



**PRIMARY CARE CONFERENCES**  
EXCEPTIONAL CME | EXTRAORDINARY LOCATIONS

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## **RHEUMATOLOGY & MUSCULOSKELETAL MEDICINE FOR PRIMARY CARE**

**Scottsdale, AZ - Scottsdale Marriott at McDowell Mountains  
March 20 - 22, 2026**

Friday, March 20, 2026

**7:00 am**

**Check-In**

**7:30 am - 8:30 am - Rheumatology - 1**

**Evaluating the Patient with Joint Pain**

Differentiating between inflammatory and non-inflammatory joint pain; The utility of joint aspiration and lab work-up with interpretation of synovial fluid analysis; Differential diagnosis of joint pain and inflammatory arthritis

**8:30 am - 9:30 am - Rheumatology - 1**

**Update in Pharmacology for Arthritis**

Review risks and benefits of traditional NSAIDs and cox-2 inhibitors; Analgesics (narcotics and tramadol), acetaminophen, conventional-synthetic DMARDs, and bDMARDs

**9:30 am - 9:40 am**

**Coffee Break**

**9:40 am - 10:40 am - Rheumatology - 2**

**Differential Diagnosis of Inflammatory Arthritis**

Clinical presentation and laboratory work-up and treatment for rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, spondyloarthropathies (SPA), infectious arthritis and systemic sclerosis; Treatment of RA with DMARDs; Treatment principles of SLE, Sjogren's, SPA and PMR

**10:40 am - 11:40 am - Rheumatology - 1**

**Physical Examination of Joints and Soft Tissue & Diagnosis of Regional Pain Syndromes**

Includes: carpal tunnel syndrome; DeQuervain's tenosynovitis; epicondylitis; impingement; hip, knee, ankle and foot overuse syndromes

**11:40 am - 12:40 pm - All Faculty**

**Joint & Soft Tissue Examination Workshop**

Small-group workshops.

**12:40 pm**

**Session Adjourns**

**Saturday, March 21, 2026**

**7:00 am**

**Arrival**

**7:30 am - 8:30 am - Rheumatology - 2**

**Osteoarthritis**

Pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment

**8:30 am - 9:30 am - Rheumatology - 2**

**Crystal Disease: Gout & Pseudogout**

Properly diagnosing and treating crystal diseases such as gout and pseudogout

**9:30 am - 9:40 am**

**Coffee Break**

**9:40 am - 10:40 am - Rheumatology - 3**

**Osteoporosis**

Review the epidemiology and pathophysiology of osteoporosis along with interpretation of DEXA scans and FRAX risk assessment; up-to-date therapeutic options

**10:40 am - 11:40 am - All Faculty - Rheumatology - 1**

**Panel Discussion/Joint Injection Technique**

Interactive panel discussion with all faculty covering all aspects of rheumatology

Instruction on proper joint injection technique of major joints including shoulder, elbow, fingers, hip, knee, and ankle

**11:40 am - 12:40 pm - All Faculty**

**Joint Aspiration & Injection Technique Workshop**

Small-group workshops.

**12:40 pm**

**Session Adjourns**

**Sunday, March 22, 2026**

**7:00 am**

**Arrival**

**7:30 am - 8:30 am - Rheumatology - 3**

**Fibromyalgia**

Differential diagnosis and treatment of this difficult-to-manage pain syndrome; Treatment options of anti-epileptics and SNRI's

**8:30 am - 9:30 am - Rheumatology - 3**

**Spinal Pain**

Differential diagnosis of lower back pain, epidemiology and treatment; OA, DISH, and ankylosing spondylitis (AS)

**9:30 am**

**Conference Adjourns**

### Target Audience

This program is targeted to office-based primary care providers and other health professionals with updates in primary care medicine

### Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this program, participants should be better able to:

- Compare and contrast inflammatory & non-inflammatory joint pain and their differential diagnoses
- Review the risks and benefits of the treatment options for arthritis (non-selective NSAIDs, cox-2 inhibitors, DMARDs, narcotics and tramadol)
- Discuss physical examination of joints/soft tissue in the diagnosis of regional pain syndromes
- Identify important landmarks and proper techniques for injecting the major joints
- Describe the differential diagnoses of inflammatory arthritis based on clinical presentation and laboratory workup
- Utilize current evidence to design treatment strategies for osteoarthritis
- Diagnose and treat gout and pseudogout
- Perform an examination of joints and soft tissues
- Identify the risks and benefits of utilizing bisphosphonates in the treatment of osteoporosis
- Describe the technique of joint aspiration, joint injection, and synovial fluid analysis
- Compare the benefits and side effect profiles of pharmacologic treatment options for fibromyalgia
- Evaluate and treat spinal pain based on a sound differential diagnosis

### **Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships**

Medical Education Resources ensures balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in all our educational activities. In accordance with this policy, MER identifies financial relationships with its instructors, content managers, and other individuals who are in a position to control the content of an activity. All relevant financial relationships have been mitigated by MER to ensure that all scientific research referred to, reported, or used in a CE activity conforms to the generally accepted standards of experimental design, data collection, and analysis, MER is committed to providing learners with high-quality CE activities that promote improvements or quality in healthcare, and not the business interests of an ineligible company.

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## Accreditation Statements

### Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education



JOINTLY ACCREDITED PROVIDER™  
INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

In support of improving patient care, Medical Education Resources is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

This activity was planned by and for the healthcare team, and learners will receive 12 Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credits for learning and change.

### Physician Credit Designation

#### AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™

Medical Education Resources designates this live activity for a maximum of 12 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

### American Board of Internal Medicine MOC Recognition (ABIM)



Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the participant to earn up to 12 (part II) MOC points in the American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. Participants will earn MOC points equivalent to the amount of CME credits claimed for the activity. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit participant completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABIM MOC credit.

### American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)

Application for CME credit has been filed with the American Academy of Family Physicians. Determination of credit is pending.

### American Osteopathic Association (AOA)

These programs are approved for 12 hours in Category 2-A by the American Osteopathic Association.

### American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)

This program is approved by the American College of Emergency Physicians for a maximum of 12 hours of ACEP Category I credit.

### Canadian Physicians

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) have a bilateral reciprocal certification agreement whereby: CME/CPD activities held across the Canada - U.S. border are certified according to the nationality of the primary target audiences regardless of where the providers are located. The activities will be reviewed according to the criteria of the certifying organization.

### **Nursing Credit Designation**

#### **American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)**

Medical Education Resources designates this live activity for a maximum of 12 ANCC nursing contact hours. Nurses will be awarded contact hours upon successful completion of the activity.

This activity is designated for 4.5 ANCC pharmacotherapeutic contact hours.

#### **American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)**

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) Certification Board recognizes and accepts continuing education (CE) contact hours from activities approved by AMA, ACCME, ANCC, AANP, AAFP and AACN.

#### **California Board of Registered Nursing**

Medical Education Resources is approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number 12299, for 12 contact hours.

### **Physician Associates Credit Designation**

#### **American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA)**



Medical Education Resources has been authorized by the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) to award AAPA Category 1 CME credit for activities planned in accordance with AAPA CME Criteria. This activity is designated for 12 AAPA Category 1 CME credits. PAs should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation.

### **Pharmacy Accreditation**

#### **Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)**



Medical Education Resources (MER) designates this live continuing education activity for 12 contact hours (1.2 CEUs) of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.

Universal Program Number: JA0003680-0000-21-XXX-L01-P

Participants will be required to sign in at the start of the program and/or complete a program evaluation.

Credits will be uploaded into CPE Monitor within 60 days of the activity.

This activity is certified as Knowledge-based CPE.