2024 G-CAN Award Recipients

Gold Medal Award

Robert Terkeltaub, MD

Dr. Terkeltaub is Professor Emeritus of Medicine in the UC San Diego Division of Rheumatology, Autoimmunity, and Inflammation in La Jolla, California. He is a graduate of McGill University medical school, where he also completed a Medicine Residency and Rheumatology Fellowship. In 1985, after Immunopathology postdoctoral research training at Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA, he joined the UCSD faculty where he has since resided. Dr. Terkeltaub's research achievements include works in translational inflammation and skeletal and arterial biology, clinical trials, management guidelines, and outcomes. With lab trainees and mentees, he has published pioneering basic and clinical translational work in gout and urate homeostasis, inflammation, osteoarthritis, atherosclerosis, pathologic calcification and CPPD and inorganic pyrophosphate homeostasis, with an H-Index of 92 and over 25,000 citations, and two textbooks. He has served on multiple editorial boards and NIH and foundation scientific advisory committees, and as Co-Editor of *Arthritis and Rheumatology*. Dr. Terkeltaub is co-founder of G-CAN and its journal, *GUCDD*, and has served as G-CAN President since the organization's inception in 2014.

G-Can Presidential Emerging Career Investigator Award *and* Jr. Faculty Award

Natalie McCormick, PhD

Natalie McCormick completed her MSc and PhD at The University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, where she used health care data to quantify the economic burden of rheumatic diseases. She earned several major awards, including a three-year, $105,000 Doctoral Research Award from Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR, Canada's NIH), and published five manuscripts from her PhD thesis. During her time at Harvard and MGH, her research expertise has expanded from health economics and health services research to clinical and nutritional epidemiology, causal inference, and currently, cutting-edge translational proteomics and metabolomics (multi-omics) biomarker research in gout and hyperuricemia. Her first authored gout and hyperuricemia publications to date have been in high-impact journals in general medicine and rheumatology, including *JAMA*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Annals of Rheumatic Disease*, *Arthritis and Rheumatology*, and multiple *JAMA* specialty journals. In July 2023, she was appointed Instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School, a junior faculty-level research appointment. She is the first recipient of the Jr. Faculty Award.

H. Ralph Schumacher Memorial Early Career Investigator Award

Sydney Grooms

Sydney Grooms holds a BS from University of Alabama at Birmingham with an MS currently in progress and is pursuing a Master of Science in Multidisciplinary Biomedical Science (MSMBS) with a concentration in Industry Genetics and Genomics. Her research is conducted in the Tony Merriman lab, where she is currently dedicated to her master's thesis, "Exploring the Genetic Basis of Gout in the Black American Population." Syndey's research is driven by her commitment to diversifying genetic research and improving the representation of Black populations in genetic studies. Following her master's degree, Sydney plans to pursue a PhD in Genetic Epidemiology, using bioinformatics tools to further investigate diseases affecting Black communities.

G-CAN Presidential Emerging Career Investigator Awards

Tania Crișan, PhD

Tania Crișan is an Assistant Professor at the Medical Genetics Department of the "Iuliu Hațieganu" University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. She holds a PhD in Medical Sciences from Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands (2017) performed under the supervision of Prof. Leo Joosten and Prof. Mihai Netea. After her doctoral training, she returned to her home university in Cluj, Romania, where she has been contributing to projects based on genomics, epigenetics, and translational immunology to study the mechanisms of inflammatory diseases and interrelationship with genetic risk factors. Currently, Crișan and colleagues are studying the effects of urate exposure on inflammatory responses and the molecular processes associated with innate immune memory in gout and other rheumatic diseases. She is an editorial board member of the *Gout, Urate and Crystal Deposition Disease Journal,* member of the Scientific Committee of the European Crystal Network and member of the Basic and Translational Research Sub-Committee of EULAR.
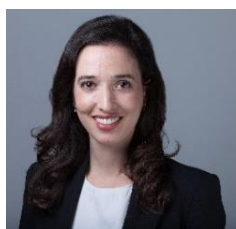
Sara Tedeschi, MD, MPH

Sara Tedeschi is a rheumatologist and clinical investigator at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Her primary research focus is calcium pyrophosphate deposition (CPPD) disease. Dr. Tedeschi serves as Head of Crystalline Arthritic Diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospital, where she established the prospective Brigham CPPD (BRIC) Registry in 2022. She co-led the development of the ACR/EULAR 2023 CPPD Disease Classification Criteria, serves as Co-Chair of the OMERACT CPPD Working Group, and is Section Editor for Crystal Deposition Diseases for *Current Opinion in Rheumatology*. Dr. Tedeschi also serves as Director of the Brigham and Women's Hospital Giant Cell Arteritis Fast Track Clinic and is a member of the ACR Quality of Care Criteria Subcommittee.

Chio Yokose, MD, MSc

Chio Yokose, MD, MSc is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and a rheumatologist and clinical investigator in the Division of Rheumatology, Allergy, and Immunology at Massachusetts General Hospital. She obtained her medical degree from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and completed her Internal Medicine Residency at New York University Langone Medical Center, followed by her Rheumatology Fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital. She is a former recipient of the ACR Distinguished Fellow Award and G-CAN Ralph Schumacher Memorial Lecture Award. Her research focuses on the intersection between gout and its cardiometabolic comorbidities, and identifying personalized, comorbidity-integrated models of gout care to ultimately improve outcomes among patients with gout.