

2021 GSR Annual Meeting

June 11-13, 2021

The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds, Lake Oconee

Guest Speakers



Maria E. Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD

Maria E. Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD is the Barnts Family Distinguished Professor in the Department of Health Services Research, in the Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. She is a physician and clinical epidemiologist with an interest in late and lasting effects of cancer and its therapy, and the consequences of comorbidities in cancer patients. She has mentored trainees and junior faculty throughout her career and has received numerous academic distinctions for this activity.

Dr. Suarez-Almazor has been a primary mentor for many early investigators, supported by K grants, several of whom now hold academic leadership positions. She has a long-standing interest in comparative effectiveness, and over the years has conducted research on synthesizing evidence in systematic reviews and meta-analyses, observational studies, and clinical trials of behavioral and educational interventions, frequently lecturing on these topics. She is a co-editor for the Cochrane Musculoskeletal Collaboration Review Group, and the Director for the Cochrane US Network Affiliate at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, which has an emphasis in training.

Dr. Suarez-Almazor has received funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Agency for Health Research and Quality (AHRQ), as well as many foundations, to support her research and training programs. For the past 5 years, she was the Principal Investigator on a R25 grant funded by AHRQ which was developed to expand training in comparative effectiveness and patient-centered research methods in cancer research, in partnership with the University of Texas School of Public Health, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). As part of this grant she led the development of an online course on comparative effectiveness and patient-centered research methods that has been viewed by thousands of individuals around the world.



Leonard H. Calabrese, DO

Leonard H. Calabrese, DO, heads Cleveland Clinic's Section of Clinical Immunology and manages its Clinical Immunology Clinic. He specializes in diseases of the immune system -- in particular, immunodeficiency diseases, such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and other chronic viral infections, which are the subject of both clinical care and investigation. Dr. Calabrese is also Co-director of the Center for Vasculitis Care and Research and has a particular interest in vascular inflammatory disease of the central nervous system.

A graduate of the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, Dr. Calabrese performed his internal medicine training at Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, followed by a fellowship in rheumatic and immunologic disease. He has been a staff member in Cleveland Clinic's Department of Rheumatic and Immunologic Diseases since 1980.

Recipient of numerous awards and honors, Dr. Calabrese has received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, the Phillips Medal of Public Service from the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Bruce Hubbard Stewart Award for humanitarianism and Leonard Tow Humanitarianism in Medicine award from the Arnold P Goldman MD Foundation. He holds the R.J. Fasenmeyer Chair of Clinical Immunology and is the director of the R.J. Fasenmyer Center for Clinical Immunology. When he was awarded the Theodore F. Classen, DO Chair in Osteopathic Research and Education in 2008 he became the first dual-chair holder in Cleveland Clinic history.

Dr. Calabrese is a member of many professional societies, including the American Association of Immunology, Clinical Immunology Society and the International AIDS Society and the American Osler Society. He is a fellow of the American College of Rheumatology, American College of Physicians and the American College of Sports Medicine.

Dr. Calabrese has lectured nationally and internationally on the subjects of HIV, immunology and rheumatology and is the author of more than 300 published peer-reviewed articles, book chapters and reviews.



Arezou Khosroshahi, MD

Arezou Khosroshahi is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the division of Rheumatology. She joined Emory University 9 years ago and has established an IgG4–RD clinic at Emory. This clinic is one of the few in the United States to evaluate and treat patients with IgG4–RD with referral from all around the Southeast. She has been one of the initial investigators interested in understanding IgG4–RD since her fellowship at MGH and has played an important role in naming the disease, developing pathology statement and recently classification criteria for the diagnosis of IgG4–RD. She has been involved in Lupus Clinic at Grady Hospital for the past nine years and has cofounded a new lupus clinic at Emory. She is the principal investigator for different clinical trials in lupus and is working closely with her colleagues Drs. Lim and Sanz to help understand many different aspects of lupus, with particular interest in treatment. She is the director of clinical trials at the division of rheumatology and principal investigator on multiple clinical trials in Lupus and IgG4–RD.



Lisa Christopher–Stine, MD, MPH

Lisa Christopher–Stine, MD, MPH is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Neurology and the Co–Founder and Director of the Johns Hopkins Myositis Center, a Precision Medicine Center of Excellence. She also currently serves as the Deputy Director of Telemedicine in the Division of Rheumatology.

She joined the faculty of the Division of Rheumatology at The Johns Hopkins University in 2003. In addition, she serves as a board member of the Institutional Review Board at the Johns Hopkins University where she was recently named Co–Chair. She is one of 24 core faculty members to teach in the Johns Hopkins Medical School Colleges Advisory Program which provides clinical skills instruction in the first year of medical school and continued career advising throughout all four years of medical school.

As a clinician–scientist, she is the Principal Investigator of the Johns Hopkins Myositis Registry, currently numbering well over 2000 patients recruited worldwide, developed by her and her colleagues. She has a strong interest in patient–reported outcomes and has been the co–chair of an international effort through the OMERACT (Outcome measures in Rheumatology) organization to develop a novel myositis patient reported outcome measure. She has published over 110 peer reviewed scientific papers.

Dr. Christopher–Stine graduated Cum Laude with a B.A. in chemistry from Franklin and Marshall College where she was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. She was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society at Hahnemann University School of Medicine, where she received her MD degree. She attained her Master of Public Health degree from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her internship and residency training in Internal Medicine were completed at MCP Hahnemann University, where she also served as Chief Resident, after which she pursued rheumatology fellowship training at Johns Hopkins.



Michael E. Wechsler, MD, MMSc

Michael E. Wechsler, MD, MMSc is the Director of the National Jewish Health (NJH)/Cohen Family Asthma Institute and Professor of Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at NJH in Denver. Professor Wechsler’s research focuses on clinical and translational asthma with emphasis on clinical trials in asthma, novel asthma therapies, bronchial thermoplasty, asthma pharmacogenomics, and management of eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (i.e. Churg–Strauss Syndrome, CSS). He has led studies focusing on novel biologic agents for asthma and related diseases, including benralizumab, dupilumab, mepolizumab, reslizumab, and tezepelumab. He has published more than 180 peer–reviewed manuscripts relating to asthma, CSS and eosinophilic lung diseases.

Dr. Wechsler was a member of the Steering Committee and site Principal Investigator of the NIH–sponsored Asthma Clinical Research Network (ACRN, now called AsthmaNet), a multicentre asthma clinical trials consortium, and currently serves as the PI of the Denver site of the Precision Intervention in Severe/Exacerbating Asthma (PRECISE) network. A member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation, he has participated in many different task forces related to the study of eosinophilic lung diseases that were sponsored by the NIH, the FDA, the European Respiratory Society and the International Eosinophil Society. He is currently Associate Editor of the journal *Chest* and has served as Associate Editor of the journal *Allergy* and on the editorial board of the *European Journal of Clinical Investigation*.

Dr. Wechsler received AB and MMSc degrees from Harvard University in Boston and an MD degree from McGill University in Montreal. He completed

medical training at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, and as part of the Harvard Combined Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship Training Program.