



CSRO
COALITION OF STATE RHEUMATOLOGY ORGANIZATIONS

Coalition of State
Rheumatology Organizations
2016 State Society
Advocacy Conference
September 16 - 17, 2016

Hyatt Regency O'Hare
Rosemont, Illinois

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Filming/Photography Statement

No attendee/visitor at the CSRO 2016 State Society Advocacy Conference may record, film, tape, photograph, interview or use any other such media during any presentation, display or exhibit without the express, advance approval of the CSRO Executive Director. This policy applies to all CSRO members, non-members, guests and exhibitors, as well as members of the print, online or broadcast media.



The CSRO is now in its 12th year of advocacy efforts on behalf of rheumatology patients and those of us who provide rheumatology care. We started in 2004 with a mission to maintain patient access to high-quality rheumatology care. This goal has led us to advocate for our patients at the steps of Congress and Statehouses around the country. Along the way, we started the National Organization of Rheumatology Managers (NORM) and we also provided a Rheumatology Fellows Conference each February to provide information for new practitioners to successfully run an office practice. Our most recent endeavor has been to focus on strengthening state rheumatology societies and improving advocacy efforts through the State Society Advocacy Conference (SSAC).

This will now be our 4th Annual State Society Advocacy Conference focused on just that: strengthening and engaging state societies in advocating for patient access to care. At a time of great uncertainty in healthcare around the country, it behooves us all to advocate for our patients who are otherwise left unrepresented and possibly a future with diminishing access to rheumatology care.

You are all invited to attend the SSAC on September 16 and 17 at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Rosemont, Illinois, (10 minutes from Chicago O'Hare airport). The conference will cover timely issues affecting rheumatology and patient care, and it will provide strategies on how to best manage your practice during these uncertain times. There will be opportunities to interact with other colleagues and state society leaders as well as experts in government relations providing a perspective on the future landscape of medicine. Our goal is to share with you this timely information so you might best respond going forth to the challenges facing all of us in continuing to provide rheumatology care to our patients.

The CSRO is also pleased to repeat the Fellows Workshop that was highly regarded last year. This is a brief mid-day session for fellows focused specifically on issues facing new practitioners. It is a complement to the yearly Fellows Conference held in San Francisco each February.

We look forward to seeing you in Chicago this year among the many state leaders and care-providers dedicated to maintaining high quality rheumatology care for our patients. Please visit our website at: www.csro.info for additional information and registration.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Stevens, MD, FACR
CSRO, President

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2015 - 2016

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The Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO) is a group of state or regional professional rheumatology societies formed in order to advocate for excellence in rheumatologic disease care and to ensure access to the highest quality care for the management of rheumatologic and musculoskeletal diseases.

Founded in 2003, CSRO strives to achieve our mission with the following objectives:

- Through advocacy, awareness, communications, education and sharing of research, CSRO assists state or regional organizations to become formalized societies and provide leadership on rheumatologic and musculoskeletal health issues.
- Promote the state rheumatology societies activities that advocate access to the highest quality medical care for rheumatic disease patients with autoimmune inflammatory and degenerative diseases.
- State societies have the ability to exchange information regarding issues that pertain to the delivery of high quality care to rheumatic disease patients through the CSRO network.
- Educate insurers, government officials, corporations and other entities of the impact and importance of rheumatic diseases and rheumatologic care when considering policy/procedural changes that will affect that care.
- Encourage new studies of rheumatology care in the US through national, regional and individual sponsorship.
- Provide forums for state regional professional organizations to create and advance a rheumatologic and musculoskeletal health agenda at the private, public and political levels.

In order to promote these objectives, CSRO has several informative meetings held throughout the year:

- **CSRO Fellows Conference** – Since 2006, CSRO has been hosting an Annual Fellows Conference that offers fellows guidance, education and insight into the numerous opportunities in the area of private practice rheumatology.
- **CSRO State Society Advocacy Conference** – An annual conference that focuses on the top state rheumatology policy issues, state advocacy strategies and providing guidance to state-level CSRO-affiliated organizational members.
- **Federal Advocacy Conference** – Representatives from CSRO-affiliated organizations gather to meet and discuss health care issues with congressional members, administration personnel and key health regulatory agency department representatives as well as experts in health care outside of government. Attendees also have the opportunity to visit with their US Congressional Delegates on Capitol Hill and the opportunity to network with attendees from industry leaders and other medical specialties/sub-specialties attending the conference.

Our coalition serves the practicing rheumatologist. We are continually in the process of collecting information on issues that affect you in your area. Assembling this information in one place (www.csro.info) will help everyone work through the issues in a better informed manner.

Connect with CSRO on Social Media!

Check Out Our Website: www.csro.info/home



Like Us On Facebook: www.facebook.com/CSROAdvocacy



Follow Us On Twitter: [@CSROAdvocacy](https://twitter.com/CSROAdvocacy)



CSRO Educated Lawmakers at the NCSL 2016 Legislative Summit in Chicago

Over 5,000 state legislators, legislative staff members and advocates from around the country came together in Chicago for the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) 2016 Legislative Summit. The NCSL provides policy makers with the opportunity to network with other states legislatures to discuss innovative and trending public policies.

The CSRO hosted a booth that was operated by board member, Dr. Josh Stolow, who educated legislators and advocated on behalf of patients to promote transparency and safe access to medications and treatment. Dr. Stolow and the CSRO government relations team spoke to over 50 legislators in 30 different states, with the majority deeply interested in CSRO's legislative priorities.



CSRO Submitted Comments to CMS on the Proposed MACRA Rule

The Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations submitted comments to CMS on the MACRA proposed rule. Comments specifically targeted the proposed MIPS performance period, quality measure risk adjustment based on socioeconomic status, opposition to the removal of the Rheumatoid Arthritis Measures Group, Clinical Practice Improvement Activity, and the inclusion of Osteoporosis and RA as episode based measures in the resource use performance category.

CSRO's National Advocacy Chair Presented Part B Demo Concerns to Congress

CSRO's National Advocacy Chair, Dr. Michael Schweitz, testified before the Subcommittee on Health in opposition to the Medicare Part B Demo proposed by CMS.

The hearing, "The Obama Administration's Medicare Drug Experiment: The Patient and Doctor Perspective," brought together stakeholders that would be adversely effected by the change in reimbursement for Part B drugs.

Dr. Schweitz concluded his statements by stating, "We must oppose the Part B Drug Payment Model as it suffers from serious procedural and substantive flaws that we believe render it unworkable — and it does nothing to actually address drug prices. As such, we have requested that CMS withdraw the model and we urge the Committee to do the same."



CSRO Called for FDA to Apply Meaningful Suffixes for Biosimilar Naming

Since the FDA approved a second biosimilar and applied a random suffix instead of a meaningful one as it did with the first biosimilar, CSRO and 70 other patient and provider advocacy groups aligned in support of a letter to the FDA requesting distinguishable names with meaningful suffixes.

Comments by the CSRO on “Medicare Program: Part B Drug Payment Model” (CMS-1670-P)

The CSRO submitted comments on the Part B Rule with the support of state rheumatology organizations from around the country. In the comments, CSRO urged CMS to withdraw the Model and, with regard to value-based purchasing, begin the process of requests for Information, Town Halls, and other pre-rulemaking opportunities to ensure that the end product is workable for all stakeholders and does not jeopardize beneficiaries’ access to critically important medicines.

Part B Petition for Patients

CSRO created a petition to help garner additional voices of concern about the CMS Medicare Part B proposal. The petition on Change.org spoke to the strong concerns about the impact the proposal would have on Medicare patients’ access to life-saving and life-changing medications, including biologics.

The petition also called for the withdrawal of the proposal for initiatives developed and implemented in a targeted, patient-centered and transparent way that accounts for the unique needs of all Medicare beneficiaries.

CSRO to Address Biosimilars with FDA Arthritis Advisory Committee

CSRO directors, Gregory Schimizzi, MD and Joshua Stolow, MD, and Madelaine Feldman, MD, presented information to the FDA Arthritis Advisory Committee during an Open Public Forum in February and then again in June.

The Open Public Forums are designed to allow the FDA to obtain scientific advice from advisors. The meetings begin with scientific presentations from the FDA followed by the public comment portion and then Committee discussion.

Alliance of Specialty Medicine Federal Fly-In

The CSRO joined 11 other specialty practice organizations and their leadership teams from around the country for the Alliance of Specialty Medicine’s Annual Capitol Hill Advocacy Conference in. Participants were tasked to lobby members of Congress to enact and support sound federal health care policies.

The legislative priorities in focus for this year included: MACRA Implementation: Quality Improvement and Health Information Technology, 21st Century Cures Act / Innovation for Healthier Americans and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF).



International Congress on Autoimmunity

Dr. Jacob Aelion and Dr. Gregory Schimizzi participated in The Novel Biologic and Biosimilars Session at the 10th Annual International Congress on Autoimmunity Meeting in Leipzig, Germany in April. The symposium focused on the science of biologic and biosimilar development and the effect of biosimilar approval and use in the care of patients with chronic autoimmune inflammatory diseases.

Comments on FDA Draft Guidance “Labeling for Biosimilar Products”

The guidance proposes that original clinical data generated by a biosimilar manufacturer generally should not be included on the label, unless such inclusion is necessary “to inform safe and effective use by a health care practitioner.” Instead, FDA recommends that the biosimilar label should include the clinical data supporting safety and efficacy of the reference product.

The CSRO submitted comments in response to the FDA’s guidance. Specially stating that they believe that the reference product data should be included on the biosimilar label for those indications for which the biosimilar is approved, but urged the agency to also include any original clinical data generated by the biosimilar applicant.

Legislative Priorities

The political climate for priority issues continued to favor biologics legislation and welcomed reforming step therapy protocols in several states. Prior Authorization experienced an uptick in interest as a few states signed bills into law. Remaining priorities witnessed some legislative exposure, but the majority continues to focus on education before legislation.

Legislative Priorities: Biologics legislation, Step therapy Protocols, Uniform Prior Authorization, Medication access, Administrative burdens, Medication Stability, Out-of-Pocket Costs

In addition to priority issues, the CSRO has continued to monitor all physician related issues that could potentially affect rheumatology patients and providers.



All sessions will be located in the *Grand BC room*, unless otherwise indicated.
Speakers and times are subject to change.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

OVERVIEW

- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Board Lunch**
Location: Sky Harbor A/B
- 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Board Meeting**
Location: Sky Harbor A/B
- 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Registration/Information Desk Open**
Location: Grand Foyer ABC
- 5:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. **Welcome Reception**
Location: Grand A
- 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. **Welcome Dinner**
Location: Gibson's Bar & Steakhouse

Please meet in the lobby by 6:45 PM for the bus to Gibson's

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

OVERVIEW

- 6:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Registration/Information Desk Open**
Location: Grand Foyer ABC
- 7:00 a.m. - 7:50 a.m. **Fellows Breakfast Session**
Location: John Wayne A/B
Michael C. Schweitz, MD
- 7:00 a.m. - 7:50 a.m. **Breakfast Buffet**
Location: Grand Foyer ABC
- 10:20 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. **Fellows Breakout Session**
Location: John Wayne A/B
- 12:20 p.m. - 1:20 p.m. **Lunch - Keynote Speaker**
Donald. J Palmisano, MD, JD
- 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. **Closing Cocktail Reception**
Location: Hyatt Regency O'Hare Red Bar and Lounge

GENERAL SESSION

- 7:00 a.m. - 7:50 a.m. **After the Treatment Decision Fellows Breakfast Session**
Location: John Wayne A/B
Michael C. Schweitz, MD
- 7:50 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. **CSRO Vision: 2016 and Beyond**
Michael P. Stevens, MD, FACR
- 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. **Non-Medical Switching: What Can We Do About It?**
Michael C. Schweitz, MD
- 8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. **National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) Update**
Kevin Daley
- 8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. **Insurance Companies: What You Don't Know, But Should**
Keith Bradbury, R.Ph, MS
John Henderson
- 9:45 a.m. - 10:10 a.m. **Break**
Location: Grand Foyer ABC
- 10:10 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. **The Coming of MACRA and What It Will Mean To You**
Emily L. Graham, RHIA, CCS-P

Concurrent Session Begins*Location: John Wayne AB*

10:20 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Fellows Intensive Breakout Program	1:20 p.m. - 2:05 p.m.	Tips and Strategies for Advocating on a State Level Sarah Doaty, MD
10:50 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions		
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	So You Want to Go Into Private Practice Herbert S. Baraf, MD, FACP, MACR	2:05 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Early Career Financial Management Joshua Stalow, MD
12:00 p.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Discussion and Q&A	2:45 p.m. - 3:05 p.m.	Discussion and Q&A
12:15 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.	Lunch Session <i>Reconvene in Grand BC</i>		

Concurrent Session Ends

10:50 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.	Partnering with Patients and the Arthritis Foundation on Advocacy Anna Hyde
11:20 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.	Defining Value in the Age of MACRA Martin Zagari, MD
12:20 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.	Lunch Session - Keynote Speaker The 6 Commandments of Medicine: Ethical Survival Guide for the 21st Century Donald J. Palmisano, MD, JD
1:20 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Global Healthy Living Foundation: Patient Powered Advocacy Seth Ginsberg
2:00 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.	CSRO Resources for the Physician Advocate Madelaine A. Feldman, MD
2:20 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Biosimilars Update: United States and Europe Gregory F. Schimizzi, MD
3:00 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.	Break
3:20 p.m. - 4:20 p.m.	Panel Discussion: How to Deal with Step Therapy Policies Moderator: Helen Fitzpatrick Panelists: Howard Blumstein, MD Michele Guadalupe, MPH Amy Prentice
4:20 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	The Final Word Michael P. Stevens, MD, FACR
4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	CSRO Annual Business Meeting
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Cocktail Reception <i>Location: Hyatt Regency O'Hare Red Bar and Lounge</i>

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GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION**Registration/Information Desk Hours**

Location: Grand Foyer ABC – Entry Level

Friday, September 16, 2016 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 17, 2016 6:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Board Meeting

Location: Sky Harbor A/B

Friday, September 16, 2016

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

General Session

Location: Grand BC

Saturday, September 17, 2016

7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

EVENING FUNCTIONS

One ticket is included in your registration. Please RSVP on the registration form if you plan to attend.

Welcome Reception

Date: Friday, September 16, 2016

Time: 5:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Location: Grand A- Entry Level

Attire: Business Casual

Meet your fellow CSRO SSAC attendees at this welcoming event. See old friends and greet new faces while enjoying hors d'oeuvres.

Welcome Dinner

Date: Friday, September 16, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Gibson's Bar & Steakhouse

Attire: Business Casual

Non-industry attendees and speakers are invited to attend the Welcome Dinner on Friday night.

Cocktail Reception

Date: Saturday, September 17, 2016

Time: 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency O'Hare Red Bar and Lounge

Attire: Business Casual

Network with fellow CSRO SSAC attendees and share insights from the conference while enjoying hors d'oeuvres.



Herbert S. B. Baraf, MD, FACP, MACR, is the senior member and managing partner of Arthritis and Rheumatism Associates, the largest private practice rheumatology group in the United States. He is a clinical professor of medicine at The George Washington University School of Medicine and a clinical associate professor of medicine at the University of Maryland.

As a former member of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee for the American College of Rheumatology, Dr. Baraf was responsible for the development of "Practice Issues," a lecture series on topics of particular interest to practicing rheumatologists. He has served on several other committees of the College, including RheumPac, the College's political advocacy committee, and the Professional Meetings Committee, where his efforts were instrumental in the development of dedicated musculoskeletal ultrasound courses for clinical rheumatologists.

Dr. Baraf has lectured at regional and national meetings throughout the United States on practice management for rheumatologists. He has been invited by the ACR and CSRO to present workshops and lectures on clinical practice to graduating fellows for the past several years.

Dr. Baraf has co-authored several publications on therapeutics in the rheumatic diseases. He has presented his work on gout, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and the safety of NSAID therapy at meetings of the ACR and EULAR. He lectures widely on the manifestations of and treatment for the rheumatic diseases.

Dr. Baraf is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the State University of New York, Downstate where he received his medical degree. He completed his internal medicine training at The George Washington University Hospital, Washington, DC, and his fellowship in rheumatology at Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina. He is Board Certified in internal medicine and rheumatology.



Howard Blumstein, MD, joined Rheumatology Associates of Long Island in 2005. Dr. Blumstein graduated summa cum laude from Binghamton University with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. He attended SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. His Internal Medicine residency was completed at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in 2003. He completed his Rheumatology Fellowship at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York in 2005.

Dr. Blumstein is in full-time clinical practice at RALI. He is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at Stony Brook University Hospital and participates in the Rheumatology Fellowship Program. Dr. Blumstein has authored scientific papers published in peer-reviewed journals on topics including geriatric rheumatology and temporal arteritis. He has a wide range of clinical interests and cares for patients with rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, scleroderma and other collagen vascular diseases. Dr. Blumstein has been recognized by Vitals.com and has received both Compassionate Doctor Recognition and a Patients' Choice Award since 2008. Dr Blumstein has been listed by Newsday and Castle Connelly top doctors for 2016.

Dr. Blumstein is actively involved in the clinical research program at RALI and is currently a principal investigator on several research projects. Dr. Blumstein is very involved in political advocacy for patients with rheumatic diseases and is the current chair of the Affiliate Society Council at the American College of Rheumatology and the chair of the government affairs and payor relations committee for the New York State Rheumatology Society and United Rheumatology.



Keith Bradbury, RPh, MS, has over 30 years of experience serving in clinical leadership positions and consulting roles within the hospital pharmacy, health plans, and the pharmaceutical and PBM industries.

Mr. Bradbury is currently a principal consultant for Advantage Point Solutions, a consulting agency that works with the pharmaceutical industry on issues of market access, launch and pre-launch strategies and product life-cycle management, payer segmentation, innovative contracting and rebating strategies, as well as conducting payer research on new and existing products.

Prior to his consulting role at Advantage Point Solutions, Mr. Bradbury served as senior director in the Office of Clinical Policy & Evaluations (OCEP) at Express Scripts. Prior to this position, Keith had 16 years experience at Medco leading a large drug information staff, as executive director of Drug Information. In this role, he served as the direct link between the PBM and the outside independent Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Committees for the commercial and Medicare Part D businesses. Keith and his staff were responsible for all drug and drug class clinical evaluations conducted at Medco for commercial and Medicare Part D members over the past 16 years, as well as the collection, synthesis & presentation of all clinical data to the P&T Committee for the purposes of formulary, coverage rule development for specialty and traditional drugs as well as clinical policy review and development. Keith was also responsible for writing sections of the Annual Medco Drug Trend Report from 1998 until 2012.

Prior to joining Medco in 1997, Keith held clinical leadership positions as director for Clinical Pharmacy Services within the Department of Pharmacy at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, and as Regional Pharmacy Director for the Northeast region for Prudential Pharmacy Management, Roseland New Jersey.



Kevin Daley is a Government Affairs Specialist at WJ Weiser & Associates where he tracks and analyzes state legislation and regulation of impact to clients. He began his career in politics and government in 2010 where he led the Chicago area Advance Team for the Illinois Republican gubernatorial candidate. He spent the next six years working for the Illinois legislature and the Illinois House Republican Organization. Kevin graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in political science and is currently working towards earning his MPA degree from the University of Illinois.



Sarah M. Doaty, MD, is a rheumatologist at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage, Arkansas. She recently completed a rheumatology fellowship at UCLA, during which time she served on the ACR's Fellows-in-Training Subcommittee and Government Affairs Committee. She is the co-director of the ACR's Advocacy 101 program, a health policy training session in Washington DC for rheumatology fellows and program directors, which she helped to launch in 2015. Dr. Doaty is a member of the Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO) Board of Directors.

Dr. Doaty received a B.S. in Biology from The American University. She attended medical school and completed a residency in Internal Medical/Primary Care at the George Washington University. Her interests include access to specialty care among rural patient populations and rheumatology fellow engagement in health policy and patient advocacy.



Madelaine A. Feldman, MD, FACR, is a rheumatologist in private practice with The Rheumatology Group in New Orleans, Louisiana. She completed medical school, an internal medicine residency and a rheumatology fellowship at Tulane University Medical School. She is a founding member and past president of the Rheumatology Alliance of Louisiana, vice-president of the Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations, (CSRO) and presently serves on the insurance subcommittee for the ACR. She is a member of the Biologic working group of the Alliance for Patient Access and serves as a medical editor for Health Monitor Network. Dr. Feldman is also a clinical associate professor of medicine at Tulane University School of Medicine and has been named one of the Top Doctors in New Orleans for over 10 years and also had a medical radio talk show, “Driving with Dr. Mattie” which aired locally during drive time.



Helen Fitzpatrick is the Director of Government Relations for the Midwest region for Celgene Corporation. In her role, she oversees Celgene’s legislative and political initiatives in eight states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin).

Before joining Celgene, Helen was the Government Relations Manager for Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC), the nation’s fourth largest health insurance company, where she supported the company’s federal and state advocacy activities during a transformative time with the passage of the Affordable Care Act, as well as overseeing the company’s political programs.

Prior to moving to Chicago from Washington, D.C., Helen worked as staff for numerous federal and state campaigns, including a former Attorney General from her home state of Virginia.

Helen received her master’s degree from George Washington University and undergraduate from Washington and Lee University.



Seth Ginsberg is an internationally recognized health advocate and thought leader in the global healthcare innovation conversation.

Mr. Ginsberg was diagnosed at 13 with Spondylarthritis, and, at 18, in 1999, he helped pioneer the world’s first online patient community for the millions of people worldwide suffering from arthritis, called CreakyJoints. This platform has become a model for customized, interactive delivery of patient education, support services, advocacy initiatives and research efforts, that is today a part of the Global Healthy Living Foundation, the 501(c)(3) non-profit Ginsberg co-founded with social entrepreneur Louis Tharp in 2004.

Ginsberg continues to innovate ways to accelerate access to care, incorporating evidence-based advocacy and patient reported outcomes measurement for improved care delivery and comparative effectiveness research for people living with Rheumatoid Arthritis and related conditions. This innovative patient-centered research is conducted via the PCORI-funded initiative “ArthritisPower”, for which Ginsberg is a co-principal investigator and chair of its Patient Governor Group. The first ever direct-to-patient arthritis registry is generating an unprecedented amount of insight from patients living with complex autoimmune conditions, and the ArthritisPower platform also serves as a robust health tracking tool with the aim to improve doctor-patient communication about symptoms and disease progression – allowing patients to participate using their smartphone or via the Internet.

Ginsberg works closely with Congress and health-related Congressional Committees, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and its regulatory agency the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as well as state governors and legislature leadership on behalf of people living with chronic illness. As the co-founder of GHLF’s “50-State Network”, he has helped to build a network of 500 patient advocates in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, who actively participate in the process of improving access to care on behalf of people living with all forms of chronic illnesses.

Ginsberg is a recurrent guest on local and national broadcast news programs, a regular op-ed contributor, healthcare news, opinion and advice column at U.S. News & World Report, talk radio show guest host, and a frequent keynote speaker at professional conferences and patient meetings. He lives in Manhattan with his wife, Cara Zelas, who is the author of the children’s book series “The Big World of Little Dude”, and their daughter Grace.



Emily L. Graham, RHIA, CCS-P, is vice president of Regulatory Affairs. Before her move to Hart Health Strategies Inc., Ms. Graham served as the assistant dean and program director for the Health Information Management (HIM) and Clinical Data Coding (CDC) Programs at Northern Virginia Community College's (NVCC) Medical Education Campus (MEC). Ms. Graham continues to serve as an adjunct faculty member for the traditional HIM/CDC programs, as well as the Office of the National Coordinator's (ONC) Community College Consortium Health IT Workforce Development Program.

Prior to her time in academia, Ms. Graham served as the associate director of Regulatory Affairs for the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS), where she focused on a variety of regulatory issues, including Medicare physician reimbursement, Medicare's quality improvement initiatives and advancements in health information technology. In that role she had regular dealings with representatives of the Department of Health and Human Services, to include the CMS, the ONC, and the FDA. She also served as chair of the Quality and Health Information Technology and Regulatory Committee's for the Alliance of Specialty Medicine and as a staff liaison to the AMA's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Editorial Panel and Relative Value System Update Committee (RUC), the NQF, SQA, and AQA Alliance.

Ms. Graham previously held a position at the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head Neck Surgery as a practice management coordinator, where she focused on coding and reimbursement issues. She has also held positions in an acute care hospital billing office and in a physician practice.



Michele Guadalupe, MPH, is the State Director of Advocacy and Access for the Arthritis Foundation – where she is responsible for grassroots advocacy and state public policy initiatives in the Midwest. She has been with the Arthritis Foundation since 2005. In 2016, Ms. Guadalupe – along with Arthritis Foundation advocates – played a key role in passing step therapy legislation in Illinois, Indiana and Missouri.

Ms. Guadalupe holds an undergraduate degree in health education from Illinois State University and completed her Masters of Public Health from the University of Illinois at Chicago. During her MPH program, she had the opportunity to intern at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Anna Hyde is the senior director of advocacy and access at the Arthritis Foundation. She manages the federal legislative and regulatory portfolio for the Foundation, in addition to overseeing the Advocacy and Access field staff. Her focus is to raise the visibility of arthritis as a public health priority, build support for federal and state legislation that ensures access to affordable, high-quality health care, and enhance patient engagement in the policy-making process.

Prior to joining the Arthritis Foundation in 2014, Ms. Hyde worked as senior manager for Federal Affairs at the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, where she managed a portfolio of issues including appropriations, physician workforce, and health IT. She began her health policy career as a Congressional Fellow in the Offices of Anthony Weiner (D-NY) and Gene Green (D-TX), where she drafted legislation and staffed Energy and Commerce Committee activities. Ms. Hyde received a BA in History from Southern Methodist University, and taught junior high and high school history before moving to Washington D.C. in 2007 to pursue an MA in Political Science from American University.



Donald J. Palmisano, MD, JD, FACS, is a graduate of Tulane Medical School (1963) and Loyola Law School (1982). He completed his surgery residency at Tulane and is a board-certified surgeon and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Palmisano is a former president of the Louisiana State Medical Society (1984-85) and the American Medical Association (AMA) (2003-04). He teaches *Leadership in Medicine* as a clinical professor at Tulane Medical School.

A sought-after speaker on leadership and health system reform at national meetings, Dr. Palmisano frequently contributes Op-Eds and media commentary on national TV and radio. He serves on two editorial boards, *The Journal of the Louisiana State Medical Society* and the *Journal of Patient Safety*. Past boards include the American Medical Association, the Joint Commission, and The National Patient Safety Foundation. Currently he serves on the board of The Doctors Company, a medical liability company, and the advisory board of the Tulane Medical School Simulation Center.

He has delivered over 1000 speeches and media interviews and testified in Congress many times. He was a key participant in the development and passage of Louisiana's medical malpractice legislation in 1975. His message about the need for less government and third-party involvement in medicine, as well as the need to fix the broken liability system, has not changed since he first testified to Congress on behalf of the Orleans Parish Medical Society in 1976.

Dr. Palmisano is a recipient of many awards, including induction into the Louisiana State Medical Society's Hall of Fame in 2000, Loyola University New Orleans President's Medal in 2005 and on October 4, 2013, he was awarded Tulane Medical Alumni Association's highest award, Outstanding Medical Alumnus 2013. While in the USAF, he received the Commendation Medal for his "...outstanding professional skill, knowledge, and leadership...in accomplishing immediate evacuation and medical treatment of the crew members and rescue personnel injured in a major aircraft accident." (B-52 crash)

He tweets at @DJPNEWS, blogs at www.DJPNEWS.com, and has www.onleadership.us for his acclaimed books, *On Leadership* (2008 & 2011 2nd edition) and his new book *The Little Red Book of Leadership Lessons* (2012). His risk management and patient safety Website is www.IntrepidResources.com and he consults for speeches with *DONALD J PALMISANO CONSULTING*.

Dr. Palmisano is married to Robin Spencer Palmisano, a health care attorney; has three grown children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Dr. Palmisano is an award-winning photographer with an interest in macrophotography and "painting with light." He grows bromeliads and any other plant that can survive minimal care in his greenhouse. He resides in Metairie, Louisiana, a suburb of New Orleans where he was born.



Amy Prentice represents the National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF) on legislative and regulatory matters at the state and local levels. As State Government Relations Manager, her responsibilities include researching and tracking state legislative rulings, regulatory, and public policy initiatives pertaining and related to psoriatic disease. She also focuses on working in collaboration with state coalitions and other alliances on chronic health issues of interest; and working closely with patient advocates and their involvement in the state public policy process.

Ms. Prentice received her Master of Public Administration from George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. She also has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Evangel University.



Gregory F. Schimizzi, MD, graduated from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan before moving on to complete his medical degree at the same school. Dr. Schimizzi then began his residency in internal medicine at Wayne State University Affiliated Hospitals in Detroit, Michigan before moving to complete a residency rheumatology and clinical immunology at the University of California in Irvine, California. Dr. Schimizzi has been involved with multiple organizations and was a co-founder of CSRO. He currently serves as treasurer of CSRO.



Michael C. Schweitz, MD, completed a seven year undergraduate and medical school program at the George Washington University in Washington, DC in 1972. He completed his internal medicine training at GW and his rheumatology fellowship at Georgetown University in 1977. He then entered private practice in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Dr. Schweitz is a partner in Arthritis and Rheumatology Associates of Palm Beach, a seven physician single specialty practice in Palm Beach County. He is Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Rheumatology. He served as a member of the Committee on Rheumatologic Care. He is a past president of the Florida Society of Rheumatology and continues to sit on its Executive Committee. He is an active member of the American Society of Clinical Rheumatology.

He has served on the Board of Directors of the Arthritis Foundation at both state and local levels for many years and for the past thirty-three years has donated his time in helping to staff a free arthritis clinic for medically indigent patients in Palm Beach County.

Currently, he is Federal Advocacy Chair of the Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO), an advocacy group comprised of state and regional Rheumatology societies which he helped form in 2003. In this capacity, he has been an active proponent of advocacy for rheumatic diseases in the nation's capital. He is also a frequent lecturer on topics related to rheumatology and practice management.

Dr. Schweitz has been recognized in "Best Doctors of South Florida" and "America's Top Physicians." His personal interests include wine collecting and wine education, as well as collecting first edition crime fiction.



Michael P. Stevens, MD, FACR, graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Comparative Literature, french/english. Several years later, he started medical studies in Mexico and went on to complete his medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Kaiser San Francisco and his Fellowship in Rheumatology at UCSF. He has been in solo private practice in San Mateo, California, since 1992.

Dr. Stevens became president of the Northern California Rheumatology Society in 2002. He founded the California Rheumatology Alliance in 2004 and led that organization until 2010. He joined the Board of Directors of the CSRO by 2005 and became the third president of the CSRO in 2015.

He is married to a pediatrician and has two boys. Interests include piano, golf and oenology. The latter pursuit has been inspired and continues to be nurtured by learned colleagues, Drs Schweitz and Schimizzi.



Joshua Stolow, MD, is a Board Certified rheumatologist who has been in private practice for 27 years. He graduated with a BA from Columbia College in New York City. He earned his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh. Internship and residency were completed at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. He completed his rheumatology fellowship at Northwestern University in Chicago. He has practiced in Tulsa and San Antonio. He has been on the executive board of the CSRO for many years. Dr. Stolow has been interested in financial management since starting his private practice in 1989. He is a big fan of Dr. James Dahlie, aka “The White Coat Investor.” Dr. Dahlie is unable to speak today because of prior commitments, and he graciously allowed Dr. Stolow to utilize his slide set for this presentation.



Martin Zagari, MD, MBA, is vice president of Global Health Economics at Amgen. In this role, he directs the planning, execution and scientific dissemination of worldwide economic and value evidence for Amgen’s entire product portfolio from early stage molecules to marketed products. Dr. Zagari joined Amgen in May of 2005.

Prior to Amgen, between 1997 and 2005, Dr. Zagari held various positions at Johnson & Johnson in Health Economics, Medical Affairs, and Strategic Marketing. These positions included: Executive Director in J&J Corporate Strategic Marketing for the erythropoietic agents, Medical Director for erythropoietic treatments in oncology at Ortho Biotech, and Director positions in Health Economics.

Between 1994 and 1997, Dr. Zagari worked in Health Economics and Outcomes consulting at Technology Assessment Group/Lewin-TAG, based in San Francisco.

Martin received his MD from Stanford University, an MBA from Rutgers University, and BS in Biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is trained in anesthesiology.

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