

March 10, 2023



## 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](mailto:info@calrheum.org).

Visit our Website

## 2023 CRA MEMBERSHIP DUES

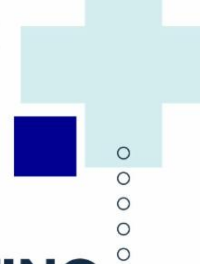
The 2023ca CRA Annual Membership is open for renewal! Pay your annual dues easily online for exclusive access to special membership benefits such as discounted rates on your meeting registration, tickets for amusement parks, movies, and stage shows as well as curated information surrounding news and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

Pay your 2023 CRA Membership Dues now

## SAVE THE DATE: 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

### SAVE THE DATE 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](http://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](http://www.calrheum.org)

Join us for an honorary luncheon on Saturday, April 29, 2023 from 1pm - 3pm as we celebrate the lifetime achievements of Dr. Daniel J. Wallace!

[Visit the CRA website](http://www.calrheum.org) to book your hotel room. As soon as the registration link is available, we will provide to the membership to sign up.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### What is new in CRA advocacy:

We are quickly moving into the busy season for advocacy at the State Capitol. There were more than 2,700 bills introduced including a number of bills impacting your practice and patients. 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.

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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

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](mailto:madden@mqadvocacy.com) or Shanna Castro at [susui@calrheum.org](mailto:susui@calrheum.org)

## CORPORATE MEMBERS

### DIAMOND MEMBERS

abbvie



SANOI GENZYME 



## PLATINUM MEMBERS



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## GOLD MEMBERS



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