

## Meeting Faculty

### **Bonnie L. Bermas, MD**

Bonnie L. Bermas, MD is the Dr. Morris Ziff Distinguished Professor in Rheumatology and Clinical Director of the Rheumatics Diseases Division at UTSouthwestern Medical Center. Dr. Bermas attended Princeton University and received her medical degree from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City. She completed her internal medicine training at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center and her rheumatology fellowship at both the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and the National Institutes of Health in Washington DC.

Over the course of her academic career, Dr. Bermas has established herself as an expert in the management of rheumatic diseases during pregnancy and lactation. As a clinician educator, she has written and lectured extensively in this area and is a member of the American College of Rheumatology core writing team for the Reproductive Health in Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases Guidelines. Over the past few years, Dr. Bermas has also developed a clinical interest in the management of rheumatologic immune related adverse events seen in oncology patients treated with checkpoint inhibitors.

---

### **Steven Echard, IOM, CAE**

Steven Echard is a Certified Association Executive (CAE\*) graduate of the Institute of Organizational Management (IOM) at UCLA. He has served as Executive Director of several medical/scientific professional societies and medical research foundations. Mr. Echard currently serves as the Executive Vice President for the American College of Rheumatology (ACR), an international healthcare association committed to improving the care of patients with rheumatic disease and advancing the rheumatology subspecialty.

Before returning to ACR in 2019, Mr. Echard served as Chief Executive of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD), an international healthcare association working to advance and disseminate the science and practice of hepatology, and to promote liver health and quality patient care. During his 5-year tenure, he was able to assist AASLD leadership to refine its strategic plan and increase its program offerings, including the launch of a new AASLD Foundation and significant investment in Global Outreach.

---

## **Polly J. Ferguson, MD**

Dr. Ferguson is a Professor of Pediatrics and Director of Pediatric Rheumatology at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. She runs an NIH funded research program aimed at better understanding the pathogenesis of autoinflammatory bone disorders.

---

## **Edward W. Goldberger, MD, FACR**

Born in Lorain, Ohio Dr. Goldberger attended McGill University undergraduate and graduated from the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo. Afterwards, he completed residency in Internal Medicine at Montefiore Hospital University of Pittsburgh and rheumatology fellowship at SUNY Upstate Medical Center Syracuse, New York. He returned to Toledo, Ohio in 1991. Dr. Goldberger has been with Arthritis Associates of Northwest Ohio since then, which is now a part of the Toledo Clinic. He lives in Maumee, Ohio with his wife Mary, a family physician, 2 dogs and 1 guinea pig. He has 2 grown children.

---

## **Monica Hueckel**

Monica Hueckel currently serves as Senior Director of Government Relations for the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA). The OSMA enjoys a 168-year reputation as the voice of Ohio's medical profession. The OSMA represents 16,000 Ohio physicians, medical residents and medical students and collaborates at the local level with county medical societies and at the national level with the American Medical Association.

Previously Ms. Hueckel worked in Washington, DC for United States Congressman Steve Stivers, who currently represents Ohio's 15th Congressional District. Monica served as his Director of Operations and Legislative Assistant, focusing on health care policy and initiatives. Prior to that, she worked for a consulting firm in Columbus, Ohio where she lobbied the state legislature on behalf of numerous clients and focused on political fundraising.

Ms. Hueckel is a graduate of The Ohio State University and currently resides in Columbus, OH.

---

## **Gary M. Kammer, MD**

Dr. Gary Kammer is a rheumatologist with the office of Lake Health Physician Group Arthritis Associates, specializing in rheumatology, arthritis, carpal tunnel, autoimmune diseases, clinical immunology, immunodeficiency syndromes, joint evaluations, joint injections, lupus, osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, psoriatic arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and more.

---

## **Firas Kassab, MD**

Dr. Kassab is a rheumatologist practicing in South Charlotte Rheumatology, an independent solo rheumatology practice in Charlotte, NC. He obtained his medical degree from Damascus University in Syria and completed his internal medicine residency and rheumatology fellowship at the University of Texas in Houston. He started his rheumatology career as a rheumatology faculty member at the University of Massachusetts Medical School before relocating to Charlotte in 2010 and working in a hospital based multispecialty practice, a single specialty practice and most recently opening his independent practice in 2020. He is active in advocacy, and serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Rheumatology Association since 2012 (president 2016-2018), and a member of the CSRO Board of Directors since 2021.

---

## **Carol A. Langford, MD, MHS**

Carol A. Langford, MD, MHS, received her medical degree at the University of California Los Angeles in 1987 and trained in internal medicine at the University of Michigan from 1987 to 1990. She was a fellow in rheumatology at Duke University from 1990 to 1994 where she also received a Master's degree in health sciences in 1995. From 1994 to 2004, Dr. Langford was a senior investigator at the National Institutes of Health where her research focused on vasculitic diseases. In 2004, Dr. Langford joined the Cleveland Clinic to become Director of the Center for Vasculitis Care and Research within the Department of Rheumatic and Immunologic Diseases. She is an Associate Professor of Medicine of the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University and became Vice-Chair of Rheumatology for Research in 2007. In 2011, she was named the Harold C Schott endowed Chair in Rheumatic and Immunologic Diseases.

---

## **Marina N. Magrey, MD**

Marina Magrey, MD, is Division Chief of Rheumatology at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center and a Professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. After she received her medical degree from the University of Kashmir, India, Dr. Magrey completed an internal medicine residency and fellowship in rheumatology at the Cleveland Clinic.

---

## **Randall Marcus, MD**

Randall E. Marcus, M.D. is a Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery in the Department of Orthopaedics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and an attending surgeon at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center in Cleveland Ohio. He has been in the active practice of orthopaedic surgery since 1981. Dr. Marcus served as the Charles H. Herndon Professor and Chairman of this Department from 2003 to 2018. During that

period, Dr. Marcus expanded the Department with the addition of 30 surgeons and physicians, as well as 5 basic scientists. He added 8 new practice locations and markedly increased the endowment of the Department with the addition of 9 new Endowed Chairs and added 5 Endowed Lectureships. During his entire tenure as Chair of Orthopaedics, the Department was ranked by U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT in the top 50 Departments in the country and by NIH in the top 10 for research funding.

Dr. Marcus is an internationally recognized expert in the area of lower extremity reconstructive and trauma surgery, sub-specializing in hip replacement, knee replacement, ankle and foot surgery. He is a member of numerous national and international orthopaedic societies and was elected President of both the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery and the Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons. He is an Associate Editor and was Chairman of the Board of Trustees (2003-2022) of CLINICAL ORTHOPAEDICS AND RELATED RESEARCH. He also has served as a Board Member of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (2001-2012) and the Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons (2005-2022). Dr Marcus is currently on the Medical Advisory Panel and the Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee for the National Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Dr. Marcus has participated in research funded by the National Institutes of Health and industry, totaling over \$7 million and has U.S. Patent Awards, which he has licensed to several manufacturers.

---

## **Basanti Mukerji, MD**

Dr. Mukerji graduated from the Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research Kolkata in 1980. She works in Dayton, OH and specializes in Internal Medicine and Rheumatology. Dr. Mukerji is affiliated with Dayton VA Medical Center.

---

## **Stephanie J. Ott, MD, FACR, FACP**

Dr. Ott has been the President of the Ohio Association of Rheumatology since 2011. She is also the Director of Rheumatology with Fairfield Healthcare Professionals Rheumatology, Fairfield Medical Center and the Clinical Associate Professor of Rheumatology at The Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Ott received her Doctor of Medicine Degree from the University of New Mexico in 2001 and then completed a residency at the university in 2004. She went on to complete a rheumatology fellowship at the Ohio State University from 2005-2007. She is on the Board of Directors and is a co-chair for Advocacy for the Association of Women in Rheumatology (AWIR).

---

## **Elisabeth S. Roter, MD**

Dr. Elisabeth S. Roter is a rheumatologist in Mentor, Ohio and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including University Hospitals Regional Medical Centers and University

Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center. She received her medical degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

---

## **Kevin Winthrop, MD, MPH**

Kevin L. Winthrop is a Professor of Public Health, and Associate Professor of Infectious Diseases and Ophthalmology, at the School of Public Health and School of Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) in Portland, OR, USA.

A former infectious disease epidemiologist in the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dr. Winthrop has co-authored over 200 publications, many regarding the epidemiologic and clinical aspects of opportunistic infections associated with immune-mediated inflammatory diseases, particularly those related to biologic immunosuppressive therapies. He has served as a primary or senior investigator in many of these studies and has collaborated closely with the rheumatology community in the evaluation and prevention of opportunistic infections in that setting. In addition, he is also a member of the graduate faculty at OHSU where he mentors public health students, medical students, and physicians in post-graduate training. At OHSU, he directs a national referral center for chronic chest infections, and he serves as the medical consultant to the State of Oregon's Tuberculosis control program.