

*Virginia Society of Rheumatology*  
ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING



**SEPTEMBER 19 - 21, 2025**

**GREAT WOLF LODGE | WILLIAMSBURG, VA**

**VSR** VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF  
RHEUMATOLOGY 

## CREDIT DESIGNATION

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the Medical Society of Virginia and the Virginia Society of Rheumatology. The Medical Society of Virginia is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The Medical Society of Virginia designates this activity for a maximum of 9.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*<sup>™</sup>. Physicians should claim only credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

## CREDIT CLAIM INSTRUCTIONS

Evaluations will be completed online. Scan the QR code to access the evaluation form and complete based on the extent of participation in each activity. Make sure you submit with all of your contact information at the conclusion of the meeting. A certificate will be emailed to you from the Medical Society of Virginia within three weeks.



## EXHIBITS

We extend our sincere appreciation to companies that have supported this conference. All refreshments will be served in the exhibit area. Please visit the exhibitors!

## CASINO NIGHT | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH

Get ready for an evening of fun and excitement at Casino Night during the VSR meeting! This family-friendly event features classic casino games — all just for fun, with no real gambling or money involved. Bring the whole crew and test your luck at the tables, win chips, and trade them in for a chance to score prizes! There will be an open bar and heavy appetizers served. All attendees and guests welcome, no additional registration required. Gold, Platinum, and Diamond level sponsors welcome.

## PLAY TO WIN RAFFLE

All attendees receive a “Play to Win” raffle card in their registration packets. Visit at least 20 vendors and get a signature from each one. We will raffle off two \$150 Visa gift cards! Winners will be announced Saturday & Sunday after the morning networking breaks.

## POSTER SESSION & THIEVES MARKET

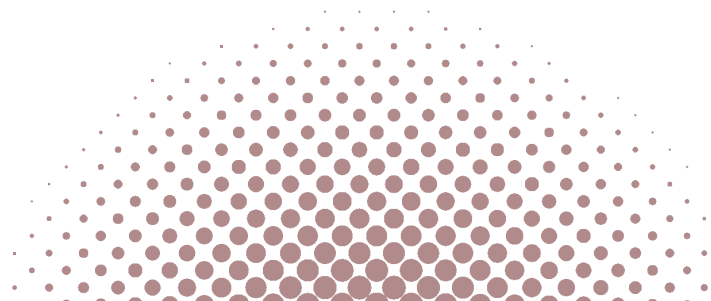
Make sure to cast your votes to help select the winners for each!

## VSR

Carly Miller | VSR Executive Director  
2821 Emerywood Parkway, Suite 200 | Richmond, VA 23294  
804.205.9774 | vsrdirector@ramdocs.org | www.vsonline.org

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# AGENDA | FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.      **Registration**  
*Oak Ballroom Pre-function*
- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.      **Grab & Go Lunch Buffet**  
*Oak Ballroom Pre-function*
- 12:50 - 1:00 p.m.      **Welcome | Oak Ballroom A**  
*Aarat Patel, MD*  
*Program Chair, Virginia Society of Rheumatology*
- 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.      **The Current State of AI in Rheumatology**  
*Paul Sufka, MD*  
*Twin Cities Orthopedics*
- 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.      **Relapsing Polychondritis**  
*Marcela Ferrada, MD*  
*Division of Rheumatology, University of Maryland*
- 3:00 - 3:30 p.m.      **Break | Visit Exhibitors & Posters**  
*Pre-function & Oak Ballroom B*
- 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.      **Autoinflammatory Disease in 2025 | Oak Ballroom A**  
*Amanda Ombrello, MD*  
*Associate Research Physician, National Human Genome Research Institute*
- 4:30 - 5:15 p.m.      **Thieves Market Presentations**
- 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.      **Welcome Reception**  
*Pre-function & Oak Ballroom B*  
*All attendees, guests, and vendors welcome*

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO CAST  
YOUR THIEVES MARKET VOTE**



# AGENDA | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- 7:00 - 8:00 a.m.      **Registration | Breakfast | Visit Exhibitors**  
*Pre-function & Oak Ballroom B*
- 7:00 - 8:00 a.m.      **UCB Sponsored Breakfast: What Does Zero Disease Activity Mean to You?  
A Different Way of Evaluating Disease Control**  
*Dogwood Room*
- 8:00 - 8:15 a.m.      **Morning Announcements & Business Meeting | Oak Ballroom A**  
Harry Gewanter, MD, FAAP, MACR  
*President, Virginia Society of Rheumatology*
- 8:15 - 9:15 a.m.      **Trial of Vagus Nerve-Mediated Neuroimmune Modulation for Rheumatoid Arthritis**  
John Tesser, MD, FACP, FACR, MACR  
*Arizona Arthritis & Rheumatology Associates, Phoenix, AZ*  
*Arizona Arthritis & Rheumatology Research, Phoenix, AZ*  
*The University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix Adjunct Clinical Associate*  
*Professor Midwestern University, College of Health Sciences, Glendale, AZ*
- 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.      **Current Approach to Diagnosis and Management of Inflammatory Myopathy**  
Didem Saygin, MD  
*Division of Rheumatology, Rush University Medical Center*
- 10:15 - 10:45 a.m.      **Break | Visit Exhibitors & Posters**  
*Pre-function & Oak Ballroom B*
- 10:45 - 11:45 a.m.      **Toward a Liquid Biopsy for Lupus Nephritis | Oak Ballroom A**  
Andrea Fava, MD  
*Director, Lupus Translational Research, Johns Hopkins University*
- 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.      **Sanofi Genzyme Sponsored Lunch: New Era, New Data:  
The Evolving Story of KEVZARA (salrlumab)**  
*Dogwood Room*  
  
*Lunch on own for all other conference attendees*
- 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.      **Reception & Casino Night | Redwood & Dogwood Rooms**  
*Attendees and guests welcome. Gold, Platinum, and Diamond Sponsors welcome.*

# AGENDA | SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.   | <b>Registration   Breakfast   Visit Exhibitors &amp; Posters</b><br><i>Pre-function &amp; Oak Ballroom B</i>  |
| 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.   | <b>GSK Sponsored Breakfast: From Diagnosis to Action: Early Treatment in Lupus and Lupus Nephritis</b><br><i>Dogwood Room</i>   |
| 7:55 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.   | <b>Morning Announcements   Oak Ballroom A</b><br>Harry Gewanter, MD, FAAP, MACR<br><i>President, Virginia Society of Rheumatology</i>   |
| 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.   | <b>The Present &amp; Future of Immune Effector Cell Therapies in Rheumatology</b><br>Maximilian Konig, MD<br><i>The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine</i>   |
| 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  | <b>Still's Disease Across the Ages: Evolving Therapies, Emerging Complications, and Genomic Insights</b><br>Michael Ombrello, MD<br><i>Principal Investigator and Head, Translational Genetics and Genomics Section<br/>National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases</i> |
| 10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. | <b>Break   Visit Exhibitors</b><br><i>Pre-function &amp; Oak Ballroom</i>   |
| 10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | <b>Update on Federal &amp; State Issues and CSRO Activities   Oak Ballroom A</b><br>Harry Gewanter, MD, FAAP, MACR<br><i>Director, Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO)</i>   |
| 11:00 a.m.              | <b>Closing Remarks &amp; Announcement of Awards</b>   |



# POSTER SESSION

## **Evaluation of Primary Angiitis of the CNS: Results from a Single Center Retrospective Cohort of CNS Vasculitis**

Soleille Everest, MD | Bon Secours

## **Use of Corneal Confocal Microscopy to Assess Small Fiber Neuropathy in Patients with Sarcoidosis**

Huzaefah Syed, MD | Virginia Commonwealth University

## **Burden of Disease in Sarcoid-Associated Small Fiber Neuropathy**

Huzaefah Syed, MD | Virginia Commonwealth University

## **Ophthalmology Screening for Asymptomatic Uveitis in Sarcoidosis Patients: A Single-Center Investigation**

Huzaefah Syed, MD | Virginia Commonwealth University

## **Delayed Follicular Growth During Ovarian Stimulation in a Rheumatoid Arthritis Patient on Methotrexate: Implications for Current ACR Guidelines**

Selma Zaki Elsarrag, MD, PhD | LewisGale Medical Center

## **Beyond PMR: Unmasking Listeria Sepsis**

Ghassan Al-Qaysi, MBChB | Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

## **Still Not Just Sarcoid**

Michael Vempala, MD | Virginia Tech Carilion Rheumatology

## **Drug Induced Lupus Triggered by Semaglutide: A Rare Adverse Event**

Ain Shajihan, MD | Inova Fairfax Medical Campus

## **Sudden Onset of Multi-System Lupus in a Young Male Presenting with Dyspnea**

Joanna Le Galloudec, BS | Virginia Commonwealth University

## **Monoclonal Mayhem: An Interesting Case of Type I Cryoglobulinemic Vasculitis Revealing MGCS**

Noah Rice, BS | University of North Carolina School of Medicine

## **Bilateral Central Retinal Artery Occlusion: An Unusual Initial Manifestation of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus**

Justin Amato, DO | Virginia Commonwealth University

## **Irrepressible Disease Progression Despite Aggressive Immunosuppression in a Patient with Anti-MDA5+ DM with Associated RP-ILD**

Ahmet Miguel Yildirim, MD, MEd | Inova Fairfax Hospital

## **An Atypical Case of Chronic Recurrent Multifocal Osteomyelitis (CRMO), or Is It?**

Anu Alvin Mathew, MD | EVMS at Old Dominion University

# INDUSTRY POSTERS

## **Clinical and Translational Data from RHO, a Phase 2 Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Proof-of-Concept Study of Efgartigimod in Sjögren's Disease**

Joyce Ramirez, PhD, MS | Argenx

## **Head-to-Head Study of Bimekizumab and Risankizumab in Psoriatic Arthritis: Study Design of BE BOLD, a Phase 3b, Randomized, Parallel-Group Study**

Kelly Hughes, PhD | UCB

## **Increased Adoption of IL-1 Pathway Inhibition and the Steroid-Sparing Paradigm Shift**

Aamer Khan, PharmD, MBA | Kiniksa Pharmaceuticals

### **SCAN THE QR CODE TO CAST YOUR POSTER VOTE**

*Industry submissions are not eligible for the poster competition.*





# Product Theaters

All sponsored meals will be held in the Dogwood Room.



**SATURDAY BREAKFAST PROGRAM | 7:00 - 7:55 a.m.**

***Gordon Lam, MD, FACR***

***What Does Zero Disease Activity Mean to You? A  
Different Way of Evaluating Disease Control***



Inspired by **patients.**  
Driven by **science.**



**SATURDAY LUNCH PROGRAM | 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.**

***Suzanne Gharib, MD***

***Engaging Conversations The Benefit Risk Dialogue of  
Rheumatologic Treatment***

**sanofi**



**SUNDAY BREAKFAST PROGRAM | 7:00 - 7:55 a.m.**

***Kristi Mizelle, MD, MPH & Eddie Rodriguez-Castro, MD***

***From Diagnosis to Action: Early Treatment in Lupus  
and Lupus Nephritis***



**GSK**

## 2025 Contributors

The VSR wishes to recognize and thank the following companies for their support of our annual meeting:

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*Silver*



*Exhibitors*





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