



Orange County Location

We are pleased to host our conference at The **Westin South Coast Plaza**, Costa Mesa, a premier destination in the heart of Orange County. The hotel offers a modern, professional setting just steps from the renowned South Coast Plaza and near the Segerstrom Center for the Arts. With spacious meeting facilities, comfortable guest accommodations, on-site dining, and convenient access to John Wayne Airport, The Westin provides an ideal environment for learning, collaboration, and networking. Attendees will enjoy a seamless blend of productivity, comfort, and access to world-class shopping, dining, and cultural attractions.

What's in store for 2026?

- **Elite Faculty Line-Up:** Learn from the brightest minds in rheumatology as they share cutting-edge insights and advancements.
- **Hands-On Ultrasound Course:** Elevate your clinical expertise with immersive, hands-on training led by top practitioners.
- **Fellows Poster Session:** Celebrate the next generation of rheumatology leaders! Fellows will showcase their groundbreaking research, case presentations, and scholarly work, offering a platform to share innovative ideas and gain recognition from peers and mentors.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
RHEUMATOLOGY SOCIETY



California
Rheumatology
Alliance

Southern California Rheumatology Society 2026 Annual Conference

In Collaboration with the California
Rheumatology Alliance
22nd Annual Meeting & 4th Annual APP Meeting

February 28 - March 1, 2026
The Westin South Coast Plaza, Costa Mesa
686 Anton Blvd, Costa Mesa, CA, 92626

SCRS & CRA Joint Meeting

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For more information:
socalrheumatology.com

Or scan the QR code to register



After the tremendous success of the 2025 joint meeting, the **Southern California Rheumatology Society (SCRS)** is proud to once again team up with the **California Rheumatology Alliance (CRA)** for a landmark 2026 event.

This second year of collaboration promises to be even more dynamic — bringing together academic leaders, private practice innovators, fellows, and advanced practice providers for a weekend of cutting-edge education, professional growth, and community building.

Saturday, February 28, 2026		<div> <div>Advanced Practice Providers Track</div> <div>Physician Track</div> </div>	
7:00 AM	Registration & Exhibits		
7:45 AM	Opening Remarks		
8:00 AM	Rheumatology Diagnostics 2.0: Interpreting Labs & Imaging Like a Pro Priyanka Iyer, MD		
	GLP-1 & SGLT2: Obesity Impact on Patient with Lupus, Rheumatoid Arthritis, & Psoriatic Arthritis Catherine Bakewell, MD		
9:00 AM	Breakfast Product Theater		
10:00 AM	Exhibits Networking Posters		
10:30 AM	RA and Seronegative Inflammatory Arthropathies Amir Razmjou, MD, MS		
	Gastrointestinal Manifestations of Connective Tissue Diseases: From Microbiome to New Therapeutics Elizabeth Volkmann, MD. MS		
11:30 AM	Spondyloarthritis Spectrum: From Early Diagnosis to Targeted Therapy Stratos Christianakis, MD		
	The Silent GCA in PMR: The Challenging Clinical Cases of Giant Cell Arthritis Tanaz Kermani, MD		
12:30 PM	Skin, Joints, and Beyond: Dermatologic Clues to Systemic Disease Binh Ngo, MD		
	Sjogren Guideline: Tackling the Burning Question of Peripheral Neuropathies in Sjögren’s Disease Rachael Gordon, MD		
1:30 PM	Exhibits Networking Posters		
1:45 PM	Lunch Product Theater A		
	Lunch Product Theater B		
2:45 PM	Exhibits Networking Posters		
3:00 PM	Sjogren’s Corner’s <i>(Limit to 30 people, \$100 Extra Registration fee applies)</i> Sjogren’s Diagnosis 101: Hands on practice of Schirmer’s and Unstimulated Saliva Flow Jennifer King, MD, PhD Salivary Gland Ultrasound Howard Yang, MD, RhMSUS Private Practice Workshop Panel Discussion: How to Improve Performance in Practice Karleen Su, MD, FACR; Nehad Soloman, MD, FACR; Moderated by Samy Metyas, MD		4:35 PM Fellows Corner– Panel Discussion on Life outside of Academia - Building a Research Career in Private Practice o Vipul Vineet, MBA, o Christina Chen, DO - Exploring Innovative and Non-Traditional Career Models o Micah Yu, MD, MHA, MS, ABOIM, DipABLM - Inside the Industry World: A Career in Pharma o Eric Zollars, MD, PhD
3:45 PM	Private Practice Workshop MID in Office Dispensing with Medicare Cap; Nehad Soloman, MD, FACR		4:35 PM Private Practice Workshop AI in Rheumatology Mark Allen, MD 6:15 PM Dinner Reception Product Theater: Medicare Update 7:15 PM Social Game Night: Networking, Games, & Entertainment Hours
4:30 PM	Private Practice Workshop MIPS for Rheumatology is Challenging; Stefani Hendrixon, MBA, RN		
Sunday, March 1, 2026			
7:00 AM	Registration & Exhibits		
7:45 AM	Opening Remarks		
8:00 AM	Lupus in 2026: Integrating New Guideline into Everyday Practice; Sheetal Desai, MD		
	Botox, Fillers, and Biologics: Cosmetic Procedures in Rheumatology Patients — What’s Safe; Michelle Min, MD		
9:00 AM	Breakfast Product Theater		
10:00 AM	Exhibits Networking Posters		
10:30 AM	Scleroderma and ILD: Navigating Vascular and Pulmonary Complications; Francesco Boin, MD		
	RA and PsA Update: New Treatments & Approaches; Arthur Kavanaugh, MD		
11:30 AM	Unraveling Myositis: From Antibodies to Precision Management; Sharon Sangee Bae, MD		
	From Biologics to the Baby Bump: Managing Rheumatology Patients Through Fertility Treatment and Pregnancy; Leanna Wise, MD		
12:30 PM	Rheumatology Reality Rounds: Challenging Cases and Clinical Pearls for APPs; Samy Metyas, MD		
	2025 ACR Guidelines for the Treatment of Extrarenal Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE); Mariko Ishimori, MD		
1:30 PM	Exhibits Networking Posters		
1:45 PM	Lunch Product Theater		
2:45 PM	Awards: Dr. Bevra Hahn Scholarship Winner and Poster Competition Winner Announcement		
2:55 PM	CRA Honorary Luncheon Award Presentation		
Program Co-Chairs			
Howard H. Yang, MD, RhMSUS, President; Southern California Rheumatology Society; HS Assistant Clinical Professor; David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Los Angeles, CA			Samy K. Metyas, MD, President California Rheumatology Alliance; Private Practice, Covina Arthritis Clinic; Assistant Clinical Professor Keck School of Medicine at USC Covina, CA
Mark Allen, MD Founder, CEO, CareNavigator and HeroForge.AI Miami, FL			Jennifer King, MD, PhD Assistant Professor of Medicine Founder and Director, UCLA Sjögren’s Clinic David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Los Angeles, CA
Sharon Sangmee Bae, MD HS Assistant Clinical Professor David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Los Angeles, CA			Michelle Min, MD Assistant Clinical Professor, Dermatology Director of Rheumatologic-Dermatology School of Medicine UCI Health Irvine, CA
Catherine Bakewell, MD, RhMSUS Professor of Medicine Intermountain Health LDS Hospital Salt Lake City, UT			Binh Ngo, MD Associate Professor of Clinical Dermatology Keck School of Medicine at USC Los Angeles, CA
Francesco Boin, MD Professor of Medicine Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Los Angeles, CA			Amir Razmjou, MD, MS HS Assistant Clinical Professor David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Los Angeles, CA
Christina Chen, DO Emanate Health Covina, CA			Nehad R. Soloman, MD, FACR Rheumatologist, Investigator, Medical Director of Research Arizona Arthritis & Rheumatology Associates Phoenix, AZ
Stratos Christianakis, MD Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine Keck School of Medicine at USC Pasadena, CA			Tien-I Karleen Su, MD, FACR Founder, Rheumatology Private Practice Alliance (RPPA) Co-Founder, Amicus Arthritis & Osteoporosis Center Whittier, CA
Sheetal Desai, MD, MSED Chair of Medicine Clinical Professor UC Irvine School of Medicine Irvine, CA			Vipul Vineet, MBA Research Director Medvin Clinical Research Cerritos, CA
Rachael Gordon, MD, PhD Assistant Professor University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Director, UPMC Sjögren’s Center Pittsburgh, PA			Elizabeth Volkmann, MD Co-Director, CTD-ILD Program Division of Rheumatology David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Los Angeles, CA
Stefani Hendrixon, MBA, RN Chief Health Information Officer HealthAdvanta Palmetto, FL			Leanna Wise, MD Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine Keck School of Medicine at USC Los Angeles, CA
Mariko Ishimori, MD Associate Professor Associate Director, Clinical and Translational Research Center Program Director, Rheumatology Fellowship Cedars-Sinai Medicine HS Clinical Professor of Medicine David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Los Angeles, CA			Micah Yu, MD, MHA, MS, ABOIM, DipABLM, IFMCP Private Practice, Founder, Dr. Lifestyle CEO and Founder, MYAutoimmuneMD Newport Beach, CA
Priyanka Iyer, MD Assistant Health Sciences Professor, Medicine UCI Health Irvine, CA			Eric Zollars, MD, PhD Executive Medical Director Allogene Therapeutics San Francisco, CA
Arthur Kavanaugh, MD Professor of Medicine Director, Center for Innovative Therapy University of California, San Diego San Diego, CA			
Tanaz Kermani, MD Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Santa Monica, CA			