



# RhAPP

RHEUMATOLOGY ADVANCED  
PRACTICE PROVIDERS

## Second Annual National Conference

September 30 – October 2, 2021

Phoenix, AZ



**RhAPP**

RHEUMATOLOGY ADVANCED  
PRACTICE PROVIDERS

# The Influence of Inflammation on Comorbidities

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# Faculty Disclosure

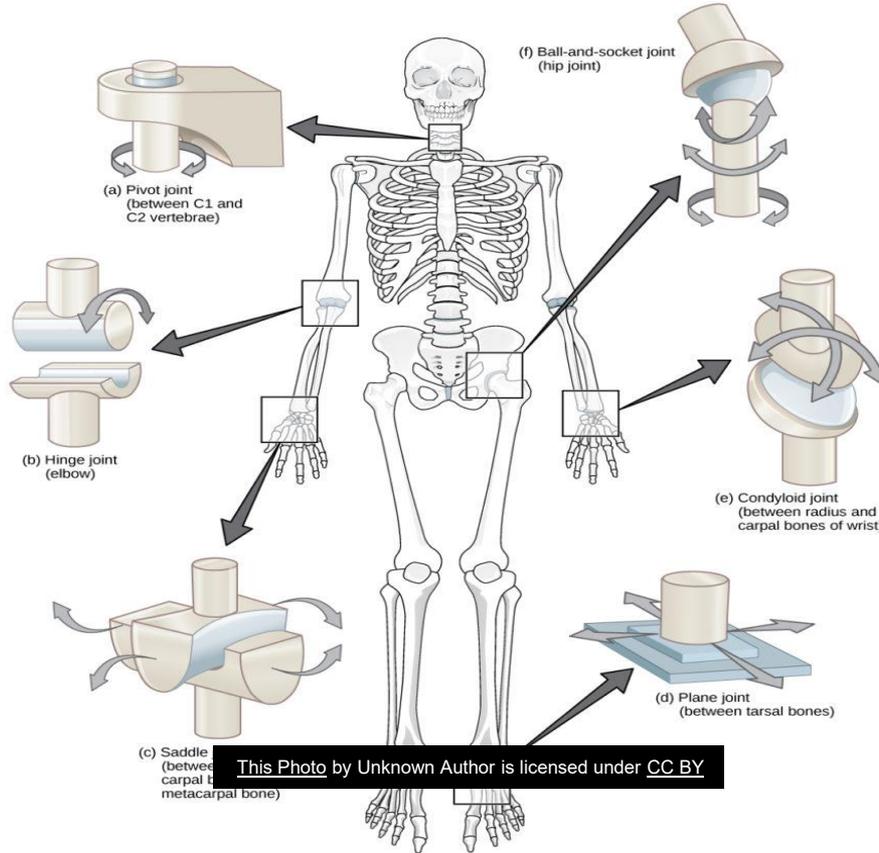
## **Kyle George, PA**

- There are no relationships to disclose.

## **Jeanette Hart, PA-C**

- Speaker: Abbvie, AstraZeneca, Sanofi Genzyme,

# It's Not Just The Joints



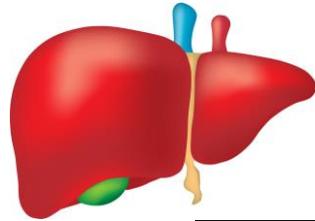
On average, RA patients have 1.6 comorbidities

# Systemic Manifestations of chronic inflammation

- Neuroendocrine/Neurophysiological



- Metabolic



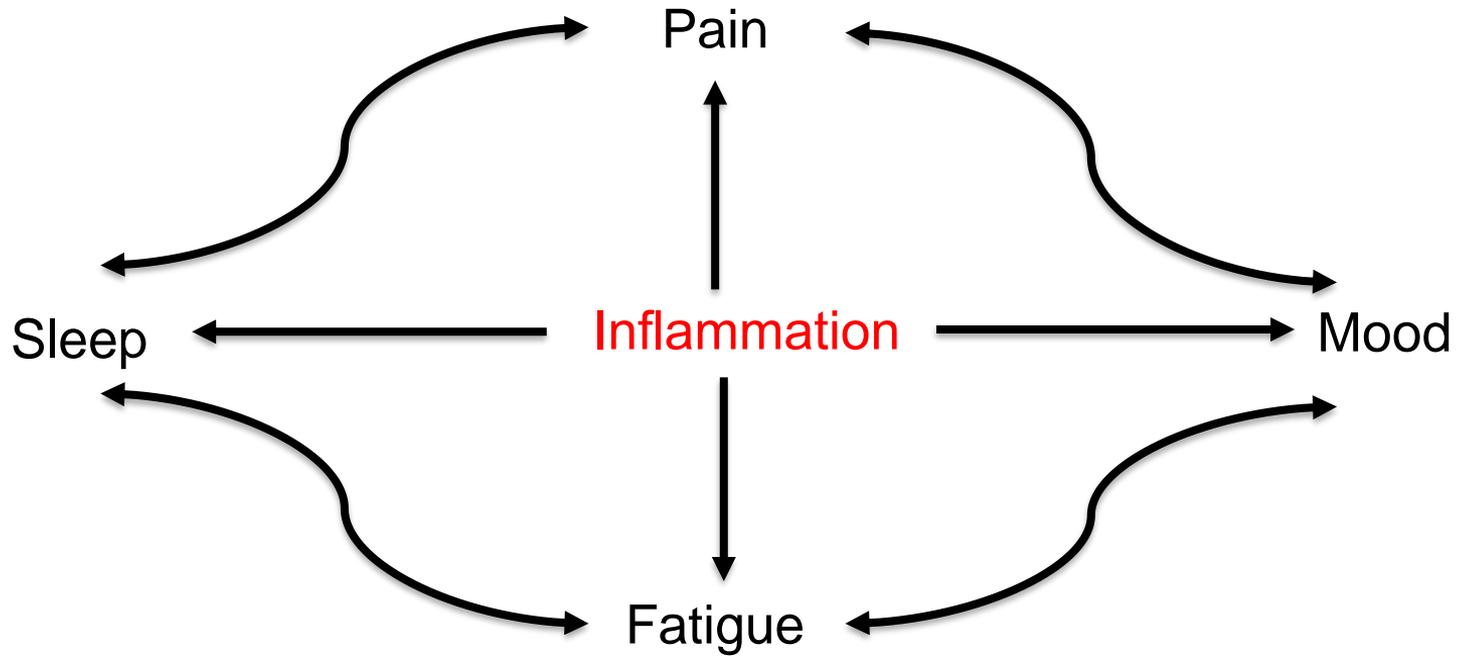
- Cardiovascular



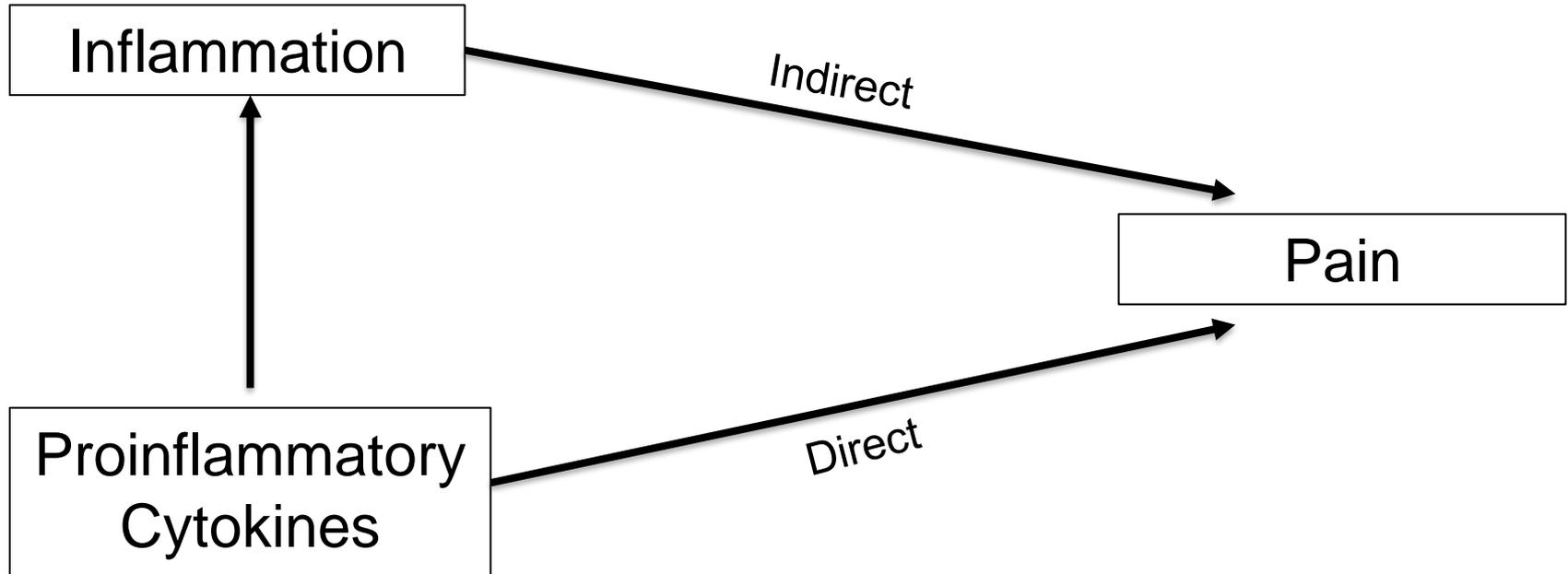
- Bone/Bone Marrow



# Neuroendocrine



# Neuroendocrine: Pain



# Neuroendocrine: Fatigue

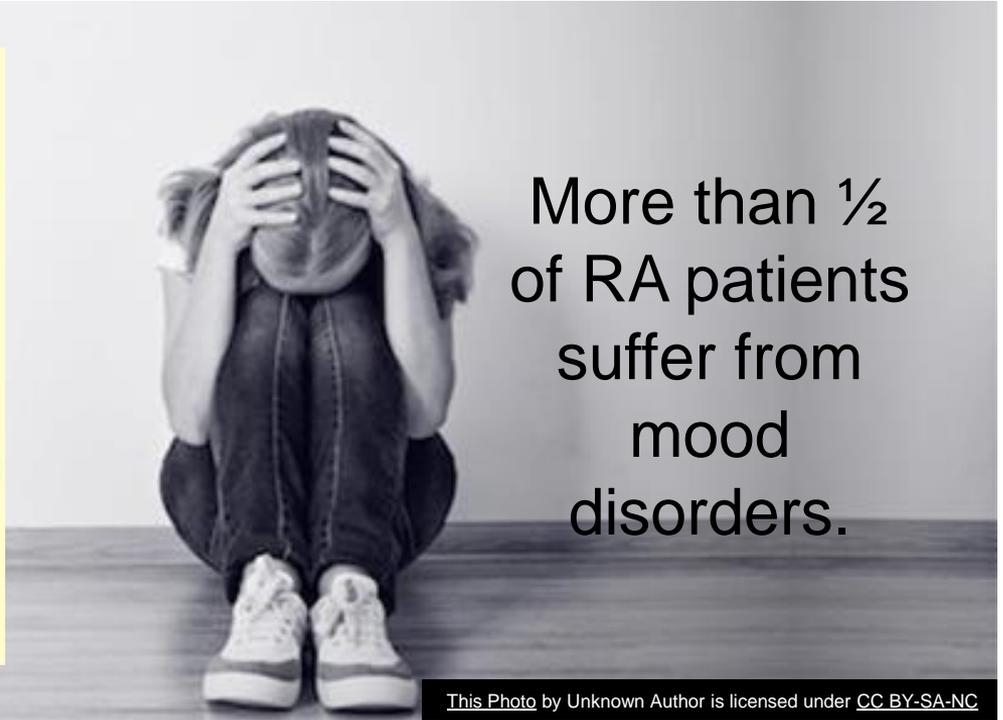
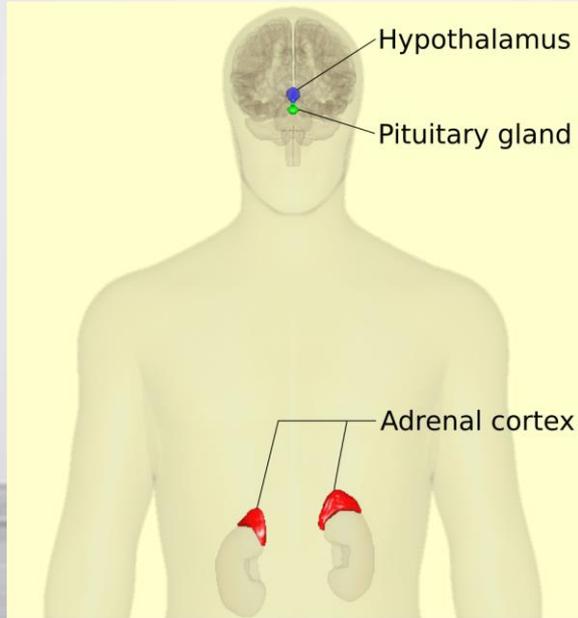
- Listen and Discuss = Control 
- Connected to mood sleep and pain 
- Do not ignore comorbidities as cause 

# Neuroendocrine: Sleep

Sleep loss is  
linked to  
increased pain  
over interrupted  
sleep



# Neuroendocrine: Mood

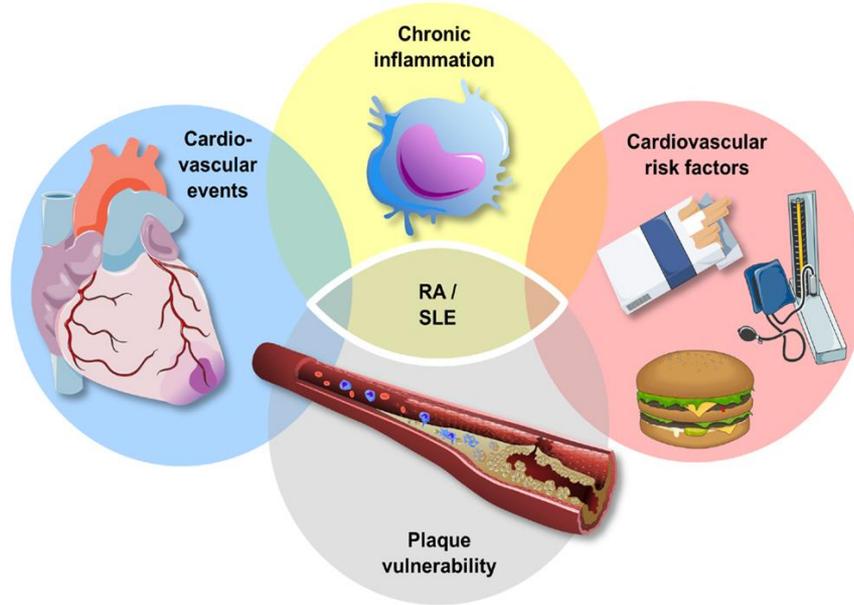


More than  $\frac{1}{2}$   
of RA patients  
suffer from  
mood  
disorders.

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# Cardiovascular

Systemic inflammation is an independent risk factor for cardiovascular disease.



## Lipid Oxidation

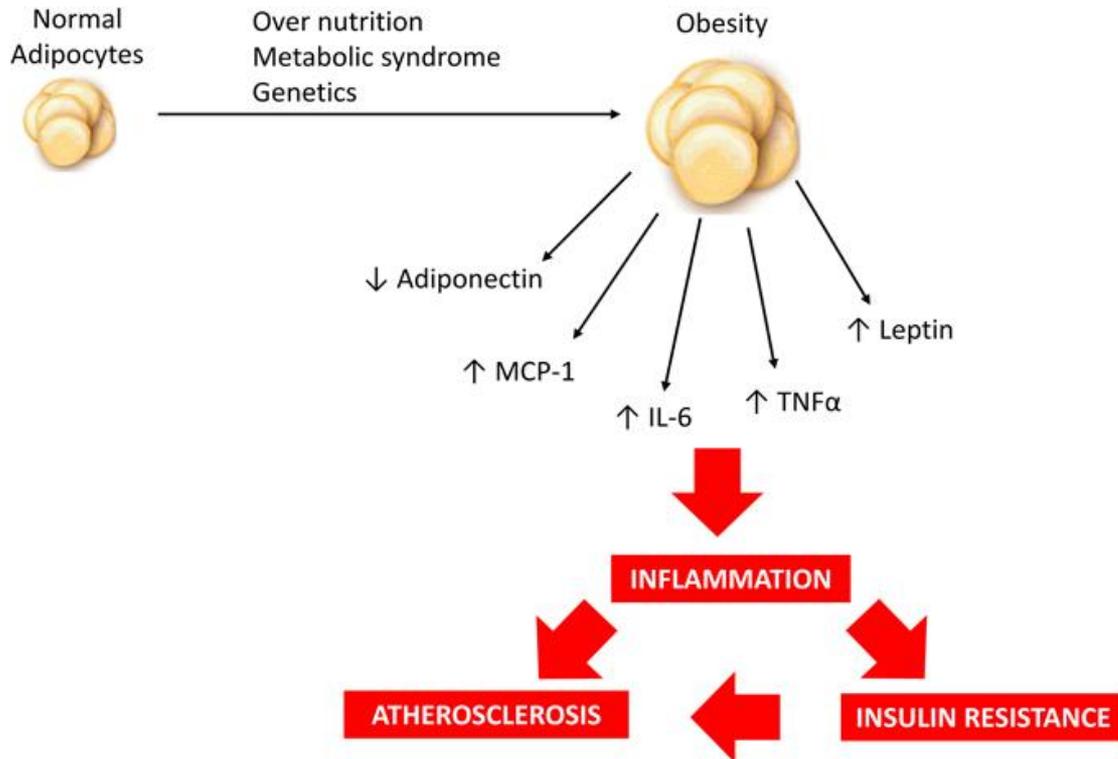
- ✓ Low serum lipid levels
- ✓ Oxidation of LDL
- ✓ Decreased protective capacity of HDL

- ✓ Decreased muscle
- ✓ Decrease subq fat
- ✓ Decreased BMI

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# Metabolic

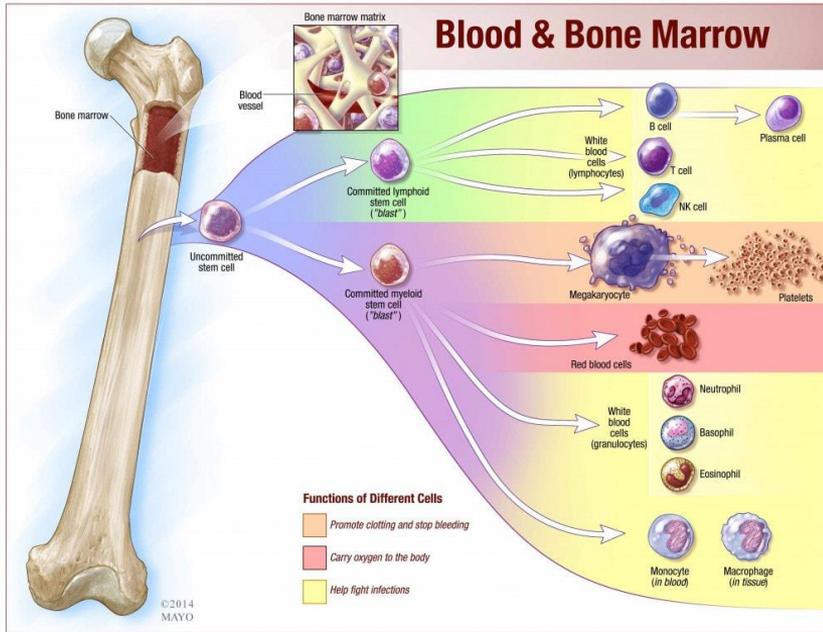
## Metabolic Syndrome



## RA Cachexia

- Loss of skeletal muscle mass
- Increase in fat mass

# Bone/ Bone Marrow



- Evaluate for anemia and its relation to fatigue, medications and disease
- Don't forget about osteoporosis

# Review

## Neuroendocrine/Neurophysiological

- Pain, Sleep disorders and fatigue

## Metabolic

- Dyslipidemia, metabolic syndrome or even DM2

## Cardiovascular

- Endothelial dysfunction, hypercoagulability, arthrocentesis, CVD

## Bone/Bone Marrow

- Anemia, bone resorption and osteoporosis

# Infection as a comorbidity

- Choose a CDMARD with a shorter half life for patients with a history of serious infection.
- Hepatitis
  - “B” with natural immunity.
    - Monitor viral load for reactivation q 6-12 months
  - Active
    - Should be managed with Hepatologist or infectious disease
  - “C” with normal hepatic function can be managed normally but in conjunction with specialist
    - Avoid hepatotoxic drug initially

# Infection as a comorbidity

- Tuberculosis
  - At least one month of TB therapy prior to initiating DMARD if treating latent TB
- Cocci
  - Use fluconazole if there is an active infection (AmB if serious) • Asymptomatic patients should be closely monitored
  - Serologic screening at initiation
  - Annual serologic screening has not been evaluated
  - *Resume Biologic or cDMARD* once the infection has improved
  - *Treat OCS the same as BRMs*
- Both: choose cDMARDs over biologics. Non-TNF >TNF.

# Chronic inflammation and Malignancy

## Malignancy

- Conventional DMARDs over Biologics and JAK inhibitors.
  - Non-Melanoma skin cancer: No contraindication to therapy escalation if needed but warrants routine skin cancer surveillance
  - Melanoma skin cancer: Abatacept avoided
  - Lymphoproliferative disorder – cDMARD, Rituximab
  - Solid Organ Malignancy – cDMARD > Rituximab > Other biologics. >5 years treated then treatment is no different than those without malignancy (excluding melanoma)\*

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