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The Effect of the HLA-B27 Gene on COVID-19

Evidence has long suggested that the HLA-B27 gene offers protection against HIV, hepatitis C, and possibly influenza. Using the data gathered from SAA's COVID-19 and Spondyloarthritis Survey, the survey's authors conducted additional analysis to examine any possible impact the HLA-B27 gene may have on susceptibility to, or severity of, COVID-19 infection.

[Learn More!](#)



Seminar Video Recordings Now Available!

On Saturday, October 3rd SAA held our first fully virtual spondyloarthritis educational seminar! Hosted on an online conference platform, the event featured two expert presentations: **“Medical Management of Spondyloarthritis in a Changing World,”** and **“Navigating the Emotional Impacts of Spondyloarthritis and the COVID-19 Pandemic.”**

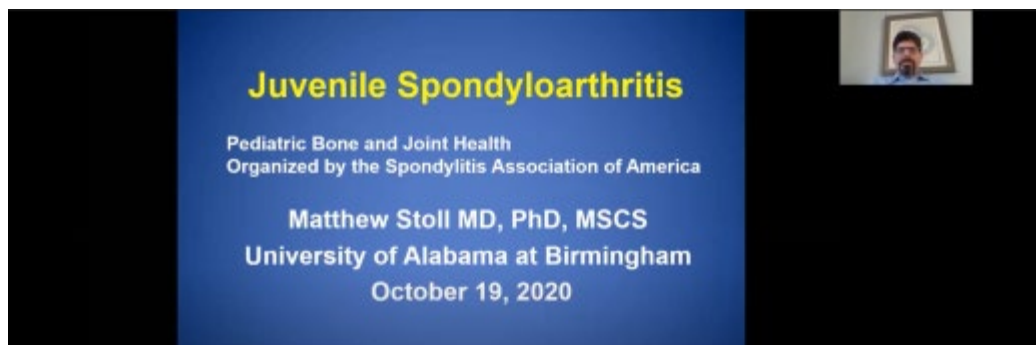
There was also a virtual, moderated support group session; an activity lounge; an exhibitor’s hall; and a wealth of resources to help you live better with SpA.

Missed the event? No problem. You’ll find the recorded presentations with captions on SAA’s website, [here!](#)

You can also still access the [virtual platform](#) to check out what it has to offer.

[View Recordings!](#)

[Access the Virtual Platform](#)



Juvenile Spondyloarthritis Webinar: Pediatric Bone and Joint Health

On October 19th, SAA held an interactive webinar with Dr. Stoll, a pediatric rheumatologist. During the webinar, Dr. Stoll shared insights on the evaluation and diagnosis of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA), the place of juvenile spondyloarthritis (JSpA) within JIA, complications of JSpA, pathogenesis, treatment, and also pain and fatigue associated with spondyloarthritis.

The webinar has been recorded, and is available for viewing now.

[Watch Now!](#)



Medical Cannabis (Marijuana) & Cannabidiol (CBD)

The following statement outlines what Medical Cannabis is, the possible effects, and current regulations. This information is being provided to help improve the conversation between those living with spondyloarthritis and their physicians, and ultimately foster a shared decision-making model.

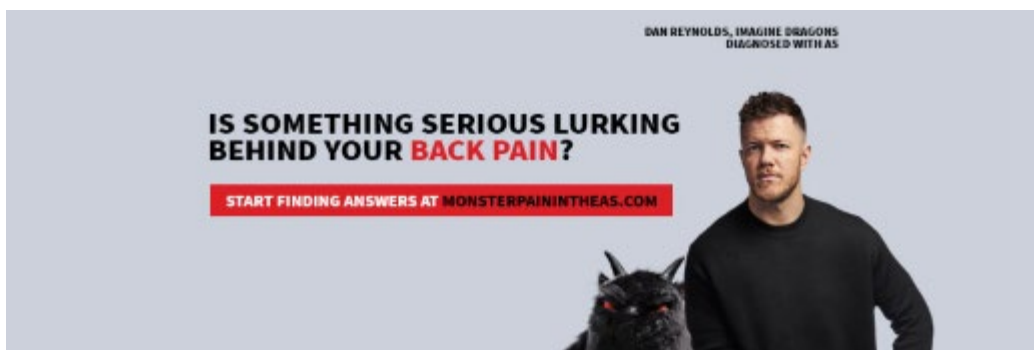
[Read More!](#)



Life Hacks For Spondies: A Resource For Spondyloarthritis Patients

What tips and tricks do other spondyloarthritis patients use to optimize everyday tasks such as driving, cooking, and doing laundry? Find out in this handy resource, compiled by members of the SpA community like you. Special thanks to support group leaders Roz Tolliver and Iain McDonald!

[Read More!](#)



Upcoming Facebook Live Event with Imagine Dragons' Dan Reynolds!

On **Sunday, November 8, 2020 at 3:00 PM EST** Novartis will be sponsoring a Facebook Live event with Dan and three of his brothers who, like Dan, have also been diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis.

Dan Reynolds is the lead singer of Imagine Dragons (and the spokesperson for the Novartis *Monster Pain in the AS* disease awareness campaign).

Join in as Dan and his brothers, Robert, Mac, and Coulter get together via Zoom to share their personal experiences, challenges with AS, and a few laughs. They each had different symptoms and roads to diagnosis, and hope that by sharing their stories, they'll help others who may still be struggling to

find answers.

Where: Monster Pain in the AS on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/monsterpainintheas>.

When: 3:00 PM EST (noon Pacific) on Sunday, November 8.



Participate in Research - The Role of the Gut Microbiome in Axial Spondyloarthritis (axSpA)

Take part in cutting edge research studying the gut's impact on axial spondyloarthritis, and receive a free gut microbiome analysis, as well as personalized nutrition and supplement recommendations!

Viome is conducting a research study to understand the role of the microbiome in axSpA disease activity. The goal of this study is to better understand the molecular features of the microbiome that may contribute to axSpA flares and to determine if there are specific microbes found in the microbiome that may contribute to disease activity.

[Learn More!](#)



The Disappearance of Breath A Poem by Amy Millios

“It isn’t the wear and tear of getting older
even though it began over years and not
days when I was still hiking mountains...”

[Read More!](#)



There is Still Time to Support Banding Together 2020!

There is still time to support Banding Together 2020, a webathon in support of SAA, with the purchase of an exclusive compilation featuring previously unreleased songs from dozens of featured artists. All those who purchase a compilation by October 31, 2020 will be entered into a drawing to win their own standing desk by VARI! Thanks for your support!

[Donate Today!](#)



Jill Miller Joins Board of Directors for Spondylitis Association of America

SAA is pleased to announce today the appointment of Jill Miller to our Board of Directors. Miller is the Director of Key Account Development for Modern Process Equipment, a family-owned business based in Chicago, Ill that provides customers with grinding, conveying and process solutions.

[Read More!](#)



SAA’s Spondylitis Educational Support Groups Now Meeting Online

Social isolation isn’t easy for anyone, but we know it’s taking an extra toll on those of you in the spondyloarthritis community who may feel even more anxious and alone. Now more than ever, we invite you to join a support group – virtually! Many SAA support groups are moving online to protect members’ health and safety amid COVID-19, and because we’re trading physical meeting locations for the digital world, you can join a group that might previously have been too far away! Support groups provide information, resources, and importantly, social connection at a time when social distancing is our new

normal. Look for a support group you'd like to join, and reach out to learn how to become part of the community.

[Learn More!](#)



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