

NEWS FROM SPARTAN

December 29, 2014

Greetings!

Seasons Greetings!

Since its inception in 2003 with a modest meeting of a few North American rheumatologists in Salt Lake City, SPARTAN has made huge strides in imparting top-notch education while increasing the awareness regarding spondyloarthritis amongst American rheumatologists, as well as conducting and funding pioneering research in this field. Some of SPARTAN's recent achievements have been researching the epidemiology of axial spondyloarthritis with the National Health & Nutritional Examination Survey (NHANES), and conducting the CME accredited educational symposia in partnership with the Group for the Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (GRAPPA) in over 20 cities around the United States.

Perhaps the most important achievement of SPARTAN to date has been the development of 'Treatment guidelines for ankylosing spondylitis and non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis' in collaboration with the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and the Spondylitis Association of America (SAA). Those of you who attended the ACR annual meeting in Boston in November, might have had a chance to attend the special session where the guidelines development process and the draft guidelines were presented by Drs. Liron Caplan and Michael Ward respectively. The interest level in this subject was so high that the ACR had to open two extra 'over-flow' rooms to accommodate attendees. These draft guidelines are now making their rounds through various ACR committees as well as the editorial offices of Arthritis & Rheumatology, plus Arthritis Care & Research. We expect the final guidelines to be published in the first quarter of 2015 in both, A&R and AC&R journals.

We could not have completed this work without the huge time commitment and hard work by close to twenty SPARTAN member volunteers, who served on the 'literature review panel', 'voting panel' and the 'core group' (see right panel). We are grateful to all of them for successfully navigating the complicated 'GRADE' methodology that the ACR was employing for the first time to develop treatment guidelines. In this massive undertaking, we are especially indebted to three individuals: Michael Ward, for spearheading this project as the PI, Liron Caplan for leading the literature review, and Laurie Savage, the executive director of SAA

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2015 SPARTAN Annual Meeting



AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION
HOTELS

Denver, Colorado
July 23 – 26, 2015

THANK YOU!

The ACR-SAA-SPARTAN
Treatment guidelines for
ankylosing spondylitis and
non-radiographic axial
spondyloarthritis

Literature Review Panel:

Liron Caplan
Andrew Lui
Joerg Ermann
Lianne Gensler
Judith Smith
David Borenstein
Jamie Hiratzka
Pamela Weiss
Robert Inman
Vikas Majithia
Nigil Haroon
Walter Maksymowych
Robert Hart
Siba Raychaudhuri

for securing funding.

SPARTAN is changing our management structure. We welcome Lisa Morasch and her firm IMC (Innovative Management Concepts) as SPARTAN's new management company. Lisa and her firm specialize in supporting medical groups like ours. We are grateful for the amazing work of Amanda Pacia for the last eight years. SPARTAN grew by leaps and bounds during this time, thanks to Amanda and her hard work. We will miss her and wish her every success in future endeavors.

We have so much to look forward to in 2015 – I will be writing to you again early next year with news on setting up new committees, new research projects, our 501c3 status, plus some details regarding our annual meeting (to be held in Denver, Colorado, July 23 – 26: Save the dates!)

Thank you for your support to SPARTAN over the years. Best wishes for a happy new year!



Atul Deodhar, MD
Chair, SPARTAN



James Witter

Voting Panel:

Michael Ward
Elie Akl
Bruce Clark
Robert Colbert
Mark Figgie
Eric Goldstein
David Hallegua
Pamela Prete
James Rosenbaum
Judith Stebulis
Filip van den Bosch
David Yu

Core Group:

Michael Ward
Atul Deodhar
John Reveille
Liron Caplan
Elie Akl

ACR Support Staff:

Amy Miller
Janet Joyce
Regina Parker
Tamara Rader

SAA Partners:

Laurie Savage
Charlotte Howard

Resources

www.grappanetwork.org
www.spondylitis.org
www.asas-group.org
www.sparcc.ca
www.panlar.org

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