

The American College of Rheumatology invites letters of interest from members who wish to serve on the RhMSUS Task Force.

TASK FORCE MISSION

The charge of the Task Force will be to make a recommendation on whether the American College of Rheumatology shall serve as a musculoskeletal (MSK) ultrasound (US) certifying body in North America.

- I. **This question is related to, but distinct from, questions about:**
 - a. The value of MSK ultrasound in research and clinical practice.
 - b. The role of the ACR in providing education in the practice of MSK US.
 - c. The future of MSK US especially as it pertains to reimbursement.
 - d. The relative value of rheumatology-specific certification in a landscape of other options.

- II. **Recommendations from the Task Force regarding the future of the RhMSUS certification program should be:**
 - a. Aligned with the ACR mission and priorities.
 - b. Address the financial viability of the program.
 - c. Consider its value to multiple stakeholders that include (but are not limited to) ACR members, their employers, patients, educational institutions, and payors.

- III. **The Task Force is asked to consider a range of strategies (that are not necessarily mutually exclusive and are not necessarily limited to) including:**
 - a. Revising the RhMSUS certification program.
 - b. Developing a new RhMSUS certification business model.
 - c. Spinning off the RhMSUS certification program to a separate entity.
 - d. Entering a collaborative arrangement with another organization and thereby continuing the ACR's participation in RhMSUS certification.
 - e. Sunsetting the RhMSUS certification program.

- IV. **The Task Force is asked to:**
 - a. Review the RhMSUS program, including operations, finances, services, marketing, high level content coverage (blueprint not exam question level), etc.
 - b. Conduct an environmental scan of MSK US in 2023 and anticipation for the next 5-10 years.
 - c. Analyze direct and indirect competitors (other MSK US certification and credentialing programs).
 - d. Study certification programs that have been sunset / eliminated (e.g., DEXA).
 - e. Research and consider potential collaborations and partnerships (e.g., RMSK from Intelios).
 - f. Engage with stakeholders (e.g., RhMSUS designees, payors, institution credentialing offices, training programs, patients).

- V. **The Task Force is asked to conduct new market research. Specific survey(s)/ focus group(s) should include (but not be limited to):**
 - a. Current RhMSUS designees
 - b. Rheumatology fellowship training programs – Program Directors and Fellows-in-Training.
 - c. PAs and NPs

WHO SHOULD CONSIDER SUBMITTING A LETTER OF INTEREST TO SERVE ON THIS TASK FORCE?

Anyone with relevant expertise and/or interest is invited to submit a Letter of Interest for service on this new task force. The ACR seeks task force members with business acumen, experience conducting market research, knowledge of MSK reimbursement and/or from a cross-section of those who use MSK Ultrasound in research, clinics, training programs, and non-rheumatology settings (e.g., radiology, ER, POC)

RhMSUS TASK FORCE TIME COMMITMENT

- **Term Length:** May 2023 – May 2024
- **Time Commitments:**
 - ~6 conference calls (~bi-monthly, ~every other month) (~6 hours TOTAL).
 - In advance of calls, ~1 – 2 hours of outside work (~6-12 hours TOTAL).
 - TOTAL ~18 hours over 12 months.

THE LETTER OF INTEREST

A Letter of Interest should be submitted by email to the contact below by **April 30th, 2023**. Please outline your current professional role and anything else you believe would be helpful for the Executive Committee to know. Consider also including the following:

- Outline the reason(s) for your interest in serving on the task force.
- Describe the competencies, insights, and perspectives you could contribute to the task force.
- Affirm your availability to serve from May 2023 through May 2024.

Indicate whether you have an interest in serving as chair or co-chair or providing any other form of leadership for this effort. In addition, please provide an **updated bio sketch or CV** with your letter of interest.

CONTACT

Lawrence Cunningham
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American College of Rheumatology

Please email letters to: education@rheumatology.org

All letters of interest will be reviewed by the Executive Committee of the ACR Board of Directors. Service on the task force is a volunteer role.