



Thieves' Market presentations are a tradition within rheumatology where a unique case is presented and the audience is challenged either with diagnosis or management of a complicated patient. The goal is to help us all in our ongoing journey to become discerning diagnosticians and thoughtful practitioners.

A successful *Thieves' Market* case submission to the VSR will be:

- A real case with high educational value and a teaching point, including but not limited to:
 - o Patient with a rare disease
 - o Patient with a common disease but a rare presentation
 - o Patient with a rare complication
 - o A patient from whom we can all learn something
- A well-rehearsed "polished" presentation
- Stimulating and engaging to the audience

We invite fellows, residents and medical students to submit their cases for the Virginia Society of Rheumatology Annual Meeting. The cases will be judged competitively based on their uniqueness, striking images or findings, educational value and overall presentation by the presenter. The winner will receive a certificate along with monetary prizes of \$500 for first place, \$300 for second place and \$200 for third place. The first place winner will also receive one free night at the hotel for the VSR 2027 meeting. In addition, the presentation will be highlighted on the VSR website as this year's winner.

All cases will be submitted for peer review prior to presentation. If accepted, and upon presentation at the VSR annual scientific meeting, cases will be indexed and stored on the VSR website (in the 'Fellows Corner').

Requirements:

- Only trainees (medical students, residents, fellows) are eligible for submission
 - o All trainees must have a faculty mentor
 - o To encourage participation of multiple levels of training, it is allowable to have multiple authors
- Each individual academic institution may submit only one case
- Allotted time is 10 minutes for the presentation with 5 minutes for questions/comments from the audience
- Presentations must be in PowerPoint® format
- Cases should consist of around ten (10) teaching slides and must be formatted as follows:
 - o Slide 1 must be your title slide. It should include the case title and names of the authors
 - You are permitted to use slides with institution/affiliation name or logos
 - o Slide 2-10+ must be your case content/teaching slides. These should include all images and data pertinent to your case. Your slides should tell the story of your case. Each case should have a brief introduction (think HPI) followed by the body of the case (including

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summary of data) and a quick review of the key learning point(s) at the end of the presentation.

- Tables and figures will help with audience engagement
- A final slide should include references
- Cases must be submitted by: August 24th, 2026
- Submit cases via the form on the vsronline.org website

Pointers for success:

- Pick a case which is fascinating, mysterious and/or will pique the audience interest and get them to “lean in” and engage with your presentation
- When inviting audience participation use questions such as “what would you do next?” or “what do you think is the most likely diagnosis?” or “what is your differential diagnosis?”
- Be a good story teller...reveal information slowly and do not give your case away
- Pictorial displays of interesting physical findings or imaging studies are strongly encouraged