

2020 GSR Virtual Meeting

Saturday June 6th, 2020

Guest Speakers



Alan Baer, MD

Dr. Alan Baer graduated from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1978 and completed his post-graduate medical training in Internal Medicine and Rheumatology at the Johns Hopkins and Vanderbilt University Hospitals. He was a faculty member at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York, from 1986 to 2007, and served there as Chief of the Section of Rheumatology and Fellowship Program Director.

He joined the faculty at Johns Hopkins in 2007 and is currently Professor of Medicine and Director of the Jerome L. Greene Sjogren's Syndrome Center and the Gout Clinic. Since 2015, he has been an Investigator in the Sjogren's Syndrome Clinic at the National Institutes of Health. He was Chief of Rheumatology and Clinical Director of the Johns Hopkins University Rheumatology Practice at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland from 2007 to 2014.

Dr. Baer is currently engaged in a number of research studies in the area of Sjogren's syndrome, both at Johns Hopkins and in the NIH Sjogren's Syndrome Clinic. He was the principal investigator of the NIH subcontract to Johns Hopkins to conduct the Sjogren's International Registry (SICCA) and enrolled 300 patients into the registry. The SICCA registry has been a rich source of clinical data and biospecimens for research that Dr. Baer is conducting with colleagues at both Hopkins and the University of California–San Francisco. He is conducting a longitudinal observational study of patients with Sjogren's syndrome.



Adam Brown, MD

Adam Brown, MD is a staff member of Cleveland Clinic's department of rheumatic and immunologic diseases. Dr. Brown is board-certified in both rheumatology and internal medicine and did additional specialty training in vasculitis. He has an interest in general rheumatology as well as a special interest in vasculitis, susac syndrome and autoimmune inner ear disease.

Dr. Brown is involved with teaching trainees about the field of rheumatology. He is the author of the book *Rheumatology Made Ridiculously Simple* which is a textbook designed to teach medical students and residents about the field of rheumatology. Dr. Brown also hosts a podcast entitled *Rheuminations* which is heard around the globe and discusses rare diseases, interviews other experts in the field and focuses on the history of rheumatology.

Dr. Brown is originally from New Mexico where he did his medical school at the University of New Mexico, then went on to Georgetown University Hospital in Washington D.C. to do his internal medicine residency, then he did his specialty training in rheumatology and vasculitis at the Cleveland Clinic.



Jeffrey Curtis, MD

Dr. Jeffrey R Curtis is a rheumatologist and epidemiologist focused on the efficacy, comparative effectiveness, and safety of the medications used to treat rheumatoid arthritis (RA). He is a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). He is the Co-PI of the PCORI-funded Patient Powered Research Network “Arthritis-Power” registry, focused on RA, psoriasis, and psoriatic arthritis. He also leads the multi-center NIH-funded large pragmatic randomized controlled trial “VERVE”, studying the safety and effectiveness of the live herpes zoster vaccine in patients receiving biologic agents. He is a member of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Herpes Zoster workgroup, and in 2015, he was appointed as a member to the FDA Arthritis Advisory Committee.



Catherine Najem, MD, MSCE

Catherine E. Najem is an expert in ANCA-Associated Vasculitis and in the Gut Microbiome in Autoimmune Rheumatic Diseases. Dr. Najem completed her post-graduate medical training in Internal Medicine and Rheumatology at Boston University and the University of Pennsylvania Hospitals. Dr. Najem earned a Master degree in Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Pennsylvania where she also completed a vasculitis fellowship. She was recently on the expert panel of the American College of Rheumatology new

guidelines of large and medium vessel vasculitis, as well as ANCA-Associated Vasculitis, and was the Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator on multiple clinical trials related to ANCA-Associated Vasculitis.