

# Welcome to Rheumatology!



**Inside you'll find resources** for fellows in training (FITs) from the American College of Rheumatology [ACR], including:

- Essential education
- Scholarship information
- Ways to get involved
- ACR membership discounts
- Your career roadmap
- ACR resources



**We're so glad you've chosen rheumatology.** The ACR exists to empower rheumatology professionals to excel in their specialty—we're here to support you during your fellowship and throughout your entire career.

# Getting Involved with the ACR



## FELLOWS-IN-TRAINING (FIT) SUBCOMMITTEE

The FIT Subcommittee, a subcommittee of the Committee on Training, comprises 11 members. The subcommittee organizes the FIT educational sessions at the State-of-the-Art Clinical Symposium (SOTA) in the spring and ACR Convergence in the fall, influences FIT volunteer opportunities, and enhances FIT educational resources.

The annual call for applications to hold a seat on the subcommittee opens in September—watch your inbox for information on how to apply. We hope you'll consider applying to serve on the subcommittee!

## FIT SUBCOMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

*To enhance and improve fellowship training, encourage the matriculation of students and residents into the field of rheumatology, and improve the utilization of resources within the College.*

## FIT SUBCOMMITTEE 2023-2024

**Ibtissam Gad, MD, Chair**  
University of Michigan

**Ann Cameron Barr, MD**  
Duke University School of Medicine

**Rashmi Dhital, MD**  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

**Ali El-Halwagi, MD, MPH**  
Baylor College of Medicine

**Mario Felix, MD**  
Yale School of Medicine

**Alana Haussmann, MD**  
University of California Los Angeles

**Sabah Khalafalla, MD**  
Georgetown University—Medstar  
Washington Hospital Center

**Karen Kruzer, MD**  
University of Rochester

**Christine Loftis, MD**  
University of Colorado Anschutz School  
of Medicine

**Jessica Perfetto, MD**  
The Children's Hospital of Montefiore

**Austin Wheeler, MD**  
University of Nebraska Medical Center

## ACR Standing Committees

*Every standing ACR committee has one FIT member.*

[Learn more about committee volunteer opportunities.](#)

## ACR GUIDELINE PROJECTS

The ACR publishes highly influential, evidence-based clinical practice guidelines across multiple topics in rheumatology. The ACR is moving toward a living guideline model in which new literature will be reviewed and recommendations updated more frequently to keep guidelines up to date. The Literature Review Team for each ACR guideline will include both experienced reviewers as well as ACR FIT members.

[Learn more and apply for this opportunity.](#)

## TEACHING FELLOWS IN LUPUS PROJECT

Each fall, the ACR's Collaborative Initiatives department recruits rheumatology fellowship training programs and FITs to participate in the Teaching Fellows in Lupus Project. Rheumatology FITs facilitate educational sessions for non-rheumatology healthcare providers to help them better recognize the signs and symptoms of lupus and improve timely and accurate referrals to a rheumatologist for diagnosis and treatment.

[Visit The Lupus Initiative website to learn more.](#)

## THE ACR AT WORK

The ACR's staff and volunteer leaders advocate for issues that affect you and your patients. There are many ways you can get involved and learn more about the advocacy process:

- Read ACR@Work, a twice-monthly newsletter sent to all ACR members.
- Follow @ACRrheumDC on X.
- Visit the ACR Legislative Action Center to speak out on critical advocacy issues.
- Attend advocacy events, including Advocacy 101, a free program offered by the ACR that teaches the basics of advocacy.
- Invest in RheumPAC to better educate, elect, and support federal lawmakers who understand and can positively address the issues that impact rheumatology professionals and their patients.

[Visit \[rheumatology.org/get-involved\]\(https://www.rheumatology.org/get-involved\) to learn more.](https://www.rheumatology.org/get-involved)

# The Value of ACR Membership

Becoming an ACR member not only grants you access to a global community of rheumatology professionals, it is also an eligibility requirement for the FIT Scholarship, which provides eligible FITs with complimentary registration to attend ACR educational meetings.

## TOP 5 FREE MEMBER BENEFITS FOR FITS

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- 1. Access to in-person education**, such as FIT Programs at ACR Convergence and the State-of-the-Art Clinical Symposium [SOTA], and opportunities to receive the FIT Scholarship for complimentary meeting registration at ACR educational meetings
- 2. Online education**, featuring free access to the Fundamentals of Rheumatology Course [FRC]
- 3. Group fellowship training** opportunities
- 4. Access to award-winning publications and journals**, such as *Arthritis & Rheumatology*, *Arthritis Care & Research*, *ACR Open Rheumatology*, and *The Rheumatologist*
- 5. Career development support**, clinical tools, practice management resources, advocacy information, and resources for your patients

**Joining is only \$126 per year, yet total savings are up to \$3,900. It's a no-brainer!**

Visit [rheumatology.org](https://www.rheumatology.org) to learn more and join today.

## NEW! WHERE DO YOU FIT?

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The ACR has launched a new pilot membership model designed to personalize your experience and provide curated content such as the My Content page.

When you join, you'll take our new Find My Fit quiz to see which membership category is right for you. As a first-year FIT, you will be eligible to become an ACR Transitional member, but over time the quiz will help shape your ACR member journey.



# Educational Meetings & Online Learning

## EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS

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The ACR provides scholarships for FITs to attend several educational meetings. The monthly ACR FIT Focus e-newsletter contains details of when scholarships become available.

### 2024–2025 Events

#### AT ACR CONVERGENCE

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##### **Fellows-in-Training Program, November 14, Washington, D.C.**

This one-day program comprises educational sessions and mentoring roundtables to assist in developing a niche career path, in addition to negotiating a contract, financial planning, keeping up with literature, and work/life balance.

##### **Knowledge Bowl, November 16–17, Washington, D.C.**

Get ready for a fun, fast-paced, and competitive session based on the game show, *Jeopardy!* Rheumatology fellows from around the world are challenged on a wide range of rheumatic and musculoskeletal disease topics. Teams compete against other universities and institutions for exciting prizes, including complimentary registration for ACR Convergence 2025.

## ANNUAL EVENTS

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##### **Winter Rheumatology Symposium, January 26–30, Snowmass, CO**

The Winter Rheumatology Symposium (WRS) provides up-to-date, practical clinical information on the diagnosis and management of patients with rheumatic and immune disorders.

##### **Fellows in Training @ State-of-the-Art Clinical Symposium (FIT@SOTA), Spring TBD**

This one-day program and excellent networking opportunity provides education on topics of interest to FITs delivered by leaders and experts in the field of rheumatology. Sessions include workshops, panels, lectures, and roundtable discussions.

##### **Rheumatology Research Workshop, Virtual TBD**

The Rheumatology Research Workshop (RRW) is an invitation-only, two-day workshop that promotes interaction between rheumatology trainees, early career investigators, and established investigators. RRW includes scientific lectures, oral abstract presentations, and opportunities for early career investigators to interact with senior investigators.

[Learn more about the ACR FIT Scholarship program and eligibility requirements.](#)

## ONLINE LEARNING

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The Virtual Rheumatology Program for Fellows in Training (V-FIT), a collection of online courses developed by rheumatology experts to address the specific educational needs of FITs, includes:

- Virtual Rheumatology Teaching Lessons (ViTLs)
- Virtual Rheumatology Practicum for adult and pediatric rheumatologists (ViP-Adult and ViP-Pediatric)
- Virtual Rheumatology Collaborative (ViRL)

Registration for these activities is complimentary, but required, and varies based on the time of year.

[Visit the ACR website for more details.](#)

Additional complimentary online activities, including Rheum4Science and Rheum2Learn 2.0, can be found in the ACR Education Center.

- Rheum4Science online activities are designed to strengthen your understanding of basic scientific principles and clinical research methodology relevant to rheumatology.
- Rheum2Learn 2.0 are case-based, online modules created for residents, but may be of interest to FITs.

[Visit \[learn.rheumatology.org\]\(https://learn.rheumatology.org\) to browse the online activity catalog.](#)

# Rheumatology Career Planning & Resources

## ACR CAREERCONNECTION

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The ACR CareerConnection service has everything you need to take the next step in your career: job postings, career coaching, CV review, and countless articles focused on helping you open doors. Best of all, this service is free to ACR members. [Visit \*careerconnection.rheumatology.org\* to learn more and get started.](https://www.rheumatology.org/careerconnection)

## CAREER ROADMAP

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Still trying to determine your long-term career plan? The ACR's Career Roadmap is here to help. Review the steps you should be taking in each year of your fellowship to help you feel prepared to enter the workforce. [Visit \*rheumatology.org/career-roadmap\* to learn more.](https://www.rheumatology.org/career-roadmap)

## ADULT RHEUMATOLOGY IN-TRAINING EXAMINATION (ITE)

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The ITE allows FITs to evaluate their progress and compare results against national outcomes as reported in the score reports. The ITE is offered each spring, and program faculty will register interested FITs for one of two exam dates. [Learn more about the \*Adult Rheumatology ITE\*.](https://www.rheumatology.org/ite)

## AMIGO: PEDIATRIC RHEUMATOLOGY MENTORING

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The ACR/CARRA Mentoring Group for Pediatric Rheumatologists [AMIGO] aims to support the career development of pediatric rheumatology FITs via educational services, facilitated networking, and most importantly, a one-on-one mentoring program. Check your inbox in late summer for information about applying to become a mentee. [Visit \*rheumatology.org/amigo\* to learn more.](https://www.rheumatology.org/amigo)

## CARMA: CREATING ADULT RHEUMATOLOGY MENTORSHIP IN ACADEMIA

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Creating Adult Rheumatology Mentorship in Academia [CARMA] is a mentoring program for adult rheumatology research-focused fellows in training or junior faculty. [Visit \*rheumatology.org/carma\* to learn more.](https://www.rheumatology.org/carma)

## ACR JOURNALS

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Access to the ACR's three journals is a benefit of ACR membership. To access journal content, log in to your [rheumatology.org](https://www.rheumatology.org) account and click either *Arthritis & Rheumatology* or *Arthritis Care & Research* in the navigation. *ACR Open Rheumatology* and *The Rheumatologist* are open access. [Visit \*rheumatology.org/publications\* to learn more and access.](https://www.rheumatology.org/publications)

## GUIDELINE AND CRITERIA APP

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The ACR Guideline and Criteria App provides interactive tools to inform treatment decisions at the point of care. [Search and download the free app on the \*App Store\* or \*Google Play\*.](https://www.rheumatology.org/app)

## THINKING ABOUT A CAREER IN PRACTICE? THE ACR HAS YOU COVERED!

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From medication administration guides to information on federal audit programs, the ACR has resources to help with managing a rheumatology practice. We also offer numerous coding guidelines, FAQs, and training to support selection of appropriate diagnostic and procedural codes. Do you have an insurance question? Our staff experts are there to help you navigate and resolve insurance and payer issues. [Visit \*rheumatology.org/practice-help\*.](https://www.rheumatology.org/practice-help)

## RISE REGISTRY

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The ACR's RISE registry is the first and largest EHR-enabled rheumatology registry in the U.S. RISE data can help you not only define and improve patient outcome measures, but also meet federal reporting requirements. [Visit \*riseregistry.org\* to learn more and sign up.](https://www.riseregistry.org)

## ADVANCING DEI

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The ACR is committed to advancing DEI in the field of rheumatology. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are the building blocks that are helping us create a culture of belonging, where every member of the rheumatology community feels accepted, included, and respected. [Visit \*rheumatology.org/diversity-equity-inclusion\* to learn more.](https://www.rheumatology.org/diversity-equity-inclusion)

# Top Tips from the ACR



- You will receive a monthly newsletter from the ACR, **FIT Focus**. Check your spam folder for emails from [info@email.rheumatology.org](mailto:info@email.rheumatology.org) and add us to your allowed domains.
- Connect with us on social media! Visit [rheumatology.org/social-media](https://rheumatology.org/social-media) to see all of our accounts, including ACR advocacy and ACR journals.
- Visit [rheumatology.org/fit-resources](https://rheumatology.org/fit-resources) to explore all of the available FIT resources.

## Key Dates

- Adult Rheumatology In-Training Examination (ITE): March
- ACR standing committee call for volunteers: April-June
- CARMA: Creating Adult Rheumatology Mentorship in Academia: May-June
- FIT Subcommittee call for volunteers: September
- AMIGO: ACR/CARRA Mentoring Group for Pediatric Rheumatologists: August-September

## Key Events

- ACR Convergence: November 14-19
- Fellows-in-Training Program at ACR Convergence: November 14
- Knowledge Bowl at ACR Convergence: November 16-17
- ACR Career Fair at ACR Convergence: November 18, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM
- Winter Rheumatology Symposium: January 26-30
- Fellows in Training @ State-of-the-Art Clinical Symposium (FIT@SOTA): Spring 2025
- Rheumatology Research Workshop: Virtual TBD 2025

## Questions?

Contact ACR staff FIT liaison Latonya Trower at [ltrower@rheumatology.org](mailto:ltrower@rheumatology.org) or visit [rheumatology.org/fellows-in-training](https://rheumatology.org/fellows-in-training) for additional information.



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