



 **Brigham and Women's Hospital**  
Founding Member, Mass General Brigham



# Welcome to the 2024 VERITY/Brigham Course in Rheumatology Clinical Research

April 2 – April 5, 2024



# VERITY course leadership

Course Director: Jeffrey Sparks, MD, MMSc

Course Co-Directors:

- Daniel Solomon, MD, MPH
- Jeffrey Katz, MD, MSc
- Karen Costenbader, MD, MPH

Course Coordinator: Jackie Stratton ([jstratton1@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:jstratton1@bwh.harvard.edu))

# VERITY 2024 Course Attendees

**Fakhar Abbas, MD**

Loma Linda University Medical Center  
Loma Linda, CA

**Brian Coburn, MD, PhD**

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA

**Gina Ferrero, MD**

Oregon Health & Science University  
Portland, OR

**Jimena Garcia-Silva, MS**

Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo León  
Monterrey, Nuevo León, México

**Jennifer Hanberg, MD**

Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Boston, MA

**Pichamol Jirapinyo, MD, MPH**

Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Boston, MA

**Liyong Kim, MD**

Boston Children's Hospital  
Boston, MA

**Michael Macklin, MD, PharmD**

University of Chicago  
Chicago, IL

**Daniele Marcy, MD**

University of Colorado  
Aurora, CO

**Greta Mastrangelo, MD**

The Hospital for Sick Children  
Toronto, Canada

**Takemichi Matsui, MD**

University of Tokyo  
Tokyo, Japan

**Ruoning (Lemon) Ni, MD**

University of Iowa  
Iowa City, Iowa

**Maryam Own, MD**

Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, MN

**Michelle Robinette, MD, PhD**

Brigham and Women's Hospital/Dana-Farber  
Cancer Institute  
Boston, MA

**Rebecca Sadun, MD, PhD**

Duke University  
Durham, NC

**Aisha Shaikh, MD**

Washington University School of Medicine  
St Louis, MO

**Ivana Stojkic, MD**

Nationwide Children's Hospital  
Columbus, Ohio

**George Thieroff, MD**

SSM Saint Louis University  
St. Louis, MO

**Ilana Usiskin, MD**

Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Boston, MA

**Ana Valle, MD, MHS**

Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Boston, MA

**Kristen Young, DO, MEd**

University of Arizona - College of Medicine  
Phoenix, AZ



## VERITY 2018 Course Attendees

- Fatima Barbar-Smiley
- Anna Broder
- Christina Downey
- Dinah Foer
- Julia Ford
- Mark Hall
- Karen James
- Aleksander Lenert
- Evan Mulvihill
- Erin Penn
- Vaneet Sandhu
- Emily Smitherman
- Rebecca Tractman
- Leandra Woolnough
- Shima Yasin

## VERITY 2020 Virtual Course Attendees

- Nicole Bitencourt
- Jessica Bloom
- John Bridges
- Siobhan Case
- Amy Cunningham-Bussel
- Vanessa Kronzer
- Alexandra Legge
- Lily Li
- Sarah Lieber
- Rebecca Overbury
- Jordan Roberts
- Tamar Rubinstein
- Sebastian Sattui
- Namrata Singh
- Patricia Vega-Fernandez
- Daniel Whibley
- Leanna Wise
- Katherine Wysham

## VERITY 2022 Course Attendees

- Astia Allenzara
- Kosaku Aoyagi
- Kaveh Ardalan
- Burcu Aydemir
- Mia Chandler
- Krati Chauhan
- Rashmi Dhital
- Sharon Dowell
- Lauren Goldschen
- Lesley Jackson
- Elena Joerns
- Tate Johnson
- Paras Karmacharya
- Vanessa Kronzer
- Alexandra Legge
- Yiming Luo
- Jayne MacMahon
- Gregory McDermott
- Luciana Paim-Marques
- Pankti Reid
- Jordan Roberts
- Jose Rubio
- Didem Saygin
- Catherine Sims
- Jessica Williams





# What is VERITY?

- Value and Evidence in Rheumatology using bioInformaTics, and advanced analYtics
- P30 grant funded by NIH/NIAMS to create a clinical research community to access BWH resources
  - Section of Clinical Sciences: SCS
  - Orthopaedic and Arthritis Center for Outcomes Research: OrACORe
- Administrative Core/Enrichment program
  - VERITY course
  - Longitudinal mentorship
  - Seminars (with webcasts)
  - Pilot & Feasibility grant (\$20K)
- Bioinformatics Core (Director: Katherine Liao)
- Methodology Core (Director: Elena Losina)

Peter Bent Brigham Hospital (1913)



Robert Breck Brigham Hospital (1914)



Boston Free Hospital for Women (1966)  
-Boston Lying-In Hospital (1832)  
-Free Hospital for Women (1875)

3 hospitals  
merged in 1980



BRIGHAM  
AND  
WOMEN'S  
HOSPITAL





 **Brigham and Women's Hospital**  
Founding Member, Mass General Brigham



**BRIGHAM HEALTH**  
 **BRIGHAM AND  
WOMEN'S HOSPITAL**





# Hale Building for Transformative Medicine (BTM) Opened in 2016

Section of Clinical Sciences (SCS)

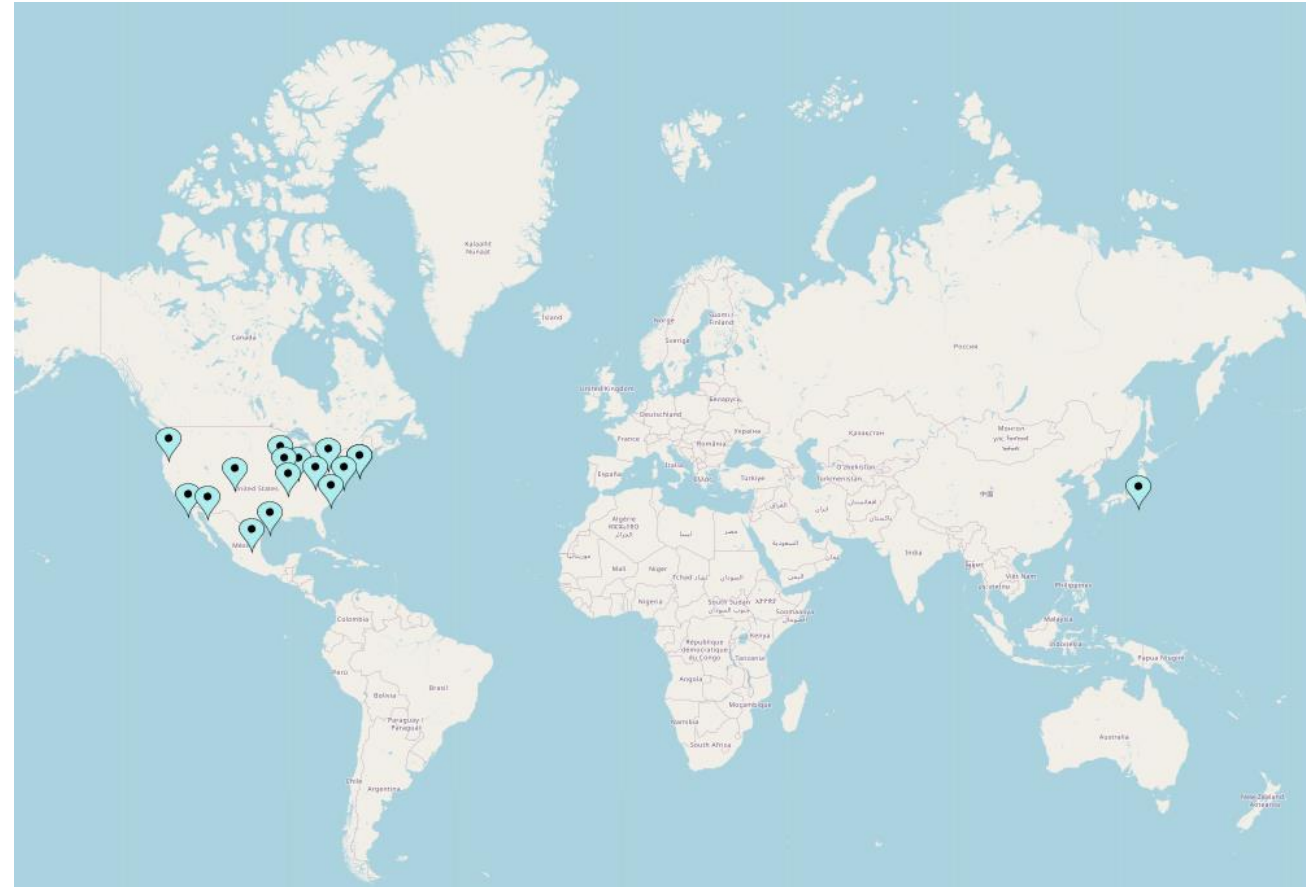




# VERITY 2024 Course Overview



- **23 Faculty**
  - 16 BWH
  - Boston Children's Hospital, NIAMS, RRF, Toronto Sick Kids, University of Vienna, University of North Carolina
- **22 attendees honing research projects**
  - Specific Aims: 9
  - Research Overview: 13
- **58 lecture attendees**
  - USA, Taiwan, UK, Malaysia, Italy, Iran, Canada, India
- **Harvard Catalyst Desire 2 Learn**
  - Online pre-work
    - Grantsmanship
    - Study design
    - Career development
    - Managing a research team



# VERITY Course Partners



- **NIH/NIAMS**

- Funded VERITY P30

- **Rheumatology Research Foundation**

- **Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance**

- Pediatric rheumatology partner

- **Harvard Catalyst**



National Institute of  
Arthritis and Musculoskeletal  
and Skin Diseases



**Rheumatology  
Research Foundation**  
Advancing Treatment | Finding Cures



Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance



**HARVARD  
CATALYST**

Harvard Clinical & Translational Science Center

# 2024 VERITY/Brigham Course in Rheumatology Clinical Research

- Morning sessions
  - Lectures (recorded)
  - Q&A (recorded)
  - Keynotes (recorded)
  - Mock grant review  
*(full attendees only)*
- Afternoon sessions
  - Lectures (recorded)
  - Project workshops  
*(full attendees only)*
  - Final presentations  
*(full attendees only)*
- One-on-one meetings with VERITY faculty  
*(full attendees only)*
- Welcome Reception
- Course Photo

## Schedule for 2024 VERITY/Brigham Course in Rheumatology Clinical Research

**Director:** Jeffrey Sparks MD MMSc; **Co-Directors:** Karen Costenbader MD MPH; Jeffrey Katz MD MSc; Daniel Solomon MD MPH  
**Faculty:** Kelli Allen, PhD; Tianrun Cai, MD; Lindsey Criswell, MD, MPH, DSc; Jamie Collins PhD; Brian Feldman, MD, MPH; Candace Feldman, MD, MPH, ScD; Liana Fraenkel, MD, MPH; Ellen Gravallese, MD; Katherine Liao, MD, MPH; Elena Losina, PhD; Gregory McDermott, MD; Peter Nigrovic, MD; Misti Paudel, PhD, MPH; Faith Selzer, PhD; Nancy Shadick, MD, MPH; Josef Smolen, MD; Mary Beth Son, MD; Sara Tedeschi, MD, MPH; Kevin Wei, MD, PhD

Date	Mornings				Afternoons			
	Time (ET)	Title	Faculty	Room	Time (ET)	Title	Faculty	Room
<b>Tuesday, April 2, 2024</b>	9-9:15	Introduction to the 2024 VERITY course	Jeffrey Sparks Daniel Solomon	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf.	1-1:45	Balancing opportunities for the emerging researcher	Jeffrey Katz	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf.
	9:15-10	Specific Aims page pearls	Karen Costenbader	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf.	2-2:45	Emulated target trial	Daniel Solomon	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf.
	10-10:45	Roadmap to a research career in rheumatology	Jeffrey Sparks	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf.	3-4:30	Office hours*	VERITY faculty	
	11-12	Q&A: Integrating translational research in patient-oriented studies	Ellen Gravallese Daniel Solomon Jeffrey Sparks Kevin Wei	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf.	4:30	Welcome reception*		1 <sup>st</sup> floor atrium
	12	VERITY course photo						
<b>Wednesday, April 3, 2024</b>	9-9:45	Keynote: NIAMS perspective for supporting early investigators	Lindsey Criswell, NIAMS Director	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf.	1-2	Pediatric rheumatology breakout session**	Brian Feldman Mary Beth Son	BTM 08004
	10-10:45	Pitfalls in measurement	Brian Feldman	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf.	1-4	Project workshops*	VERITY faculty	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf, BTM 05010, BTM 06014
	11-12	Mock grant review*	Katherine Liao Elena Losina Daniel Solomon Sara Tedeschi	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf.				
<b>Thursday, April 4, 2024</b>	9-9:45	Introduction to bioinformatics for clinical research studies	Katherine Liao	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf.	1-1:45	Causal inference methods for confounding control	Elena Losina	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf.
	10-10:45	Optimizing the mentee-mentorship relationship	Peter Nigrovic Jeffrey Sparks	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf.	2-2:45	Artificial intelligence/ machine learning	Jamie Collins	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf.
	11-12	Q&A with journal editors: Pearls & pitfalls for getting your research published	Daniel Solomon (A&R) Josef Smolen (ARD) Kelli Allen (AC&R)	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf.	3-4:30	Office hours*	VERITY faculty	
<b>Friday, April 5, 2024</b>	9-9:45	Keynote: RRF Reflections for early investigators in rheumatology	Liana Fraenkel, RRF President	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf.	12:30-1	VERITY course wrap-up		2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf.
	10-10:45	Social Determinants of Health: From association to intervention	Candace Feldman	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf.	1-5	Final presentations*	VERITY faculty	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf, BTM 03014, BTM 06004
	11-12	Q&A: Avoiding common statistical pitfalls	Jamie Collins Elena Losina Misti Paudel	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor conf.				

\*Please note that Tuesday afternoon (3-4:30PM ET), Wednesday mid-morning and afternoon (11AM-4PM ET), Thursday afternoon (3-4:30PM ET), and Friday afternoon (1-5PM ET) are for full course attendees only and not offered to the lecture-only group.

\*\*This session will be specific for the pediatric attendees and will be held in parallel with the project workshops.



# Highlights of VERITY 2024



- **Keynote: NIAMS perspective for supporting early investigators** (Wednesday at 9AM ET)
  - Lindsey Criswell, NIAMS Director
- **Mock grant review** (Wednesday at 11AM ET) (*full attendees only*)
  - Katherine Liao, Elena Losina, Daniel Solomon, Sara Tedeschi
- **Q&A with journal editors** (Thursday at 11AM ET)
  - Daniel Solomon, Editor-in-chief of *Arthritis & Rheumatology*
  - Josef Smolen, Editor-in-chief of *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*
  - Kelli Allen, Editor-in-chief of *Arthritis Care & Research*
- **Keynote: RRF Reflections for early investigators in rheumatology** (Friday at 9AM ET)
  - Liana Fraenkel, RRF President

# VERITY 2024 materials



All materials are also stored on the VERITY website: [verityresearch.org](https://verityresearch.org)

## Schedules/materials

- Course schedule
- Supplemental schedules
- Mentor-mentee pairings
- Final presentation schedule
- List of full attendees and project names

## Information

- **VERITY Pilot & Feasibility grant application (\$30k)**
- Roadmap to a career in rheumatology research
- Dining options (in-person attendees)
- Maps of the BTM (in-person attendees)

## Articles for lectures

- Barriers & facilitators of mentorship in rheumatology
- Building an ARC to Grant Success
- Making the most of mentors
- Mentee missteps
- Mentor archetypes to help mentees succeed



# Project feedback during VERITY 2024

- Project workshop mini-sessions (***full attendees only***)
  - 1.5 hours on Wednesday afternoon (1-4PM ET)
  - Two faculty and 3-4 full attendees
  - Informal discussion of each project summary for ~20 minutes (**no slides**)
- VERITY mentor meeting (***full attendees only***)
  - 1-on-1 meeting
  - Already scheduled (contact Jackie if unsure)
  - Opportunity for longitudinal mentoring after VERITY course
  - Informal meeting: discuss your research project and career development
  - Reach out directly to other faculty you may want to meet
- Final presentation (***full attendees only***)
  - Friday afternoon





# Final presentation on Friday afternoon

- ***Full attendees only***
- Three simultaneous sessions on Friday (1-5PM)
- Check the schedule for when you are presenting
- Please plan to be present for the entire session
- Format: **10 minutes of PowerPoint presentation** followed by 5 minutes of Q&A
- Audience: ~10 full attendees and 2+ VERITY faculty
- **Please limit background to 1-2 slides: bulk of the presentation should be related to your research project**
- Will not be recorded

# VERITY mentor



- **Purpose:** to provide longitudinal career development and VERITY research project advice **after the course** as an informal advisor
  - VERITY research project advice/follow-up
  - Career development advice
  - Networking/scientific collaboration
  - Work/life balance advice
- Interactions may occur monthly or less frequently based on mutual agreement and availability
  - No requirement to participate beyond the course
- If you would like to switch VERITY mentors, please let Jeff or Jackie know and we will attempt to facilitate



# Daily evaluations

- Evaluations about course content will be emailed at the end of each day
- **Please provide feedback** on session content and delivery to help improve our course
- Each evaluation should take less than 2 minutes
- Final evaluation at course conclusion



# Housekeeping

## Wi-Fi Access

- Name: “**MGBGuest**”
- No password needed

## Breakfast and lunch provided

Navigating the Hale Building for Transformative Medicine (BTM,  
60 Fenwood Road)

- The majority of sessions will be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room (VTC-2006b)
  - If you need to go to another room, Jackie and team will show you the way
- Most SCS/VERITY faculty are in suite 6016/5016 - the door to the suites lock
  - Use phone to call faculty, wait for someone to let you in, or call Jackie

**In the case of an emergency, get lost, or are late, please call Jackie:**

**Cell: 802-558-1609**  
**Work: 617-525-8784**





# VERITY Pilot & Feasibility grant

- **\$30,000 grant opportunity available now**
  - Total budget (directs and indirects)
  - 1-year project (September 1, 2024-August 31, 2025)
- Simple application: Biosketch, LOS, 3-page proposal, abstract
- Young investigators and projects using VERITY Cores prioritized
- **Due date: June 5, 2024, at 5PM ET**
- Project must have IRB approval by August 1, 2024
- Application included in VERITY materials
- Further details at [www.verityresearch.org](http://www.verityresearch.org)



