Atlantic, and treats patients during more than 3 million visits annually.

Mr. McCoy is the past chair of the Health Law Section of the Virginia State Bar and is currently a member of the Board of Governors of the Virginia Bar Association’s Health Law Council.



## **Alireza Meysami, MD, CPE, RhMSUS, FACR, FACP**

Dr. Meysami is the Division head in rheumatology division at Henry Ford Health System and clinical associate professor of Medicine at Wayne State University. He is the current president of Wayne County Medical Society of South East Michigan. He is board certified in Internal Medicine, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Ultrasound. He is also certificated as Certified Physician Executive (CPE) by American Association for physician leadership and. He was awarded the scholarship for Davidson Fellowship for Entrepreneurs in Digital Health through Henry Ford Innovation Institute. He is currently getting the Master of business Administration (MBA) at University of Massachusetts.

Since his arrival at Henry Ford, he has invigorated the Musculoskeletal Ultrasound curriculum for the internal medicine residents, rheumatology fellows and junior faculty. He is the Director of MSK ultrasound clinic and training program. He also has established IgG-4 related disease clinic and patient registry at Henry Ford Hospital.

Outside Henry Ford, he is the current President Wayne County Medical Society of Southeast Michigan (WCMSSM). He is also serving on multiple committees at national and regional level. He is also the Chairman of the board of education for Michigan Rheumatism Society (MRHS) since 2016.

His national and international reputation is evidenced by the lectures he is invited to give at regional, national medical society and international meetings. He has been selected as the “Top Doctor” in the Detroit metropolitan area by Hour magazine every year since 2016. He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, and the American College of Rheumatology.

# FELLOWS CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



## **Gregory F. Schimizzi, MD**

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Dr. Gregory Schimizzi obtained undergraduate and medical school education at Wayne State University where he received Bachelor of Science and Medical degrees.

Dr. Schimizzi completed his internal medicine internship and residency at the Detroit Medical Center Affiliated Hospitals and trained in rheumatology / clinical Immunology at the University of California, Irvine. After completing his fellowship training, Dr. Schimizzi practiced rheumatology in metropolitan Detroit and then in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Dr. Schimizzi has been a practicing rheumatologist for over 40 years, cofounded Carolina Arthritis Associates in 1991, was an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and at New Hanover Coastal AHEC. He has been involved in advocating for access to care for rheumatology patients in North Carolina and across the country. He is responsible for restarting the North Carolina Rheumatology Society (NCRA), which is now the third largest state society in the United States and was president of the NCRA for three years.

Dr. Schimizzi also cofounded the Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO) in 2003, which is now comprised of more than 30 state and regional rheumatology professional societies whose mission is to advocate for excellence in Rheumatology Care and ensuring access to the highest quality care for the management of rheumatologic diseases. He and the other CSRO directors formed the National Organization of Rheumatology Managers to assist rheumatology practice executives in day-to-day management problems specific to the specialty.

As past president and a long time Director of the CSRO, Dr. Schimizzi has had the opportunity to speak or testify before the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Health and Human Services (HHS) / Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Congressional Committees and Medicare Payment Advisory Committee (MEDPAC). Dr. Schimizzi, together with other CSRO Directors, was influential in informing Congressional Committee Staff of the importance of Rheumatology patient access to care during the writing of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003. He retired from the CSRO in 2020.

Dr. Schimizzi is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Rheumatology. His other interests include carpentry, hunting, photography and music.



## **Grace C. Wright MD, PhD, FACR**

Dr. Wright is a rheumatologist in private practice in New York City. She earned her undergraduate degree, magna cum laude, from Barnard College and her medical and doctorate degrees at the NYU School of Medicine. She then completed an internship and residency and chief residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in rheumatology at the NYU Medical Center where she served as Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine. Dr. Wright is board-certified in rheumatology and is a Fellow of the American College of Rheumatology.

In 2014, Dr. Wright founded the Association of Women in Rheumatology (AWIR) which has since grown to over 30 local chapters throughout the United States as well as a growing number of international chapters. Dr. Wright has served as the President of AWIR since its inception. In 2019, Dr. Wright was recognized by the Arthritis Foundation with a Woman in Motion award, and in 2021 she was recognized by the American College of Rheumatology as a "Rheumatology Hero"

Dr. Wright has participated in numerous clinical trials, has been published in multiple peer-reviewed journals, and is a frequent lecturer at national and international conferences on rheumatic diseases, with a special focus on Rheumatology, Immunology, and the impact of Gender on Rheumatology Healthcare providers and patients.



## **Ekaterini Zapantis, MD**

Dr. Zapantis is a managing partner and founding member of the Rheumatology Center of Western New York. She completed her residency at Lincoln Medical Center, Bronx, New York and her Rheumatology fellowship at North Shore/LIJ, Manhasset, New York. Dr. Zapantis holds the position of clinical associate professor at the University at Buffalo, School of Medicine, and is the local chapter leader for the Association of Women in Rheumatology.

She has presented at EULAR and ACR and has published in multiple medical journals, including Seminars in Arthritis and Rheumatism. She is musculoskeletal ultrasound trained and served as a medical student ultrasound instructor at Hofstra Medical School in Hempstead, New York.









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