



2023 Fellows Conference: Speaker Biographies

March 10-11, 2023
San Francisco, CA

SPEAKERS

Speakers are listed in the order as they appear in the Fellows Conference program.

Gary Feldman, MD, FACR

Fellows Conference Presentation: *The Future Environment of Rheumatology*



Gary R. Feldman, MD, FACR currently serves as the President of the Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations. He practices rheumatology and is the Medical Director of Pacific Arthritis, an independent practice rheumatology group located in Los Angeles and Santa Monica, California.

In addition to his private practice, Dr. Feldman is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles. He has been involved in clinical research and lectured extensively throughout his career in multiple areas, including inflammatory arthritis, osteoarthritis, crystalline arthropathies, metabolic bone disease, osteoporosis, and biologic therapies for autoimmune and other diseases.

Dr. Feldman was the founding Chair of the American College of Rheumatology Insurance Subcommittee. He served as the President of the California Rheumatology Alliance and continues as the Chair of Advocacy for the California Rheumatology Alliance. He also currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Affordable and Transparent Pharmacy representing the California Rheumatology Alliance.

A native of Los Angeles, he completed his undergraduate degree in nutritional science at the University of California, Berkeley before completing his medical degree at Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts. His postgraduate residency training in internal medicine and fellowship in rheumatology was completed at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, California.

Aaron Broadwell, MD

Fellows Conference Presentation: *The Realities of Private Practice*



Dr. Aaron Broadwell is a native of Shreveport, Louisiana, graduating from Caddo Magnet High School in 1999. He attended Rhodes College and obtained a Bachelors of Arts in 2003. He began his medical training at The University of Texas Medical Branch, where he received his M.D. in 2007 and was a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Societies. He received the William L. Marr Award in Medicine upon his graduation. He completed his Internal Medicine residency at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville and went on to a Rheumatology fellowship at The Scripps Clinic in San Diego where he was the Associate Chief Fellow his final year.

Dr. Broadwell has a particular interest and specialized training in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound and is accredited by the American College of Rheumatology as an ultrasonographer. He is a member of the American College of Rheumatology, American Medical Association. He is on the executive board of the Rheumatology Alliance of Louisiana, representing patient interests in Louisiana, as well as on the board of the Coalition of State Rheumatology Associations, a nationwide rheumatology advocacy organization.

Steve McCoy, Esq

Fellows Conference Presentation: *Physician Employment and Contracts*



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

He left Williams Mullen in 2008 to serve as general counsel to Patient First Corporation, a provider of primary and urgent care services that has grown from 20 locations in two states in 2008 to 77 locations across the mid-Atlantic at present. Patient First employs almost 700 physicians and extenders, who treat patients during more than 3.2 million visits annually.

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

Michael Saitta, MD, MBA, FACR

Fellows Conference Presentation: *Who, What, and How of Paying for Medical Care*



Dr. Saitta is a board-certified rheumatologist in Fayetteville, Arkansas and a Fellow of the American College of Rheumatology.

He graduated from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, then completed internal medicine residency training at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and a rheumatology fellowship at Duke University Medical Center. He has participated on numerous committees, councils and advisory bodies related to rheumatology practice, government regulation, health care payment models and advocacy for patients' rights.

Currently, he serves on the board of the Arkansas Rheumatology Association and on the executive committee of the Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations, a national advocacy and education resource dedicated to improving access to quality care for rheumatology patients.

Madelaine Feldman, MD, FACR

Fellows Conference Presentation: *Medication Access in the US*



Dr. Madelaine Feldman is the managing partner with The Rheumatology Group in New Orleans, LA. , the Vice President of Advocacy & Government Affairs and the immediate Past President of the Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations. Additionally, she is a past Chair of the Alliance for Safe Biologic Medicines, past member of the American College of Rheumatology insurance subcommittee, and Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at Tulane University School of Medicine.

Dr. Feldman is a nationally recognized expert on formulary construction, its effect on drug pricing, and patient access to care. Her articles and opinion editorials have been published in major health media outlets. She is a highly sought speaker, lecturing extensively to patients, physicians, regulators, and legislators. She has testified in front of our national Congress, as well as several state legislatures, the Federal Trade Commission, and the World Health Organization.

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

James M. Dahle, MD, FACEP

Fellows Conference Presentation: *Early Career Financial Management*



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

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

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

Joyce Joseph, MD

Fellows Conference Panelist: *Your Questions Answered: Truths About Becoming a Rheumatologist*



Dr. Joyce Joseph is a board-certified Rheumatologist with a special interest in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound. She is Assistant Professor of Medicine at Georgetown and Howard University Hospitals, as well as at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD.

She earned her medical degree from Chicago Medical School and completed residency at Loyola University Medical Center, in Chicago, Illinois. She completed her Rheumatology fellowship at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, Texas. She joined the staff at the Washington DC VA Medical Center in 2015. She has been involved in clinical care, trainee education and subspecialty administration.

Firas Kassab, MD, FACR

Fellows Conference Panelist: *Your Questions Answered: Truths About Becoming a Rheumatologist*



Dr. Kassab is a rheumatologist practicing in South Charlotte Rheumatology, an independent solo rheumatology practice in Charlotte, NC. He obtained his medical degree from Damascus University in Syria and completed his internal medicine residency and rheumatology fellowship at the University of Texas at Houston Health Science Center.

He served as an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the division of Rheumatology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School 2007-2010 before relocating to Charlotte, NC to join a hospital based multispecialty group and later a single specialty independent group. He eventually founded South Charlotte Rheumatology as a solo independent practice in 2020.

He has a special interest in scleroderma and participated in the past in both basic science and clinical research. He is active in advocacy efforts to promote the specialty of rheumatology and improve patient access to affordable quality care. He currently serves on the boards of NCRA (North Carolina Rheumatology Association) as member at large and past president, and CSRO (Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations), and the Rheumatology Research Foundation.

Christopher Sonntag, MD

Fellows Conference Panelist: *Your Questions Answered: Truths About Becoming a Rheumatologist*



Christopher Sonntag is the current Fellow-at-Large on the Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations' (CSRO) Board of Directors, and a second-year rheumatology fellow at Roger Williams Medical / Brown University in Providence, RI, where he also plays violin in the Providence Medical Orchestra. He previously served as chief resident in Rogers, Arkansas.

He, his wife Andrea, and their two cats are excited to be returning to NW Arkansas for his first attending position at Washington Regional in Fayetteville, where he will also serve as clinical teaching faculty for a new Internal Medicine program. He has a special interest in MSK ultrasound, culinary medicine, and rheumatology advocacy.

Gwenesta Melton, MD, FACR

Fellows Conference Moderator: *Your Questions Answered: Truths About Becoming a Rheumatologist*



Dr. Melton graduated from Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, LA. Internal Medicine training was completed at Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, TX. A Rheumatology fellowship followed and was finished at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Upon completion of her military obligation, she joined the Lafayette Clinic of Fayetteville, N.C. With a private practice in rheumatology, she is board certified in both internal medicine and rheumatology and recently retired from clinical practice.

Dr. Melton is the AWIR (Association of Women in Rheumatology) Vice President, Co-Chair Advocacy, as well as a fellow and committee member of the American College of Rheumatology. She spends time on the Affiliate State Council. As a former President of the North Carolina Rheumatology Association, she still represents the state of North Carolina for advocacy for ACR in Washington D.C. and North Carolina.

Educating physicians, physician assistants and medical students, Dr. Melton has been a clinical preceptor for Southern Regional Health Center, Campbell University School of Medicine Internal Medicine and Family Practice residents and holds a faculty position at both. When not assisting PAs NPs or medical students she aides fellows at Duke University Medical Center as a consulting faculty member.

Leisure time is spent tracking walking tours of Europe, cruising on small ships, photographing structures and people or finding a new dance moves. Family time is shared with her husband, a retired nephrologist, grown daughter, son in-law and adorable grandson.

James Haliczzer, Esq

Fellows Conference Presentation: *The Anatomy of a Lawsuit*



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

Mr. Haliczzer has been recognized by numerous organizations for his skills as a trial lawyer. In addition to being listed in Best Lawyers in America® since 2010, Mr. Haliczzer was named as the 2015 Miami "Lawyer of the Year" in Medical Malpractice Law by Best Lawyers in America®. Only a single lawyer in each practice area and designated metropolitan area is honored as the

“Lawyer of the Year,” making this accolade particularly significant. He holds an AV Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell’s Peer Review Ratings service, the highest possible rating indicating excellence in the practice of law and the highest ethical standards. He has been listed in Florida Trend Magazine’s Florida Legal Elite featuring the top 1.6% of lawyers in the State of Florida as voted by his peers, Florida Super Lawyers, and the South Florida Legal Guide “Top Lawyers” for nine consecutive years.

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

Jean Acevedo, LHRM, CPC, CHC, CENT, AAPC Fellow

Fellows Conference Presentation: *Important Issues in Coding*



Jean Acevedo has over 30 years of health care experience. Jean demonstrates particular expertise in all facets of rheumatology documentation and coding, working with rheumatology practices both large and small conducting chart audits and helping to educate the physicians, NPPs and staff.

She has been a speaker at many of the rheumatology physicians’ meetings including STAR, FSR, and the National Organization of Rheumatology Management (NORM).

She presented sessions on the 2021 E/M Documentation and Coding changes at the American College of Rheumatology’s annual ACR Convergence conference in 2020 and 2021, and has presented at the Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations’ (CSRO) annual rheumatology Fellows conference for over a decade.