

RhAPP National Conference 2020: Outcomes Overview

Supported by independent educational grants from Gilead and Sanofi



EDUCATIONAL OVERVIEW

Rheumatology Advanced Practice Providers (RhAPP) is an initiative dedicated to developing educational programs, providing professional advancement services, and assembling resources for—and guided by—advanced practice providers (APPs).

Through a peer-to-peer network, RhAPP seeks to support the integral role APPs play in the rheumatology healthcare community by providing the most relevant and timely information and communication for the treatment of their patients with rheumatic diseases.

The national meeting was a virtual/live event held Dec 3-5, 2020 focused on combining elements of rheumatic patient care with other commonly seen comorbidities.



PARTICIPATION AND REACH

Audience: **265 total clinicians**, predominately NPs, PAs, and PharmDs from 40 states across the US, attended the RhAPP 2020 meeting.

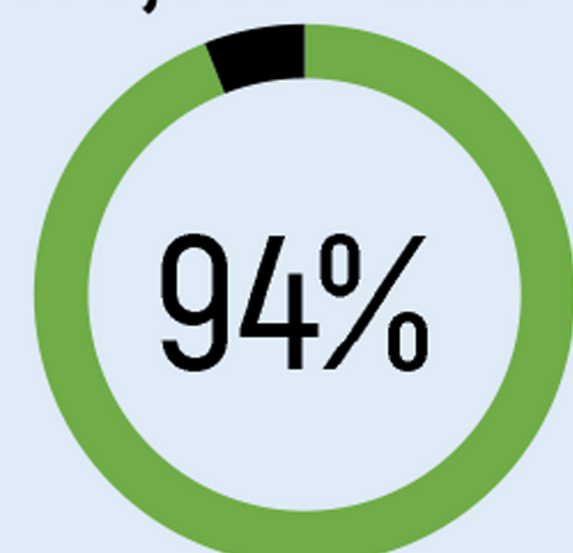
Overall these clinicians see on average 52 patients per week with rheumatic disease indicating nearly 14,000 patients may benefit from improved rheumatologic care.

"it is amazing to have so many professionals who can offer their expertise who are like you. We may not have all the answers but want to help people. I love this concept, by mid levels for mid levels. I frequently feel inadequate and nervous around MD's who have been in practice for 20+ years... thank you for this amazing opportunity!"

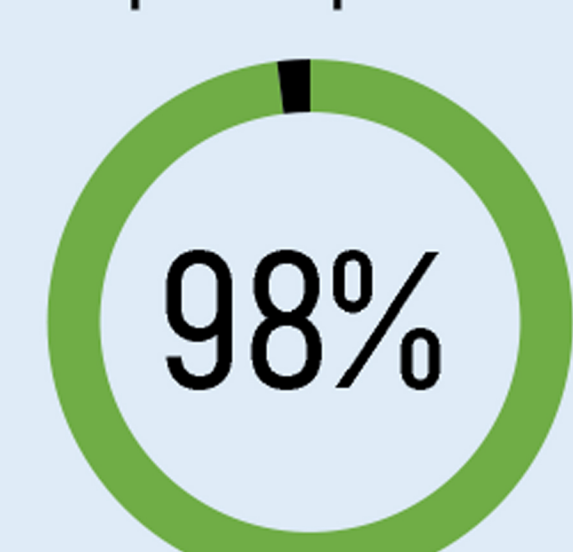


SATISFACTION

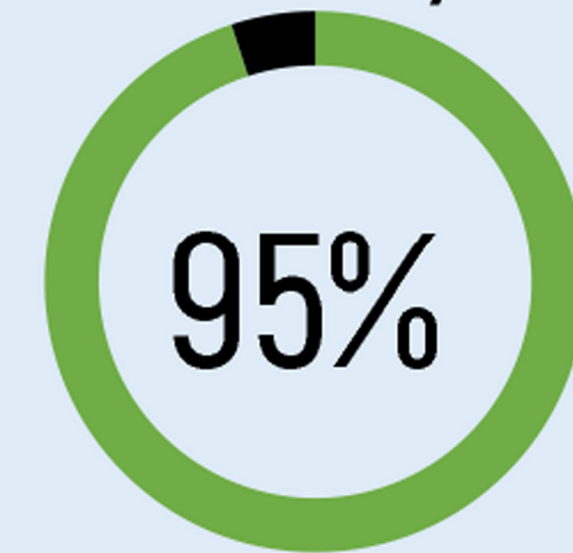
Speakers were knowledgeable of subject matter



Material matched scope of practice



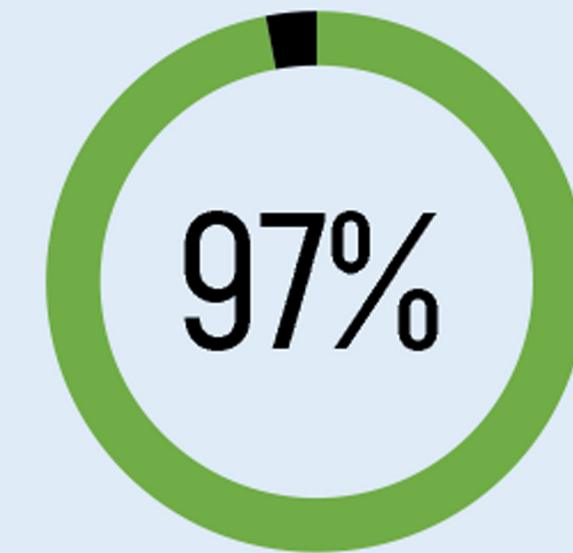
Speakers were effective in content delivery



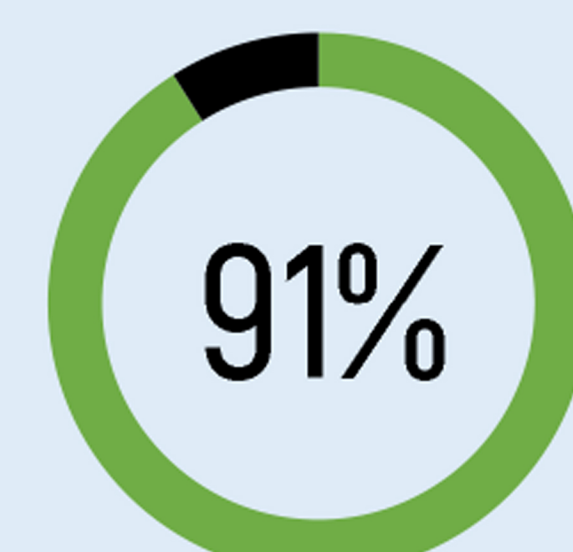
Content was scientifically sound/free of bias



Speakers responded to questions



The physical environment was conducive to learning



Onsite evaluation results, n = 97



KNOWLEDGE

Using pre/post onsite evaluations, key knowledge advancement was seen specifically in:



Recognizing the earliest sign of mixed connective tissue disease



Understanding the relationship between SpA and IBD



Choosing therapy for gout prophylaxis



Selecting immunotherapeutic strategies for COVID-19

Pre/post activity results, n = 115/99

"As a pharmacist [I] found much of the information interesting - will be able to apply much of the laboratory evaluation knowledge to our practice and gain better understanding when being asked specific questions by insurance for auth purposes."



COMPETENCE

96%

of learners indicated that this activity enhanced their professional effectiveness in treating patients

88%

of learners indicated that this activity will result in a change in their practice behavior

34%

of learners indicated that, as a result of participating in this activity, they will create or revise policies, and/or procedures

57%

of learners indicated that, as a result of participating in this activity, they will change the management and treatment of their patients

40%

of learners indicated that they have no barriers in implementing changes learned in this education

Onsite evaluation results, n = 97

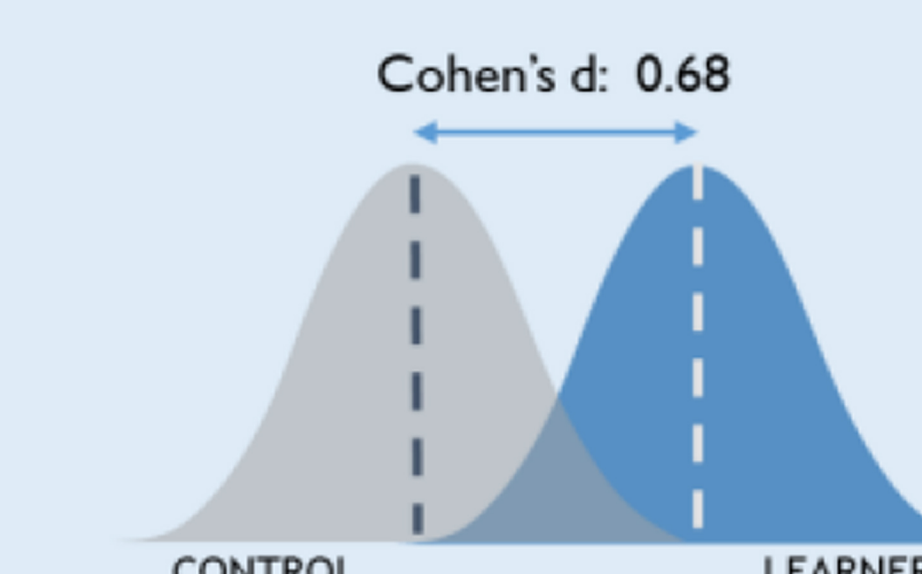
"I thought the cross-specialty talks were great. I learned a lot about the ILD and methotrexate that was different from what I knew before."



PERFORMANCE

30-60 days after education participation, 35 learners were compared to 35 demographically-similar non-learners with case-based surveys to assess performance. Learners are more likely than non-learners to use evidence-based management of patients with rheumatic disease, specifically in:

- Identification of microscopic inflammation on routine endoscopy in a patient with ankylosing spondylitis
- Using ixekizumab or secukinumab in a patient with active AS and primary nonresponse from a TNF inhibitor
- Increased confidence in using TNF inhibitors and interleukin inhibitors for patient management
- Decreased barriers managing patients with comorbidities



Overall, this activity led to a performance effect size of 0.68, **indicating a performance shift of 42% compared to their peers.**

89% of learners indicated that RhAPP helped them overcome their barriers to care, particularly in understanding clinical data.

"[RhAPP is] ...applicable to everyday practice. Case studies were great. It wasn't just a review of abstracts which can be very boring. RhAPP's format...was much more applicable to me as a mid level...Great job by all!"



CONCLUSIONS

- High participant satisfaction with the content and speakers
- Large knowledge change, particularly in choosing appropriate treatments for management of various rheumatic diseases
- High respondent intent to change practice behavior and patient management as a result of RhAPP participation
- Barriers to implementing education exist, specifically in understanding mental health aspects of rheumatic disease and side effects of different therapies. RhAPP helps decrease barriers for learners, due to clinical updates and improvements in confidence.
- Continued need for further education, specifically in differentiating r- and nr-axSpA, identifying comorbid GI disease, and biologic therapies