



JULY 30 - AUGUST 1

GAYLORD PALMS • KISSIMMEE, FL

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

Start	End	Title	Faculty
18:30	19:30	Emergent Leaders Reception	-
19:30	21:30	Emergent Leaders Dinner	-

Thursday, July 30, 2026

Start	End	Title	Faculty
7:30	17:00	Exhibits Open	-
7:30	8:00	Exhibits & Breakfast	-
8:00	8:15	Presidential Welcome	Grace Wright, MD, PhD
8:15	8:45	Product Theater	TBD
8:45	9:15	Product Theater	TBD
9:15	9:45	AWIR Updates: Research & Publications	Sharon Dowell, MD and Brittany Banbury, MD
9:45	10:45	Keynote Session - Equity in Focus: Lifecourse Trajectories and System-Level Gaps in Pediatric Rheumatology	Mia Chandler, MD, MPH
10:45	11:00	Exhibits & Coffee Break	-
11:00	12:30	Improving Outcomes in SLE and LN: Integrating New Guidelines and Evolving Treatments	Sheetal Desai, MD, MEd and Richard Furie, MD
12:30	13:30	Exhibits & Lunch Break	-
13:30	15:30	Closing Gaps in Idiopathic Inflammatory Myopathies: Advancing Evidence-Based Diagnosis and Evolving Therapeutic Strategies	Lisa Christopher Stine, MD, MPH; Suur Biliciler, MD; and Christina Schoeman, MD
15:30	16:00	Exhibits & Afternoon Break	-
16:00	16:30	Product Theater	TBD
16:30	16:45	Raffle & Closing Remarks	Thaila Ramanujam, MD
16:45	18:00	Sip & Share with Poster Tours	-
19:00	21:00	Dinner	-

Friday, July 31, 2026

Start	End	Title	Faculty
7:30	17:00	Exhibits Open	-
7:30	8:00	Exhibits & Breakfast	-
8:00	8:15	Opening Remarks	Priya Reddy, MD
8:15	8:45	Product Theater	TBD
8:45	9:15	AWIR Updates: Advocacy Priorities & Wins	TBD
9:15	10:45	Leadership Session - Nerve to Lead: Confronting Inequity and Redefining Leadership in Rheumatology	Gwenesta Melton, MD; Stephanie Ott, MD; and Kevin Daley
10:45	11:00	Exhibits & Coffee Break	
11:00	12:30	A New Era in Sjögren's Care: Redefining Patient Burden, Recognizing Multi-Organ Involvement, and Advancing Emerging Therapies	Sara McCoy, MD, PhD and Rachel Gordon, MD, PhD
12:30	13:30	Exhibits & Lunch Break	
13:30	15:30	Bridging the Spectrum of SpA and IBD: Immune Overlap, Disease Convergence, and Clinical Crossroads	Elaine Husni, MD, MPH and Adam Seth Mayer, MD
15:30	16:00	Exhibits & Afternoon Break	
16:00	16:45	Obesity and PsA: New Evidence for an Integrated Treatment Approach and Better Patient Outcomes	
16:45	17:00	Raffle & Closing Remarks	
17:00	18:00	Sip & Share with Poster Tours	
19:00	21:00	Dinner and Dance Party	

Saturday, August 1, 2026

Start	End	Title	Faculty
7:30	8:00	Breakfast	-
8:00	8:15	Opening Remarks	Gwenesta Melton, MD
8:15	8:45	Product Theater	TBD
8:45	9:15	Product Theater	TBD
9:15	9:45	AWIR Global Touch: Connecting and Empowering Rheumatologists Worldwide	Silvia Ross, MD; Thaila Ramanujam, MD; Selma Merenlender, MD; and Thanu Ruban, MD
9:45	10:00	Coffee Break	-
10:00	11:00	Spotlight Session - Practical AI in Rheumatology: Adoption, Validation, and Safeguards in Clinical Practice	Jeff Curtis, MD
11:00	12:00	Fellow's Podium Presentation: Key Abstracts on Original Research and Case Studies	TBD
12:00	12:15	Raffle & Farewell	AWIR Board of Directors
12:15	13:15	Lunch	-
13:45	17:15	Select Your Track: Concurrent Expert Workshops (HCPs only)	-
17:30	18:30	NextGen Rheum: Fellows & Leaders Exchange	-
19:00	21:30	Dinner	-

Select Your Track: Concurrent Expert Workshops (HCPs only)

Start	End	Title	Faculty
13:45	14:45	Ultrasound Imaging Techniques (Hands-on)	Catherine Bakewell, MD; Zineb Aouhab, MD; and Minna Kohler, MD
		Legal Hot-Topics for Rheumatologists	Theresa DiGuglielmo, Esq
		Virtual & Remote Care in Rheumatology Practice	Jeff Curtis, MD
15:00	16:00	Ultrasound Imaging Techniques (Hands-on)	Catherine Bakewell, MD; Zineb Aouhab, MD; and Minna Kohler, MD
		Clinical Research in Private Practice	Tina Shah, MD and Kathy Perez, MD
		Physics of Vision in Burnout & Leadership	Ali Hajireza
		Narrative Medicine in Pediatric Rheumatology	Anita Dhanranjani, MD and Barbara Edelheit, MD
16:15	17:15	Ultrasound Imaging Techniques (Hands-on)	Catherine Bakewell, MD; Zineb Aouhab, MD; and Minna Kohler, MD
		APP Workforce and Compensation	Aubrey Wilson, PA-C; Katie Cole, PA-C; and Michele M. Cerra, MSN, FNP-C
		Career Paths and Opportunities: Early-Stage Trainees	Cindy Johnston, MD; Florina Constantinescu, MD and Pankhuri Gupta, MD
		Career Paths and Opportunities: Fellows & Late-Stage Trainees	Sheetal Desai, MD, MEd; Taraneh Mehrani, MD and Diane Petrone, MD