

Meeting Faculty

Stacy Ardoin, MD

Dr. Stacy Ardoin is a pediatric and adult rheumatologist at Nationwide Children's Hospital and Ohio State University. Dr. Ardoin's clinical research focuses on optimal treatment and long-term outcomes of adults and children with lupus. She is particularly interested in discovering ways to prevent the development of heart disease in children and adults with lupus. Dr. Ardoin's other research interests include renal outcomes in SLE and the transition from child-centered to adult-centered medical care.

David Bacha, MD, FACP, FACR

Dr. David Bacha is a clinical rheumatologist at the Crystal Arthritis Center, in Akron, Ohio. He is president, managing partner and a founding member of the group. Dr. Bacha is also a Professor of Internal Medicine at the Northeast Ohio Medical University, where he is Chairman of the Section of Rheumatology. He is not only involved in medical education, but also clinical research. Dr. Bacha is a Fellow of the American College of Rheumatology and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians. Currently, he serves on board of the Ohio Association of Rheumatology.

Stanley Ballou, MD

Dr. Stanley Ballou graduated with a degree in chemistry from Kent State University and received his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, where he was awarded the 2nd prize in Medicine. He completed internal medicine residency, chief medicine residency, and rheumatology fellowship training at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital/Case Western Reserve University. His clinical and research interests in Lupus led him to establish the first dedicated Lupus Clinic in Ohio at MetroHealth Medical Center in 1981. He was also engaged in basic research, obtaining NIH funding to explore an important interaction of the acute phase protein CRP with human monocytes, leading to several noteworthy publications and international research presentations. He was appointed Director of the Division of Rheumatology at MHMC in 1998 and served in this capacity until 2009, during which he established a rheumatology fellowship training program in 2004 with the support of 3 ACR training grants and served as rheumatology Fellowship Program Director until 2016. He was awarded a Scholarship in Teaching Award from CWRU in 2013 and the MetroHealth Medical Center Teaching Excellence Career Achievement Award, 2012-2013. He has published over 45 peer-reviewed articles, 55 abstracts, and 9 book chapters. He is currently Professor of Medicine at CWRU and the Director of the Lupus Clinic at MetroHealth Medical Center.

Alisa Vidulich Casavant, MPH

Alisa Vidulich Casavant has served as the Policy Director at the Arthritis Foundation since 2020, where she advocates for patients living with chronic health conditions, shaping state and federal policies. With expertise in chronic health conditions, infectious diseases (including HIV/AIDS, TB, COVID-19), substance use, mental health, and pain management, Alisa brings a comprehensive understanding of complex health issues to drive impactful change. Most recently, she worked at Avalere Health advising clients on issues including vaccines, infectious diseases, mental health, and pain management. Alisa also has experience working with the Ohio House of Representatives, YWCA of Greater Atlanta, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Global HIV & Tuberculosis.

Passionate about equitable access to high-quality healthcare, Alisa is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of individuals affected by chronic health conditions. Alisa earned her Master of Public Health in health policy and management from Emory University Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta, Georgia and holds bachelor's degrees in French and international studies from the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio. She is a passionate pianist and trumpeter, an avid college sports fan, and has served in various leadership roles with the Dayton and Emory Alumni Networks. Alisa now lives in Washington, D.C. with her new husband and curious cat, Theo. Connect with Alisa to collaborate on initiatives that create positive change and improve patient well-being.

Edward Goldberger, MD, FACR

Born in Lorain, Ohio, Dr. Edward Goldberger attended McGill University for his undergraduate degree before graduating from the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo. After completing 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 in 1991. He 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), two dogs, and one guinea pig. He has two grown children.

Kristin Highland, MD

Dr. Kristin Highland completed her undergraduate work and medical school at Indiana University and then moved to Charleston, South Carolina, where she completed her residency in internal medicine. After serving in the United States Air Force, she returned to the Medical University of South Carolina and completed fellowships in pulmonary/critical care and rheumatology as well as a Master of Science in clinical research. After training, Dr. Highland joined the faculty of MUSC where she was director of a busy rheumatic lung disease clinic and pulmonary hypertension program.

She moved to Cleveland, OH in 2013 and joined the faculty of the Cleveland Clinic where she is the Research Officer and Associate Program Director for Research and Scholarly Activity. She is also director of the Rheumatic Lung Disease Program and an active member of the Interstitial Lung Disease and Pulmonary Hypertension programs. Her clinical and research

interests have focused on the pulmonary manifestations of rheumatic lung disease with an emphasis on interstitial lung disease and pulmonary hypertension, particularly in the setting of scleroderma. She is a member of the scientific advisory council of the Pulmonary Hypertension Association and the Scleroderma Foundation and has been active in the American College of Chest Physicians. She has published more than 100 peer-reviewed articles and serves on the editorial board of several international journals including *Lancet Respiratory*. She is also an associate editor of *Respiratory Medicine*.

Kenneth Kalunian, MD, FACR

Dr. Kenneth Kalunian is the Wolfe Family Director of the UC San Diego Lupus Center of Excellence. He is a clinical scientist with expertise in outcome assessments, clinical trial design and in clinical epidemiological aspects of systemic lupus erythematosus. He is the co-founder and inaugural chairperson of the Lupus Clinical Trials Network (LuCIN) of Lupus Therapeutics/Lupus Foundation of American and the founding director of the Collective Data Analysis Initiative of the Lupus Foundation of America.

Jason Kolfenbach, MD

Dr. Jason Kolfenbach is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Ophthalmology at the University of Colorado Denver, where he serves as a clinician educator and Director of the Rheumatology Fellowship Program. His expertise is in clinical education as well as patient care and research activities focused on the field of inflammatory eye disease, and he is the current co-editor of the popular textbook *Rheumatology Secrets*.

E. Michael Lewiecki, MD, FACP, FACE, FASBMR, CCD

Dr. E. Michael Lewiecki is Director of New Mexico Clinical Research & Osteoporosis Center and Director of Bone Health ECHO at University of New Mexico Health Sciences in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. He is an investigator for many osteoporosis clinical trials, with a research interest in development of strategies to reduce fracture risk and new clinical tools for assessing bone strength. He is the author of over 350 publications in peer-reviewed journals with more than 30,000 citations. He is the founding president of the Osteoporosis Foundation of New Mexico and past president of the International Society for Clinical Densitometry.

Beth Liston, MD

Dr. Beth Liston is serving in her third term as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, representing the Northwest corner of Franklin County. She began her career in medicine, earning her MD and PhD at The Ohio State University and subsequently training in Internal

Medicine and Pediatrics at Yale New Haven Hospital. Upon completing her residencies, Dr. Liston joined the faculty at Ohio State in 2006. Since that time, she has worked clinically as a hospitalist at OSU's Wexner Medical Center and at Nationwide Children's Hospital, caring for adults and children in the inpatient setting. She is a Professor of Clinical Internal Medicine and Pediatrics with significant involvement in medical student education and a passion for advocacy.

Dr. Liston first ran for office in 2018, in order to bring a better understanding of the impact of policy on health and wellness to the Ohio General Assembly. She is the Ranking Member on the House Health Committee and sits on the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee, the Families Aging and Human Services Committee and the Ways and Means Committee. In the community Dr. Liston is immediate past president of the Columbus Medical Association and a member of the Dublin-Worthington Rotary. She lives in the Dublin area with her husband and their two teenage children.

Stephanie J. Ott, MD, MWRA, FACR, FACP

Dr. Stephanie J. Ott received a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from Ohio State University (OSU) and a Master's Degree in Water Resource Administration from the University of New Mexico (UNM). She worked as a supervisor in a research laboratory at UNM School of Medicine where she then matriculated into the School of Medicine, completing her medical degree and Internal Medicine residency training. She completed her fellowship in Rheumatology at OSU and is a Fellow in the American College of Rheumatology and the American College of Physicians.

Joe Rosato

Joe Rosato currently serves as Director of Government Relations for the Ohio State Medical Association. His past experience includes time at the Statehouse, as well as positions with the Ohio Restaurant Association, Ohio Bankers League, and The Ohio Society of CPAs. Please see additional details at [LinkedIn](#).

Rebecca Shepherd, MD, MBA, FACR, FACP

Dr. Rebecca Shepherd is a clinical rheumatologist at Lancaster General Health (LGH) Penn Medicine in Lancaster, PA. She is the Chief of Rheumatology and Director of Osteoporosis Care for LGH. She practices with five other rheumatologists and two APPs. Dr. Shepherd also serves as the Insurance Subcommittee Chair for the American College of Rheumatology. In her ACR position, she works closely with ACR staff to advocate for ACR members and patients on both private and government issues.