

Researchers find combined therapy for RA may help speed remission

Researchers at the [University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#) and [RTI International](#) (RTI), a nonprofit research institute, recently found that patients with early rheumatoid arthritis (RA) may see less disease activity and higher remission rates after biologic therapy plus methotrexate (MTX) rather than either treatment alone.

The results of [their systematic review](#) have been published in the [Journal of General Internal Medicine](#). The study does have some limitations; because the trials they studied enrolled mostly patients with very high disease activity, the data may be less meaningful to patients with milder cases of RA. Data also did not allow conclusions to be drawn for other patient subgroups based on demographics, serious comorbid conditions, or prior therapy. Additionally, there were no eligible data on biosimilars, which are a fairly new treatment.

“In future studies, researchers will need to include patients at different stages of disease activity,” says Donahue. “We also need more studies with longer treatment periods and follow-ups. Those data would help us understand how starting with a biologic improves long-term prognosis of RA.”

PROGRESS UPDATE: CAPTURE Study

The CAPTURE Study, led by Hazel Tapp, PhD and Lindsay Shade PA-C at [Atrium Health](#) and by Rowena Dolor, MD and Raneer Chatterjee, MD at [Duke](#), is a national study designed to identify patients with undiagnosed respiratory disease (COPD) and exacerbation risk. Since COPD is the 4th leading cause

of death in the U.S., it is vital to detect this disease earlier in people with unrecognized symptoms. We are **two of 6 networks nationwide** involved with this important study validating this COPD screening tool and its impact on clinical care in the primary care setting. To date, **Atrium has enrolled 532 patients at 12 practices** and **Duke has enrolled 750 patients at 15 practices** with a goal of 1,100 patients at 22 practices from each network by December 2020.

A second aim of the study is to understand how to disseminate and implement CAPTURE COPD screening in real-world primary care clinics. Both Atrium and Duke have two practices in each network participating in surveys and focus groups to contribute insights on how to replicate the COPD screening strategy in the PC setting after the study is completed.

A huge **thank you** to the Atrium Health and Duke practices involved in the CAPTURE study!

Dr. Michelle Hernandez AAAAI Podcast on the “Health Impacts of E-Cigs and Vaping”



Michelle Hernandez (UNC) recently spoke with Dr. Dave Stukus on the AAAAI podcast series “Conversations from the World of Allergy”. In the 14th Episode, “The Health Impacts of E-Cigs and Vaping”, Michelle Hernandez, MD, FAAAAI, discusses the hot topic of e-

cigarettes and vaping. Listen now to learn more about these devices, who is using them, how they're being marketed, and the risks associated with use. Testing, especially which types of tests to consider, is covered in detail as well.

[Click here to listen to the podcast](#)

[Click here to read the transcript of the conversation](#)



CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) Annual Conference

[The meeting](#) was held in Toronto, Canada and provided an international audience where NCNC presented in a variety of formats: workshops, forums, oral presentations, and posters.



Drs. Hazel Tapp, Tom Ludden, and Steven Greenberg along with Katherine O’Hare showcased the Atrium Health Family Medicine Research team’s studies including work on Sickle Cell Disease, PrEP, NIH CAPTURE Study, Opioid Heat Mapping (in collaboration with the Dept. of Orthopedic Surgery/ Musculoskeletal Institute), PBRN as a learning community, CFIR, and evidence-based medicine and shared decision-making.

The Committee for the Advancement of the Science of Family Medicine of Practice Based Research Networks (CASFM-PBRN) met. Dr. Hazel Tapp (Atrium Health) is the US co-chair and Dr. Katrina Donahue (UNC) is the US Co-chair elect. They are pictured here with the Canadian Co-chair Donna Manca.



Kent Sutton Presents Poster at D&I Conference

NCNC congratulates Kent Sutton (UNC) for successfully presenting a poster, “Addressing hypertension in rural primary care: Implementing system-level change using a key driver framework”, at the 12th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health. [The conference](#) was held in Arlington, Virginia from Dec 4-6, 2019.



His poster highlighted the practice facilitation intervention of the study and over the past several months Kent had analyzed data from the reports of the study’s practice facilitators. The poster presentation shared the team’s findings on the most successful quality improvement activities that practices implemented to improve blood pressure control among their patients. The activities were derived from the four domains of a Key Driver Framework, which was designed to allow practices the flexibility to discern which activities would most benefit their specific patient populations.

Acknowledging our supporters:

NCNC would like to thank UNC’s [Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research](#) and the [NC Translational and Clinical Sciences Institute](#) for all they do that make our work possible.

