

May 5, 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.

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*

We would like to extend a warm thank you to all who attended our 19th Annual Meeting this past weekend in Marina Del Rey, CA. This year's event was a great success with high attendance both virtually and in-person. We had the honor of hosting a lineup of speakers who shared valuable insights and sparked insightful discussions among attendees.

We would like to express our gratitude to Dr. Feldman for his informative talk on the present and future of the rheumatology field. His talk provided a comprehensive overview of the current landscape, as well as a glimpse into the future direction of the field. Attendees gained a wealth of knowledge that will help them better serve their patients and stay ahead of the curve.

We were also thrilled to have Dr. Girnita discuss her business model of direct specialty care. Her talk generated a lot of buzz among attendees, sparking discussions on how rheumatologists can improve the delivery of care to their patients. We appreciate her sharing her innovative approach to the field and providing attendees with valuable insights.



On Saturday, April 29th, we had the privilege of honoring Dr. Daniel Wallace at our honorary luncheon in the Bayview Ballroom. Dr. Wallace has inspired so many of us and helped countless patients live full and active lives. It was heartwarming to see so many of his friends and colleagues come together to share their favorite stories about him and the impact he has made on the field of rheumatology.

Thank you to all of our speakers for their informative and thought-provoking talks, as well as to our attendees for making this year's event a great success. We look forward to next year's meeting and hope to see you all there!

ADVOCACY SUMMIT 2023



On May 3rd CRA participated in a Lobby Day in Sacramento with the California Chronic Care Coalition. CRA Board Members, Samy Metyas, current President of CRA, and Anthony Padula spent the day in Sacramento learning about issues impacting patients and meeting with Legislators.

The bills discussed with Legislators included [AB 874](#) which would allow patients to use co pay assistance funds to count towards their out-of-pocket requirements of their health insurance and [SB 873](#) which would reduce the cost of medications by an amount equal to 90% of the rebates a health plan receives for the drug a patient is receiving.

The day was a big success as many Legislators expressed support for the bills being discussed. This was a good reminder of the importance of providers and patients sharing their stories and experiences with Legislators educating them on the challenges they care with the current healthcare system.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

What is new in CRA advocacy:

The end of April in Sacramento is one of the busiest times of the year. Bills are being heard in the various policy committees racing to meet the deadline to hear bills which was April 28th.

Unfortunately, there was some bad news for our co-sponsored bill, [AB 874 \(Weber\)](#). This is the bill intended 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.

In California, any bill that establishes a new requirement on health plans is required to go through an analysis by the California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP) to look at possible impact on health premiums. The review for AB 874 came back and found the impact would be to increase premiums by \$211,000,000. The Chair of the Assembly Health Committee felt the increases were substantial enough to have him decide to not hear the bill in the Assembly Health Committee as planned on April 25th. This means, AB 874 is not able to move forward in the legislative session this year any further. The bill will remain in the Assembly Health Committee and may be heard in January of 2024.

CRA and the entire coalition of more than 80 organizations are extremely disappointed with the decision not to hear the bill. The coalition is already working on a plan to help increase the awareness of this problem with accumulator programs and be prepared for January of next year. One important aspect of our plan is to increase the visibility of the impact of the accumulator programs on patients.

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

CORPORATE MEMBERS

DIAMOND MEMBERS

abbvie



SANOFI GENZYME 



PLATINUM MEMBERS

AMGEN[®]

GOLD MEMBERS



California Rheumatology Alliance | 5230 Pacific Concourse Drive, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA
90045

[Unsubscribe info@calrheum.org](mailto:info@calrheum.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by info@calrheum.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!