

Greetings!

May 5, 2018

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Rheumatology Association of Nevada, I am pleased to report we had a successful and informative conference for the RAN 3rd Annual Meeting April 27 – 28, 2018. For the first time, we held the conference in Northern Nevada, at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino at South Shore Lake Tahoe. We want to thank all of our attendees, WJ Weiser & Associates, RAN Executive Director Donna Rostamian, and particularly all of our corporate and industry sponsors. We want to especially thank our outgoing president, Ewa Olech, MD who served as RAN president from 2015 to 2018. Her progressive thinking and efforts were the single greatest factor in the formation of the Rheumatology Association of Nevada. Her leadership and service to RAN will always be remembered.

We had multiple cutting edge and timely presentations for this CME meeting. Our Keynote Lecturer was Edward C. Keystone, MD, FRCP(C). He is professor of medicine at the University of Toronto and senior consultant in rheumatology at Mount Sinai Hospital. He presented two topics. First, Dr. Keystone presented a stimulating discussion about emerging and novel therapies in rheumatoid arthritis. He reviewed the new agents addressing IL-17 blockade, GM-CSF agents, and various details about JAK inhibitors. During his second topic he reviewed clinical aspects of biologics and biosimilars, as well as clinical pearls concerning biologic dose reduction practices.

We then had the opportunity to hear from Ellen B. McBride, MD who practices psychiatry in Reno, Nevada. Her presentation provided great insights into the complex and ultimately important topic of suicide prevention. We were then enlightened by Sudhakar Tumuluri, MD, by his up-to-date review of the management of psoriatic arthritis. He is in private practice in the San Francisco bay area, and is the current president of the Northern California Rheumatology Society. With the recent release of multiple new agents approved for this condition, his presentation was both current and insightful. One of Nevada's own, Robert Lowe, MD, PhD then led an eye-opening discussion about auto-inflammatory conditions in children. He is Nevada's only local pediatric rheumatologist and is an important member of the Nevada rheumatology community. As he taught us adult rheumatologists about the care of ill kids, he reminded us that these kids become adults and need appropriate ongoing management. Our last speaker was Lester E. Mertz, MD who is a member of the Rheumatology Department at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona. Dr. Mertz presented ANCA vasculitis diagnosis and treatment. He reviewed atypical ANCA disease presentations and current disease treatment recommendations.

In our RAN Annual Business Meeting, we discussed several key issues facing the practice of rheumatology in Nevada and what might be done to address these issues. There is a need for more rheumatologists in Nevada. We are going to look into the opportunity of jointly sponsoring a rheumatology fellowship training position that would lead to another rheumatologist joining our ranks. We discussed the difficulties that insurance mandated step edit guidelines create for us as we try to take care of our patients. We also discussed possibly having an additional educational gathering that would promote rheumatology awareness to physicians or physician assistants in training.

We note the reorganization of the RAN Board of Directors. I, Dr. Kelly, have the honor of serving as President. We welcome Susan Knowles, MD as Vice President, Carolyn Dennehey, MD as Secretary, and Christianne Yung, MD continues as Treasurer. Those who still serve on the RAN Board of Directors are Ruth Chan, DO, William Kim, MD, and Robert Lowe, MD, PhD. We are pleased to acknowledge that two new practitioners have joined RAN's Board of Directors. Elise Call, PA-C and Neil Braunstein, MD have joined our ranks. Both practitioners add diversification and broaden the scope of the Board of Directors. We are delighted to add them to our ranks!

We are also pleased to announce the 4th Annual Rheumatology Association of Nevada Meeting, which is scheduled for April 26 – 27, 2019 at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas, Nevada. As a CME accredited meeting, the topics and speakers plan to be first rate. It promises to be an exciting and informative gathering. We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
G. Timothy Kelly, MD
RAN President