

COALITION OF STATE RHEUMATOLOGY ORGANIZATIONS

CSRO

Celebrating 15 Years

2003 - 2018

Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations

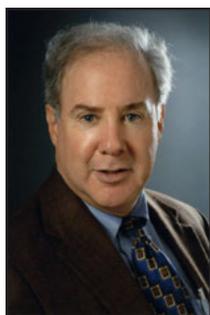
2018 STATE SOCIETY ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 14 - 15, 2018

The Westin O'Hare | Rosemont, Illinois

PROGRAM BOOK

WELCOME



Greetings!

I am honored to welcome you to the CSRO 2018 State Society Advocacy Conference, September 14 - 15, 2018, at The Westin O'Hare in Rosemont, Illinois. This year marks the 15th Anniversary of the CSRO. We're so happy you are here to celebrate with us.

Importantly, we will also bring you up-to-date on the current status of rheumatology in this changing political environment.

As our plans for the 2019 legislative season take shape, we look forward to the continued participation of physicians, advocacy groups and patients that have made our coalition effective in our many endeavors.

I hope you enjoy your time here at the 2018 State Society Advocacy Conference!

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Stevens, MD, FACR
CSRO President

Our agenda is certain to engage rheumatologists and inspire action on issues affecting the practice of rheumatology. The conference will present important resources to strengthen your organization, build up your legislative advocacy programs, encourage advocacy among your state members as well as help you network with colleagues from across the country.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Message	Inside Front Cover
Board of Directors.....	Inside Front Cover
General Meeting Information	1
About CSRO	2
CSRO 2018 Highlights.....	3
Program.....	5
Speaker Biosketches.....	6
Thank You to CSRO Contributors.....	Back Cover

GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION

REGISTRATION/INFORMATION DESK HOURS

Location: LaSalle Ballroom Foyer

Friday, September 14, 2018 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 15, 2018 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

GENERAL SESSION HOURS

Location: LaSalle Ballroom

Saturday, September 15, 2018 7:50 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

EVENING FUNCTIONS

Welcome Reception

Date: Friday September 14
Time: 5:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Location: LaSalle Ballroom Foyer
Attire: Business Casual

Welcome Dinner

Date: Friday, September 14
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Location: Gibsons Steakhouse
5464 N River Rd, Rosemont, IL
Attire: Business Casual

*Buses depart at 6:45 p.m. Meet in the hotel lobby.
Buses depart back to the hotel at 9:00 p.m.*

Cocktail Reception

Date: Saturday, September 15
Time: 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Location: LaSalle Ballroom Foyer
Attire: Business Casual

ABOUT CSRO

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, the CSRO strives to achieve its 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 state rheumatology society activities that advocate for 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 and regional professional organizations to create and advance a rheumatologic and musculoskeletal health agenda at private, public, and political levels.

In order to promote these objectives, the 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 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, 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 conference attendees such as industry leaders and other medical specialties/sub-specialties.

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

To learn more about CSRO, visit our website, www.CSRO.info
You can also connect with us on social media.



facebook.com/CSROAdvocacy



[@CSROadvocacy \(twitter.com/CSROAdvocacy\)](https://twitter.com/CSROadvocacy)

Tweet about the 2018 SSAC Meeting using [#CSROSSAC2018](https://twitter.com/hashtag/CSROSSAC2018)

2018 CSRO HIGHLIGHTS

CSRO Pushes Non-Medical Switching Protections over the Finish Line in Illinois

Non-medical switching continues to be an issue for patients suffering from complex chronic illnesses in the United States, and CSRO has been heavily involved in advocating for measures that protect patients from being forced off of their therapies. One such piece of legislation was HB 4146 in Illinois. Following a 2016 victory on the state's step-therapy reform measure, CSRO, alongside its partners, identified the state as a prime opportunity for the passage of additional patient protection measures.

After a lengthy battle with various PBMs and health plans, the Illinois legislature passed legislation that provides a mechanism to protect patients from non-medical switches within a plan year. CSRO shepherded the legislation throughout this process, which included crucial testimony delivered by CSRO Vice President Madelaine Feldman.



Dr. Feldman testifies on HB4146 before the Special Committee on Medicaid Managed Care

Late this August the legislation was signed into law by the Governor, and goes into effect in January.

CSRO Joins with Partners to Educate Federal Lawmakers



In July, the CSRO joined numerous other specialty practice organizations and their leadership teams for the Alliance of Specialty Medicine's Annual Capitol Hill Advocacy Day. Participants were afforded an excellent opportunity to meet with legislators on issues affecting specialty practitioners at the Federal level.

This year the Alliance focused on the following legislative priorities:

- Maintaining a Viable Fee for Service Option in the Merit-based Incentive (MIPS) Program
- Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act (HR 2267/ S 1301)
- Prior Authorization and Step Therapy
- USPSTF Transparency and Accountability
- Local Coverage Determination Clarification Act (HR 3635/ S 794)
- Medical Liability Reform

BIO International Convention

The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) represents over 1,100 stakeholders in the biotechnology industry across the United States and internationally. BIO hosted its 2018 International Convention in Boston, and CSRO took the opportunity to attend.

CSRO Treasurer, Dr. Schimizzi, and CSRO Director of Government Relations, Kevin Daley, also used the opportunity to participate in a panel discussion in partnership with the AIMED Alliance. The pair were able to talk about patient realities and the political environment for solutions on the panel, which focused on preserving the right to quality care.



CSRO Treasurer, Dr. Greg Schimizzi, talks patient realities

2018 CSRO HIGHLIGHTS

Clinical Congress of Rheumatology

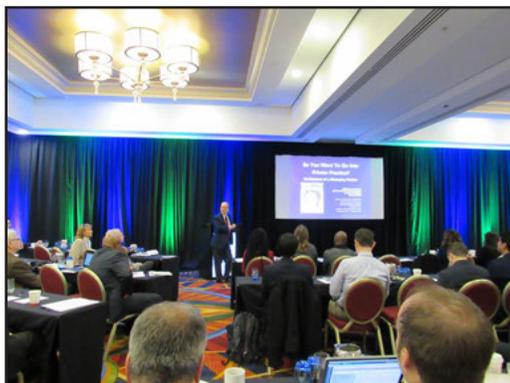
The annual Clinical Congress of Rheumatology Conference draws over 500 physicians from across the United States, and CSRO continued its commitment to participating in 2018. CSRO board members and staff traveled to participate in sessions and exhibit to attendees. CSRO used the opportunity to engage attendees and vendors, educating them on issues such as pharmacy benefit managers.

With the Clinical Congress of Rheumatology also representing the largest gathering of rheumatologists aside from the annual American College of Rheumatology Conference, it was an excellent opportunity to network with colleagues who can become more heavily involved in advocating for patients. CSRO provided advocacy tips and information on how to get involved with CSRO and the state rheumatology societies.



CSRO Vice President, Madelaine Feldman with AWIR Vice President, Dr. Gwenesta Melton

Fellows



Fellows listen in on advice for going into private practice

2018 marked another successful Fellows Conference presented by the CSRO. Fellows from across the country gathered in San Francisco to obtain crucial information they will need to navigate the next phase of their careers. The program offered interdisciplinary perspectives from successful practitioners, lawyers, and administrators, which offered a comprehensive and nuanced catalogue of issues that Fellows will face both inside and outside the scope of treating patients.

Topics included: early career financial management, employment contracts, malpractice and risk management, perspectives on private, group, and multispecialty practice, provider advocacy, and more.

NCSL

Each year state legislators from across the country congregate to discuss innovative solutions that can be implemented to solve problems faced in common by various state legislatures. The event serves as an important educational forum for state lawmakers that can learn more about problems their constituents are facing and potential fixes.

Among these issues, CSRO made a point of raising awareness about the expansion of accumulator adjustment programs by PBMs. To date, no state has offered a solution that maintains continuity of care for stable patients, and CSRO was able to start a conversation among a broad number of policymakers that will allow for further scrutiny of these practices moving forward.



CSRO Executive Committee Members, Doctors Greg Schimizzi and Madelaine Feldman, educate policymakers in Los Angeles

PROGRAM

All sessions will be located in **LaSalle Ballroom** unless otherwise noted. Speakers and times are subject to change.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2018

OVERVIEW

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Registration/Information Desk Open
Location: LaSalle Ballroom Foyer

5:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. Welcome Reception
Location: LaSalle Ballroom Foyer

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Welcome Dinner
Location: Gibsons Steakhouse

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

OVERVIEW

7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Registration/Information Desk Open
Location: LaSalle Ballroom Foyer

7:00 a.m. - 7:50 a.m. Breakfast

GENERAL SESSION

7:50 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Welcome Remarks
Michael P. Stevens, MD, FACR

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Exploring the States: CSRO Legislative Priorities and How State Societies Can Influence Policy
Kevin Daley

8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Federal Legislative and Regulatory Update: Issues Impacting Rheumatologists and their Patients
Emily L. Graham, RHIA, CCS-P

9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Break

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Future of Biosimilars: Challenges in Substitution and Interchangeability
Moderator: Gregory F. Schimizzi, MD
Panelists: Gary Fanjiang, MD
Sue Lim, MD
Madelaine A. Feldman, MD, FACR

10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Are Drug Prices Too High? If So, Why?
Geoffrey Joyce, PHD

11:15 a.m. - 11:50 a.m. In the Spotlight: ATAP's Efforts to Combat PBMs
Robert W. Levin, MD

11:50 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. LUNCH KEYNOTE LECTURE: The Current Political and Legislative Environment
Charlie Cook

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. How to Regulate PBMs Through State Legislation
Moderator: Madelaine A. Feldman, MD, FACR
Panelists: Scott Lipps, State Representative
Mary Whiteford, State Representative

2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Fireside Chat with Former Medicare Payment Advisory Commissioner Jack Hoadley
Moderator: Michael C. Schweitz, MD
Panelist: Jack Hoadley, PhD

2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Utilization Management: Evaluating the Legislative Process in the States
Moderator: Brian Henderson
Panelists: Kelly Fenton, State Representative
Laura Fine, State Representative
Ralph Massullo, State Representative

3:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. Advocacy Tools & the Physician Economic Impact Study
Wes Cleveland, JD

4:15 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
Location: LaSalle Ballroom Foyer

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

Statements, opinions and results of studies contained in the program are those of the presenters/authors and do not reflect the policy or position of the Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations nor does the CSRO provide any warranty as to their accuracy or reliability.

GENERAL SESSION RECORDING

The general session will be video recorded. Please note that if you ask questions during the session, you may be video and/or audio recorded.

Please see the registration/information desk should you have any concerns.

SPEAKER BIOSKETCHES



Wes Cleveland

Mr. Cleveland is an attorney in the American Medical Association's Advocacy Resource Center. Prior to joining the AMA, Mr. Cleveland served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Texas Attorney General, an attorney in the Texas Medical Association's Office of General Counsel, and in private practice in Austin, Texas, representing physicians, hospitals, and individual and institutional health care providers.

Mr. Cleveland advocates for physicians on a wide variety of concerns, including but not limited to issues related to fraud and abuse, antitrust, physician employment, the Employee Retirement Income and Security Act, and managed care.



Charlie Cook, Keynote Speaker

Mr. Cook is editor and publisher of *The Cook Political Report* and a political analyst for the National Journal Group. In 1984, Mr. Cook founded the independent, non-partisan *Cook Political Report*. Now, with a staff of six, it is a publication that the New York Times once said was "a newsletter that both parties regard as authoritative" while CBS News' Bob Schieffer called it "the bible of the political community."

Al Hunt from the Wall Street Journal has referred to Mr. Cook as "the Picasso of election analysis." The late David Broder of The Washington Post, long considered "the Dean" of the Washington press corps, once wrote that Mr. Cook is "perhaps the best non-partisan tracker of Congressional races."

Mr. Cook has appeared frequently on *ABC World News Tonight*, *CBS Evening News*, *NBC Nightly News*, and *ABC's This Week*. Since the 1990s, he has appeared over a dozen times on *NBC's Meet the Press*. Over the years Charlie has served as an Election Night analyst for CBS, CNN and NBC and, since 1996, on *NBC News Election Night Decision Desk* in New York.

In 2010, Mr. Cook was the co-recipient of the American Political Science Association's prestigious Carey McWilliams Award to honor "a major journalistic contribution to our understanding of politics." In 2013, Mr. Cook served as a Resident Fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.



Kevin Daley

Mr. Daley is Director of Government Relations 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. Mr.

Daley 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.



Gary Fanjiang, MD, MBA, MS

Dr. Fanjiang is the Executive Medical Director for Amgen Biosimilars and is the global development lead for the inflammation and chronic disease portfolios. Prior to joining Amgen, he was the Divisional Vice President and Head of Research and Development for Asia-Pacific at Abbott. Formerly, he was the Divisional Vice President, head of Scientific and Medical Affairs at Abbott. Preceding his roles at Abbott, Dr. Fanjiang

was Associate Medical Director at AstraZeneca.

Dr. Fanjiang received his medical degree and pediatric training at Tufts Medical Center, and subspecialty training in pediatric gastroenterology at Massachusetts General Hospital for Children.



Madelaine A. Feldman, MD, FACR CSRO Vice President

Dr. Feldman is the founding member and past president of the Rheumatology Alliance of Louisiana, Vice President of the Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations, (CSRO), and has served on the insurance subcommittee for the ACR. She is the Chair of the Alliance for Safe Biologic Medicines. She has served on the board of the Institute for Patient access

and biologic working group for AfPA. A Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at Tulane University School of Medicine, she has been named one of the Top Doctors in New Orleans for over 10 years. She was awarded the Distinguished Service Award in 2018 by the Tulane Medical Alumni association and named one of the 2017 top 50 women in New Orleans by New Orleans City Business.



Minnesota Representative Kelly Fenton

Representative Fenton is serving her second term in the Minnesota House of Representatives, proudly serving the people of District 53B in Woodbury. She is an Assistant Majority Leader and Vice Chair of both the Commerce and Regulatory Reform Committee and the Subcommittee on Workplace Safety and Respect. She also serves on the Rules and Legislative Administration, State Government Finance, and

Government Operations and Elections Policy committees.

Representative Fenton has a strong passion for improving education in Minnesota. She brings extensive experience to the Legislature as a former educator and school administrator for the fourth largest school district in the nation. She also helped train educators receiving alternative certification through programs including Teach for America.

Also working to improve health care in Minnesota, Representative Fenton is championing legislation this session to improve awareness of Cytomegalovirus and help affected children and their families and another bill to expand mental health services in Minnesota. Additionally, Representative Fenton carried the bill for Step Therapy Reform which was recently signed into law. She is also a strong voice in the House for meaningful health care reforms that will help improve affordability, accessibility and choice for Minnesotans.

Her political experience includes previously serving as the Deputy Chair of the Republican Party of Minnesota. She is a current board member and past President of Minnesota Excellence in Public Service, a woman's leadership and political training program.

Representative Fenton has a B.A. in education from Marquette University and a Masters in Education from the University of Houston. She lives with her husband, Greg in Woodbury. Together, they have three children.

SPEAKER BIOSKETCHES



Illinois Representative Laura Fine

Representative Fine is serving her third full term as the State Representative of the 17th District, which includes all or portions of Evanston, Glenview, Golf, Morton Grove, Northbrook, Skokie, and Wilmette. She serves on 6 committees in the Illinois House of Representatives: House Committee on Insurance: Health and Life (Chairwoman), the House Appropriations Committee on Higher Education, and

the House committees on Environment, Human Services, Insurance: Property and Casualty and Mental Health (Vice-Chair).

Prior to being elected to the state legislature, Representative Fine was an instructor in the Political Science Department at Northeastern Illinois University and served as the Clerk of Northfield Township. Representative Fine has also worked in radio and television news for various media outlets throughout the Midwest. She is currently a board member of Angles (formerly Links North Shore Youth Health Service).

Representative Fine holds a B.A. in telecommunications from Indiana University, an M.A. in political science from Northeastern Illinois University, and is a graduate of the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership; graduate of Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development; Edgar Fellow; member, Kiwanis Club of Glenview-Northbrook, Rotary Club of Glenview Sunrise and Glenview/Glencoe League of Women Voters. Representative Fine lives in Glenview with her husband, Michael and their two sons.



Emily L. Graham, RHIA, CCS-P

Ms. Graham 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 held positions in an acute care hospital billing office and in a physician practice.



Brian Henderson

Brian Henderson is a Government Affairs Specialist at WJ Weiser & Associates where he helps handle state government relations and legislative advocacy for the Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations. He has worked on a variety of patient access issues including step-therapy, non-medical switching, and pharmacy benefit managers. Prior to working with CSRO, he worked in the Canadian Federal Government on

analyzing health and energy policy issues. Brian graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and History.



Jack Hoadley, PhD

Dr. Hoadley is Research Professor Emeritus in the Health Policy Institute of Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy. He retired in 2017 but continues to conduct research on a part-time basis. In 35 years as a health policy researcher, he has studied a wide range of health financing topics focusing on Medicare, Medicaid, and private health insurance. Recent papers have addressed access,

costs, and coverage for prescription drugs; Medicaid coverage for children and families in small towns and rural areas; the Medicare Part D drug benefit; insurance exchanges under the Affordable Care Act; and consumer protections around surprise medical bills. Dr. Hoadley served six years as a commissioner on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) from 2012 to 2018. He holds a PhD in political science. Prior to arriving at Georgetown in 2002, he held staff positions at the Department of Health and Human Services, MedPAC, the Physician Payment Review Commission, and the National Health Policy Forum.



Geoffrey Joyce, PhD

Dr. Joyce is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical and Health Economics at the University of Southern California, Director of Health Policy at the Leonard D. Schaeffer Center, and Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Dr. Joyce is the author of over 90 peer-reviewed articles, reports, and book chapters, and his research has been published in leading medical, economic, health policy, and statistics journals. Dr. Joyce's work has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, U.S. News and World Report, NBC Nightly News, CBS Evening News, National Public Radio, and other media.

Dr. Joyce's research focuses on the costs of medical care and the role of insurance. He published a series of studies in JAMA examining the impact of alternative pharmacy benefit designs on prescription drug utilization and spending. Other studies by Dr. Joyce have examined the lifetime costs of chronic disease, smoking cessation, the cost-effectiveness of highly active antiretroviral therapy for HIV-infected patients, and differences in medical care utilization and costs under alternative financing arrangements and treatment settings. He recently received a CMS Innovation grant that integrates clinical pharmacy into primary care. His current research is examining the impacts of Medicare Part D, prior authorization policies, and pricing in health care markets.

SPEAKER BIOSKETCHES



Robert W. Levin, MD

Dr. Levin has been in private practice in rheumatology in Clearwater, Florida for 29 years. He is the immediate past president of the Florida Society of Rheumatology and has been on the FSR Executive Committee for eight years. He is a member of the CSRO board and Chairman of the Alliance for Transparent and Affordable Prescriptions. Dr. Levin is also President of the Florida Society of Rheumatology PAC and a member of the Florida Medical Association PAC Board of Directors. In addition to practice, he is involved in clinical research in SLE, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout and osteoporosis. He is an Assistant Affiliate Professor of Medicine at the University of South Florida.



Sue Lim, MD

Dr. Lim is the Director of the Scientific Review Staff with the Therapeutic Biologics and Biosimilars Staff at FDA. In this role, she provides scientific oversight and advice on the development and approval of therapeutic biologics and biosimilar products and is involved in policy development and implementation as it pertains to biosimilar products. Dr. Lim was previously a Medical Officer with the FDA's Division of Anti-Infective Products. Prior to the FDA, Dr. Lim served as an Infectious Diseases physician and Associate Hospital Epidemiologist at the University Health Network in Toronto, Canada. She received her MD from the University of Toronto where she completed her residency in Internal Medicine and subspecialty training in Infectious Diseases and served as a Lecturer in the Faculty of Medicine. She has a Master of Science degree in Health Policy, Management and Evaluation from the University of Toronto.



Ohio Representative Scott Lipps

Representative Lipps is currently serving his first term in the Ohio House of Representatives. He represents the 62nd Ohio House District, which includes much of Warren County.

As a Southwest Ohio native, Representative Lipps was raised in Miamisburg, Ohio. After graduating from Miamisburg High School, Representative Lipps attended the College of Wooster. After his time at Wooster, Representative Lipps pursued a Masters degree at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois. Representative Lipps has been blessed with several successful businesses and many opportunities to serve his community over the last 25 years. He has been involved in philanthropy (Masons and Shriners), professional organizations (NFIB State Board, Optimists and Rotary Club, Farm Bureau, among others) and in public service (Franklin City Council and Mayor).



Florida Representative Ralph E. Massullo Jr., MD

Dr. Massullo has been a Citrus County physician and business owner for more than 25 years. As founder and president of his Lecanto-based practice, he is providing both valuable jobs for our community and needed medical services for our neighbors.

He is past president of the Florida Society of Dermatology Surgery, which named him Surgeon of the Year in 1998. Over the years he has authored numerous journal articles on cutting-edge medical techniques and technology to help better serve patients. Dr. Massullo has also participated in multiple missions to foreign countries to serve the needy.

Dr. Massullo has served on the board at Seven Rivers Christian School. He is also a co-sponsor of the USA Olympic wrestling team and an active supporter of local charitable causes. He and his wife, Patty, have four children and are active members of Seven Rivers Presbyterian church.

Dr. Massullo received the Distinguished Service Award from the Florida Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgeons for recognition of his outstanding leadership, dedication, and extraordinary contribution to the dermatology profession in July 2017.



Gregory F. Schimizzi, MD

Dr. Schimizzi was born and raised in metropolitan Detroit Michigan. He received his undergraduate and medical school education at Wayne State University. Dr. Schimizzi was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and a minor in mathematics and ultimately a Doctor of Medicine degree.

Dr. Schimizzi is dedicated to caring for adult rheumatology patients and cofounded Carolina Arthritis Associates in 1991. He has been an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and Coastal AHEC. He has been involved in advocating for access to care for rheumatology patients in North Carolina and across the entire country. He is responsible for restarting an inactive North Carolina Rheumatology Society (NCRA), which is now the third largest society in the United States, presiding as 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 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 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 continues to maintain an active role in the CSRO national activities by participating in meetings with United States Administrative and Congressional groups as well as speaking at numerous Rheumatology State Society meetings across the country.

SPEAKER BIOSKETCHES



Michael C. Schweitz, MD

Dr. Schweitz 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 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.

Dr. Schweitz 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, he 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.



**Michael P. Stevens, MD, FACR
CSRO President**

Dr. Stevens 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 the 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.



Michigan Representative Mary Whiteford

Representative Whiteford was first elected to serve the 80th District in the Michigan House of Representatives in March 2016. The 80th District includes 31 cities, villages, and townships in Allegan County. Representative Whiteford serves as chair of the House Appropriations Environmental Quality Subcommittee and vice chair of the Agriculture and Rural Development Subcommittee. She also serves as a member of the Subcommittees on Health and Human Services, and Licensing and Regulatory Affairs/Insurance and Financial Services.

Representative Whiteford earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Northern Illinois University. She worked in a pediatric neurosurgery unit before working in a pediatric emergency unit. In 1997 she started an accounting business with her husband, Kevin, and they now run their own financial firm where both her sons and nephew now work. She was an active volunteer in her children's schools, ran homeowner associations, was appointed to city committees and was appointed to the Michigan Women's Commission where she worked on raising human trafficking awareness. Representative Whiteford grew up in the Midwest, in the small town of Cary, Illinois and is the oldest of four children. She met her husband, Kevin, in college and they have three adult children and two grandkids. Representative Whiteford and her husband live in Casco Township just north of South Haven. As a small business owner and Michigan's legislature's only registered nurse, Representative Whiteford is passionate about listening to people and finding solutions.

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