

ACR
Convergence
Where Rheumatology Meets

CHICAGO

ACR CONVERGENCE 2025
FELLOWS
-IN-TRAINING (FIT) GUIDE

PREMEETING SESSIONS: OCT. 24–25 • SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS: OCT. 26–29 • EXHIBITS: OCT. 26–28

Welcome!

Dear rheumatology fellows in training,

The Fellows-in-Training (FIT) Subcommittee would like to welcome you to Chicago, Illinois, and ACR Convergence 2025! ACR Convergence is the premier event for professionals in the field of rheumatology, and we are excited that you're here. In order to enhance your experience during the event, the FIT Subcommittee has created this guide to help you navigate the meeting. In this guide, you will find detailed descriptions of session types and highlighted sessions of interest for FITs. We hope you find this guide to be a helpful resource.

The FIT Subcommittee represents an important voice for all fellows within the ACR. Our mission is to enhance and improve fellowship training, plan FIT sessions at ACR Convergence and the State-of-the-Art Clinical Symposium (SOTA), encourage the matriculation of medical students and residents into the field of rheumatology, and improve the utilization of resources within the College.

FIT Subcommittee activities include:

- 1) Enhancing mentorship opportunities for rheumatology fellows
- 2) Organizing educational and career development sessions for fellows at both ACR Convergence and SOTA each year
- 3) Providing useful resources for fellows via the ACR website
- 4) Fostering opportunities for fellows across institutions to network and build relationships with one another

We encourage all fellows to consider applying to be a part of the FIT Subcommittee! It is a great opportunity to get involved in the ACR, meet other fellows, and improve fellowship training.

We also encourage all fellows to consider applying for an ACR standing committee! Standing committees include the Committees on Rheumatology Training, Pediatric Rheumatology, Ethics, Research, Education, and many others! The mission of the ACR cannot be achieved without the time, effort, talent, and experience of its volunteer leadership, and increasing FIT perspectives on these committees is one of the best ways to represent the FIT population and volunteer within the ACR!

We value the opinion of all fellows, so please let us know what we can do to help you get the most of your training. Enjoy ACR Convergence!



Fellows-in-Training Subcommittee Members



Austin Wheeler, MD
(Outgoing Chair)
University of Nebraska
Medical Center



Alana Hausmann, MD
(Incoming Chair)
University of California
Los Angeles



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



James Fagerland, MD
University of Nebraska
Medical Center



Sabah Khalafalla, MD
Georgetown University-
Medstar Washington Hospital
Center



Christine Loftis, MD
University of Colorado
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Raisa Lomanto Silva, MD
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**Appledene Osbourne,
MD, MSc**
University of California
San Francisco



Chrisana Pokorny, MD
University of Rochester
Medical Center



Lily Sung, MD
Stanford University
Hospital and Clinics



Jeffrey Yang, MD
Mayo Clinic



Recommended Sessions for Fellows in Training

Check the ACR Convergence 2025 app for the most updated schedule and location.

Date	Session Type	Time	Session Title
Friday, Oct. 24	Fellows in Training	12:00–4:00 PM	Fellows-in-Training Program
		4:10–5:30 PM	Fellows-in-Training Program: Roundtables
		5:30–6:30 PM	Fellows-in-Training Reception
Sunday, Oct. 26	Clinical Science	8:00–9:00 AM	Year in Review
	Basic Science	9:00–10:00 AM	Bullseye! What's the Target for T Cell-Targeted Therapies?
	Workforce and Education	9:00–10:00 AM	Artificial Intelligence in Medical Education: From Theory to Practice
	Clinical Science	9:00–10:00 AM	The Emerging Adult with JIA: What Adult Rheumatologists Need to Know
	Clinical Science	9:00–10:00 AM	Potential Mechanisms of IgG4-Related Disease: A JCR-ACR Session
	Pediatric	9:00–10:00 AM	Go CAR-Ting and Beyond for Kids: State of the Art of Pediatric Cell-Based Therapies
	ARP Interprofessional	9:00–10:30 AM	Recognizing Grief and Depression: Why It Matters in Patients with Rheumatic Diseases
	Basic Science	10:30–11:30 AM	Driving CAR-T into the Future: What Are the Right B Cell Targets in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus and Beyond?
	Clinical Science	10:30–11:30 AM	The Doctor 'Nose' Best: Ear, Nose, and Throat Manifestations in ANCA-Associated Vasculitis
	Pediatric	10:30–11:30 AM	Trisomy 21 and Immune Dysregulation: Bridging Research and Clinical Practice
	Pediatric	10:30–11:30 AM	Joint Ventures: Unraveling the Rheum–Gut Axis Through Interactive Pediatric Cases
	Workforce and Education	1:00–2:00 PM	Workforce and Education Debate: Generation Z and Rheumatology Training: Adapt or Uphold Tradition?
	Clinical Science	1:00–2:30 PM	Oh Baby! Reproductive Health in Antiphospholipid Syndrome, Sjögren's and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus
	Pediatric	1:00–2:30 PM	Pediatrics Year in Review
	Workforce and Education	2:30–3:30 PM	The Bedside Educator: Best Practices for Bedside Instruction in Rheumatology
	Pediatric	2:30–3:30 PM	Endothelial Insights: Mechanisms and Biomarkers of Vasculopathy in Juvenile Dermatomyositis
	ARP Interprofessional	2:45–3:45 PM	Innovative Support Group Models: Leveraging Technology to Enhance Patient Engagement and Quality of Life
	ARP Interprofessional	2:45–3:45 PM	High-Intensity Training in Rheumatology: Impacts on Cardiovascular Health, Physical Function, and Immune Response
	Clinical Science	3:00–4:30 PM	Flying Solo: Recognizing and Treating Single-Organ Vasculitis
	Pediatric	4:00–5:00 PM	Championing Change for Children and Young Adults with Rheumatic Diseases: Legislative and Policy Update
	ARP Interprofessional	4:00–5:00 PM	Designing Stronger Clinical Trials: Choosing the Best Comparator for Impactful Results



Recommended Sessions for Fellows in Training *continued*

Date	Session Type	Time	Session Title
Monday, Oct. 27	Clinical Science	8:00–9:00 AM	Gazing into the Crystal Ball: Gout and Cardiometabolic Comorbidity Management
	Clinical Science	8:30–9:30 AM	Adult Thieves Market: Show Me Your Best Cases!
	Pediatric	8:30–9:30 AM	Beneath the Surface: Expert Medical and Surgical Approaches to Difficult Cases in Juvenile Localized Scleroderma
	Business of Rheumatology	8:30–9:30 AM	The Great AI Debate: Unleashing Chaos or Unlocking Potential?
	Workforce and Education	8:30–10:00 AM	Education and Wellness Inspirations: Teaching Pearls
	Basic Science	10:00–11:30 AM	From Omics to Action: Redefining the Immune Landscape in RA Joint
	Clinical Science	10:00–11:30 AM	GLP1 Agonists in Rheumatic Disease and Osteoarthritis: Should We Give Them to Everyone?
	Pediatric	10:00–11:30 AM	Toward a Cure for Childhood Arthritis
	ARP Interprofessional	10:00–11:30 AM	Myositis: The Interprofessional Approach
	Workforce and Education	10:30–11:30 AM	Medical Education Year in Review
	Basic Science	1:00–2:00 PM	Old Dog, New Tricks: Regulation of Autoinflammation and Autoimmunity
	Workforce and Education	1:00–2:00 PM	A Diagnostic Approach to Remediating the Struggling Rheumatology
	Clinical Science	1:00–2:00 PM	Sarcoidosis: Secrets and Pearls for Non-Pulmonary Manifestations
	Clinical Science	1:00–2:00 PM	The Many Faces of ILD in Rheumatic Diseases
	Pediatric	1:00–2:00 PM	Great Debate: Corticosteroids in Pediatric SLE: Slay or Stay
	ARP Interprofessional	1:00–2:00 PM	Sarcoidosis: Secrets and Pearls for Non-Pulmonary Manifestations
	Clinical Science	1:00–3:00 PM	Knowledge Bowl Final Round
	Workforce and Education	2:30–3:30 PM	Masterclass in Medicine: Help Your Learners Develop the Early Career Habits of Master Clinicians
	Pediatric	2:30–3:30 PM	The Cytokine Language of Still's Disease and MAS
	ARP Interprofessional	2:30–3:30 PM	Supporting Work, Supporting Health: Helping People with Rheumatic Conditions Stay Employed
	Pediatric	4:00–5:00 PM	Charting the Course for the Next Generation Pediatric Lupus Therapies
	ARP Interprofessional	4:00–5:00 PM	Improving Health Literacy and Communication in Rheumatic Disease
	Basic Science	4:15–5:15 PM	Tiny Tenants, Big Influence: Microbial Regulation of Host Immunity



Recommended Sessions for Fellows in Training *continued*

Date	Session Type	Time	Session Title
Tuesday, Oct. 28	Workforce and Education	8:00–9:00 AM	Rheumatology on the Hill: The State of Play in Washington, DC
	Basic Science	8:30–9:30 AM	The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Understanding Mechanisms of Adverse
	Business of Rheumatology	8:30–9:30 AM	Work Smarter, Not Harder: Hacks for Different Electronic Medical
	Pediatric	9:00–9:45 AM	Engage and Solve: Pediatric Rheumatology Kahoot! Game
	Workforce and Education	10:00–11:00 AM	Enhancing Pediatric Training: Innovative Approaches to Early Exposure in Pediatric Rheumatology
	Pediatric	10:00–11:00 AM	Promoting Comparative Effectiveness Research in Pediatric Rheumatology: The Challenges of Making Consensus Treatment Plans Work
	Workforce and Education	1:00–2:00 PM	Teaching Evidence-Based Medicine to Rheumatology Learners in Busy Clinical Settings
	Pediatric	1:00–2:00 PM	Charting the Path Forward: 2024 DRAFT Updates to ACR JIA Guidelines
	Basic Science	2:30–3:30 PM	Bringing Sexy Back: Sex Hormone Modulation of Immune Responses in Autoimmunity
	Workforce and Education	2:30–3:30 PM	Swipe Right on Rheumatology: Engaging Learners and Creating Community in the Digital Age
	Pediatric	2:30–3:30 PM	Pediatric Thieves Market
	Clinical Science	2:30–4:00 PM	Prevention Is the Best Medicine: Updates for Rheumatoid Arthritis and Lupus
	Clinical Science	4:00–5:00 PM	Cancer Immunotherapy and Its Toxicities, Today and Tomorrow
	Pediatric	4:00–5:00 PM	Eyes on the Spine: Therapeutic Decisions for Pediatric Sacroiliitis Through the Life Span
	Pediatric	4:00–5:00 PM	Cracking the Code: Overcoming the Challenges in Kawasaki Disease Treatment
Wednesday, Oct. 29	Basic Science	8:30–9:30 AM	Innovations in Interstitial Lung Disease: Cellular Mechanisms and Translational Applications in Lung Fibrosis
	Pediatric	8:30–9:30 AM	Pediatric Rheumatology FDA Updates
	Basic Science	10:00–11:00 AM	Decoding Sjögren's Disease: Adaptive Immunity Driving Pathogenesis

Meetings

Visit the online program and click on the roundtable facilitators to view their bios. We're also excited to announce two additional facilitators:

- Meet the Masters, Pediatric, *David Sherry, MD*
- Troubleshooting for IMGs–Waivers and More, *Sebastian Sattui, MD, MS*

The ACR holds many in-person and virtual meetings throughout the year, including:

Winter Rheumatology Symposium (WRS)

January 25-29, 2026
Snowmass, CO

Pediatric Rheumatology Symposium (PRSYM)

March 18-21, 2026
Minneapolis, MN

Fellows in Training @ State-of-the-Art Clinical Symposium (FIT@SOTA)

April 24, 2026
Rosemont, IL

State-of-the-Art Clinical Symposium (SOTA)

April 24, 2026
Rosemont, IL

Rheumatology Research Workshop (RRW)

June 25-26, 2026
Atlanta, GA



Learn more about upcoming [meetings](#)

The ACR provides scholarships to attend several educational meetings. Watch the FIT Focus e-newsletter for details of when scholarships become available. Applicants must be an ACR Transitional FIT member in good standing.

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





Visit the <u>Networking Lounges</u>	Located in Rooms W470A, W470B, and W471A October 26–28, 8:30 AM–5:00 PM	
Attend the <u>ACR Knowledge Bowl</u>	Preliminary Round Sunday, October 26 1:00–3:00 PM Room W375C	Final Round Monday, October 27 1:00–3:00 PM Room W375C
Download the <u>ACR Convergence App</u>	Search “ACR Convergence 2025” in the App Store or Google Play.	
Follow Us on <u>Social Media</u>	<i>Get connected with our latest news & updates.</i>	
Visit the <u>Exhibit Hall</u>	Located in Hall F2 October 26–27, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM October 28, 10:00 AM–2:30 PM	
Visit the <u>Poster Hall</u>	Located in Hall F1 October 26–28, 8:30 AM–4:00 PM Poster Tours are given October 26–28 from 10:30 AM–12:30 PM on a first-come, first-served basis.	
Register for the <u>ACR Career Fair</u>	Sunday, October 26 • 10:00 AM–3:00 PM • Room S104	
<u>RheumPAC Lounge</u>	Need coffee and a snack before FIT programming starts for the day? Stop by the RheumPAC Lounge (Room W180) to grab a treat and learn more about how the ACR’s advocacy efforts support you from your rheumatology training through your time as a practicing physician. No contribution is required! Contact Paige Colston at pcolston@rheumatology.org with questions.	