

Meeting Faculty

Anna Christensen

Anna Christensen serves as Communications and Membership Manager for the Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations, a client of association management company Executive Director, Inc. Prior to working with CSRO, Anna was the Development Manager for a non-profit agency serving survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Anna graduated from Carroll University with a Bachelor's degree in Communications.

Cody Hunt

Cody Hunt is the Health Policy Manager at the Kentucky Medical Association. Hunt joined KMA in December 2021 and since that time has been responsible for managing the Association's health policy research and assisting with the Association's legislative advocacy efforts. He also serves as a resource to the Kentucky Physicians TAC, as well as serves as a representative of KMA to a number of joint advocacy coalition partnerships. Prior to joining KMA, Hunt served in the Office of the Kentucky Speaker of the House for three years as a health care policy analyst, where he staffed the House Health and Family Services Committee. A native of Campbellsville, Kentucky, Hunt earned an undergraduate political science degree from the University of Kentucky and a Master's degree from the University of the Cumberlands.

Jun Kang, MD

Dr. Jun Kang is an Assistant Professor of Dermatology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He is the co-director of the inpatient dermatology consult service at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. Additionally, he directs the Rheumatologic Dermatology specialty clinic where he treats patients with cutaneous lupus erythematosus, dermatomyositis, and other dermatologic manifestations of rheumatologic diseases.

Dr. Kang received his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering and biomedical engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. He then spent one year at the NIH in Dr. Robert A Colbert's lab studying the effects of HLA B27 on osteoblast differentiation and bone mineralization. He earned his medical degree at the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. Dr. Kang completed his internship and dermatology residency at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and Thomas Jefferson University, respectively.

Dr. Kang's primary clinical and translational research interests are in the pathogenesis and treatment of cutaneous lupus erythematosus and dermatomyositis. He also performs clinical research on severe drug reactions including Steven Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, and DRESS syndrome.

Sara S. McCoy, MD

Dr. Sara McCoy graduated from Case Western Reserve School of Medicine in 2006 and completed her post-graduate medical training in Internal Medicine at Mayo Clinic and Rheumatology at the University of Michigan. Dr. McCoy has been a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin since 2015. Dr. McCoy created the University of Wisconsin Sjögren's Clinic in 2016. Her research focuses on elucidating the epidemiology and pathogenesis of Sjögren's disease, with a focus on the immunobiology of mesenchymal stromal cells, toward improving therapeutic options for this disease.

Michelle J. Ormseth, MD, MSCI

Dr Michelle Ormseth is Assistant Professor in the Vanderbilt University Medical Center's Divisions of Rheumatology and Immunology and Clinical Pharmacology. She came to Vanderbilt for clinical rheumatology fellowship training in 2009 and extended her training with a research fellowship focusing on cardiovascular disease in patients with rheumatic diseases. She joined as faculty at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and the Nashville VA Medical Center in 2013. Her research has focused on 1) cardiovascular disease in patients with rheumatic diseases and 2) small RNAs as biomarkers and modifiers of disease in patients with rheumatic diseases.

In the area of cardiovascular disease her work has focused on non-traditional risk factors in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and lupus, as well as testing novel and repurposed drugs to reduce cardiovascular risk and inflammation in patients with rheumatic disease. Related to this she is currently principal investigator for an NIH-funded investigator initiated clinical trial to determine if 2-HOBA, which is found naturally in buckwheat and scavenges downstream products of oxidative stress, reduces inflammation and blood pressure in patients with RA.

In the area of small RNAs, she has used machine learning methods to develop sRNA panels for RA classification and atherosclerosis risk assessment. She was the first to characterize circulating microbial sRNAs in the patients with RA and is studying their significance and impact on RA and lupus disease onset as principal investigator of a VA Merit and two DoD grants awards.

Travis Sizemore, DO, MPH

Dr. Travis Sizemore earned his medical degree from Lincoln Memorial University Debusk College of Medicine. He completed his clinical training in Internal Medicine at the University of South Carolina-Greenville Health System. Dr. Sizemore went on to complete a fellowship in Rheumatology at the University Kentucky.

He obtained his master's in public health with a focus in epidemiology at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Sizemore is board-certified in Internal Medicine and Rheumatology. He is a member of the American College of Rheumatology.

Dr. Sizemore is a native of London, KY and enjoys practicing medicine in Southeastern Kentucky. He is married with 3 children and in his free time, he enjoys traveling and spending time with his family.

Melesia Tillman, CPC, CPC-I, CRHC, CHA

Melesia Tillman is a Certified Professional Coder with the American Academy of Professional Coders. She is a Certified Healthcare Auditor with the American Institute of Healthcare Compliance. She along with Antanya Chung assisted AAPC in the development of the rheumatology certification.

Ms. Tillman comes from a background of processing insurance claims. She has over 15 years' experience in this field. She has worked at Met Life, United Healthcare, Blue Cross Blue Shield and Great West Healthcare. Her expertise in this field ranged from simple processing of physicians' claims to processing large hospital bills. She also handled the appeals and corrections of the claims.

Ms. Tillman currently is employed at the American College of Rheumatology. She is the Coding and Reimbursement Specialist on staff at the College. Her responsibilities are to assist the members of the college with any coding questions, audits and denials with CMS and private payers. She also does research to stay abreast of any new coding changes. She also contributes any pertinent coding issues that would benefit the member, by way of the college's monthly newsletter.