

April 13, 2023



California
Rheumatology
Alliance

CRA Membership E-blast

Hello Shanna

The California Rheumatology Alliance remains dedicated to providing updated news and resources to our membership. We appreciate and encourage any feedback to assist in our service to our members. What do YOU want us to talk about? We'd love for these newsletters to be used as an opportunity for us all to learn from each other, so if there's anything specific you're interested in learning more about from other people involved with the California Rheumatology Alliance, let us know by emailing info@calrheum.org.

Visit our Website

2023 CRA MEMBERSHIP DUES

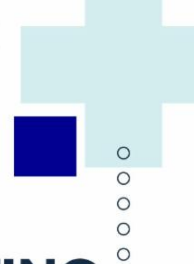
The 2023 CRA Annual Membership is open for renewal! Pay your annual dues easily online for exclusive access to special membership benefits such as discounted rates on your meeting registration, tickets for amusement parks, movies, and stage shows as well as curated information surrounding news and policies that directly impact the rheumatology community.

Pay your 2023 CRA Membership Dues now

CRA 2023 ANNUAL MEETING at the UCLA CARL PEARSON SYMPOSIUM

CRA 19TH ANNUAL MEETING

*April 28 - 30, 2023
Marina del Rey Marriott
Marina del Rey, CA*



CRA
SPEAKERS



FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023
**GARY
FELDMAN, MD**
SPEAKER



SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023
**DIANA
GIRNITA, MD**
SPEAKER

Practice Manager Meeting
SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023
8:00AM - 5:00PM



2023

CRA 19TH ANNUAL MEETING

at the 40th Carl Pearson Symposium

Marina del Rey Marriott | 4100 Admiralty Way Marina del Rey, CA 90292



APRIL
28-29,
2023

Marina del Rey,
California

Visit www.calrheum.org for the meeting agenda, a list of speakers and hotel accommodations

5230 Pacific Concourse Dr. #100
Los Angeles, CA 90045



SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023
1PM - 3PM
BAYVIEW BALLROOM

Please join us for a luncheon to honor



**DANIEL J
WALLACE, MD**
2023 AWARD RECIPIENT

for his dedication & contribution
to rheumatology

For more information, please visit
www.calrheum.org



We hope to see you all at the upcoming CRA 19th Annual Meeting, taking place in 2 weeks at the Marina del Rey Marriott in Marina del Rey, CA on April 28 - 29, 2023. As always, this event promises to be informative, engaging, and a great opportunity for networking.

This year, we are particularly thrilled to have Dr. Gary Feldman speaking on Friday to discuss "The Present and Future Environment of Rheumatology," sharing his insights and predictions on where our field is headed. We are also honored to welcome Dr. Diana Girnita on Saturday, as she shares her experiences as a traveling rheumatologist.

PRACTICE MANAGER MEETING

In addition to these informative sessions, we encourage your practice managers and billers to attend the concurrent track for managers on Saturday, April 29th. This track will focus on RCM processes and updates to MIPS, Medicare, and California legislation, and will provide valuable information to help optimize your practice's revenue cycle management.

Finally, we invite you to join us for the honorary luncheon on Saturday, April 29th, from 1pm - 3pm as we recognize Dr. Daniel Wallace with the CRA lifetime achievement award. Dr. Wallace's contributions to our field have been immeasurable, and we look forward to recognizing his achievements together.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

What is new in CRA advocacy:

April is considered one of the busiest months of the year for the California Legislature. The more than 2,700 bills are being considered in their first policy committees and the pace is frenetic. The Health Committee hearings are lasting more than five hours each week and the longest hearings are yet to come as we head towards the April 28th deadline for all bills to be heard in the first house policy committees.

Below are a few bills CRA will be advocating this year.

CRA is co-sponsoring [AB 874 \(Weber\)](#) with the Hemophilia Council of California, Cystic Fibrosis Research Institute, and the ALS Association to address the growing problems with accumulator programs being put in place by health plans. These accumulator programs restrict a patient from using amounts provided to them through co-pay assistance programs to count towards the patient's out of pocket health insurance requirements. AB 874 would specify monies used by a patient for medications, regardless of the source of funds, will count towards the out-of-pocket expenses of the patient. The bill is set to be heard on April 25th in the Assembly Health Committee.

Other bills we are advocating on include:

[SB 598 \(Skinner\)](#) – **CRA Position: Support**

This bill would create a “gold card” program where if a contracted physician has 90% of their prior authorization requests approved they would be exempt from having to go through prior authorization for the following 12 months. The bill also includes a provision requiring the health plan to use a provider with the same or similar specialty as the treating physician when reviewing appeals
Passed Senate Health Committee and headed to Senate Appropriations.

[AB 948 \(Berman\)](#) – **CRA Position: Support**

This bill would make permanent the law capping cost sharing expenses for covered outpatient prescription drugs to \$250 per drug for up to a 30 day supply. This law, which has been critical to patients being to afford their medications is currently set to expire at the end of 2023 unless this bill passes.
Passed Assembly Health Committee and in the Assembly Appropriations.

[SB 70 \(Wiener\)](#) – **CRA Position: Support**

This bill, sponsored by the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, requires health plans and insurers to cover denied medications, including the prescribed dose, for the duration of an appeals process. This bill also strengthens California's prohibition on non-medical switching by applying that same prohibition to a prescribed dose or dose level of a drug.
Passed the Senate Health Committee and headed to Senate Appropriations.

[SB 873 \(Bradford\)](#) – **CRA Position: Support**

This bill would require health plans and health insurers to pass through to enrollees at the time of purchasing prescription drugs at least 90% of all rebates received, or to be received, in connection with the dispensing or administration of the drug being prescribed.
Set to be heard in Senate Health Committee.

[AB 765 \(Wood\)](#) – **CRA Position: Support**

This bill is described as the “California Patient Protection, Safety, Disclosure and Transparency Act”, would further protect the public by ensuring health care consumers are not misled or deceived into believing their health care provider is a physician and/or surgeon, and health care providers with advanced degrees do not confuse the public with the use of “-ologist” or “surgeon” or “medical doctor” or other similar combination of “physician-like” titles.
Passed Assembly Health Committee and headed to Assembly Appropriations

WE NEED YOUR VOICE!

We are asking CRA members to share patient stories related to problems with accumulator programs. If you have any patient stories or are interested in learning more about CRA advocacy efforts, please email Tim Madden at madden@mqadvocacy.com or Shanna Castro at susui@calrheum.org

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