



April 27, 2023

CARRA Awards recognize responsive, respectful, and collaborative individuals who have made significant contributions to CARRA and/or pediatric rheumatology research. CARRA is excited to announce the well-deserving recipients of this year's Awards, which were also announced at the 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting.

### Outstanding Service Award

2023 Honoree: Susan Thompson, PhD (Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center)



Susan Thompson, PhD

**About the Award:** This award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to CARRA and consistently demonstrates a high degree of excellence in teamwork and collaboration, generosity, and willingness to assist others in the CARRA community.

- *This individual's work **has advanced CARRA's goals** in measurable ways*
- *This individual **encourages others** to conduct work in ways that will advance the goals of CARRA and advance the careers of CARRA members*
- *This individual might be an "**unsung hero**" - someone who works behind the scenes to support other CARRA members and CARRA work*

*"Along with her roles in establishing and leading the Biobank, Dr. Thompson has been a tireless advocate for and mentor of early investigators and trainees within CARRA. One of her mottos is 'it's a biorepository, not a museum' and she actively and enthusiastically supports investigators who wish to use samples collected either through her own work or through CARRA."*

*--Lauren Henderson, MD, MMSc, Grant Schulert, MD, PhD, Melanie Kohlheim  
Chair & Vice Chair, CARRA Translational Research & Technology Committee (TRTC)  
CARRA Biospecimens Operations Coordinator*

*"Dr. Thompson is widely known in the CARRA community as an uncompromising supporter of team science and may be considered an exemplar of a reliable, productive collaborator. she always exhibited superior analytical skills in discussions, while being modest, professional, respectful, and insightful."*

*--Hermine Brunner, MD, MSc, MBA  
Chairperson and Scientific Director, Pediatric Rheumatology Collaborative Study Group  
Director, NIAMS P30 Center of Excellence in Clinical Research in Pediatric Musculoskeletal Diseases  
Director of Pediatric Rheumatology, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center*

### Outstanding Workgroup Leader Award

2023 Honoree: Yongdong (Dan) Zhao, MD, PhD

CNO/CRMO Workgroup Leader (University of Washington, Seattle Children's Hospital)



Dan Zhao, MD, PhD

**About the Award:** This award recognizes a CARRA workgroup leader who has demonstrated successful engagement of workgroup members and a sustained commitment to advancing the mission of CARRA and the activities of his/her workgroup, demonstrating excellence in one or more of the following areas:

- **Productivity:** *This individual has led the workgroup to accomplish steady and/or significant progress*
- **Inclusiveness:** *This individual has engaged and effectively leveraged the expertise of members with diverse backgrounds and experience—including established and early investigators, trainees, coordinators and other non-physician members, patients and families.*
- **Innovation:** *This individual has implemented innovative strategies to improve workgroup productivity and/or engagement.*

*“The workgroup has had broad involvement from trainees, early investigators, non-physician collaborators, and patients and families, a testament to the workgroup's inclusiveness and Dan's ability to engage members with diverse backgrounds. Dan has also fostered international collaborations, which have been energizing and vital to our work.*

*Dan is an effective leader due in large part due to his dedication, hard work, and humility. With Dan's leadership and inclusive nature, the workgroup has made steady progress and a significant impact on the field of CRMO. The successes of the CARRA CNO/CRMO workgroup are in large part due to his leadership and outstanding commitment to advancing CARRA's mission.”*

*-Eveline Wu, MD, MSGR*

*CARRA Rare Disease Committee Chair, CARRA CNO/CRMO Workgroup Leader, CARRA Registry Site PI  
Division Chief, Pediatric Rheumatology, UNC of Medicine*

*“Under Dan's leadership, our working group has created significant advancements for our CRMO/CNO patients and overall increase the awareness of the disease. The development of a consensus treatment plan, the CHronic Nonbacterial Osteomyelitis International Registry (CHOIR) project, and classification criteria for CRMO have aided CARRA members and other clinicians with the diagnosis and management of CNO patients.*

*Our working group has been successful because of his transformational leadership style. He makes us want to work harder and do better for our patients. His enthusiasm and commitment to the group is inspirational. I cannot think of a better person deserving of this award. He is the definition of an outstanding workgroup leader.”*

*--Melissa Oliver, MD, MS*

*CARRA CNO/CRMO and JSpA Workgroup Leader  
IU Health Riley Hospital*



### Outstanding Research Coordinator Award

2023 Honoree: Logan Lentini (University of Florida)



Logan Lentini

**About the Award:** This award recognizes a CARRA Registry coordinator who has enhanced engagement of his/her site's clinical care and research team with the CARRA Registry and made exceptional contributions to their site's CARRA Registry performance.

- This individual's work has **advanced the site's CARRA Registry performance** in measurable ways including regular enrollment, high data quality, and engagement of the site's pediatric rheumatology care team to support the CARRA Registry.
- This individual **encourages others** to conduct work in ways that will advance the goals of/performance on the CARRA Registry.
- This individual **fosters a positive environment** to support CARRA and the CARRA Registry at his/her site.

*“Logan is our research coordinator, and he is also the Vice Chair of the CARRA Research Coordinator Network. He is always engaged in our clinical practice and has demonstrated persistence and dedication that allows us to capture and enroll eligible new patients and unscheduled visits in the context of a very busy clinic. Logan's collaborative spirit and willingness to go the extra mile to support our providers, our patients and their families leave a lasting impression. Our patient families often ask for him to stop by for a chat, even when they are not due for a scheduled visit. Because of his experience, he often provides detailed and concrete feedback to operationalize processes of the CARRA Registry and potential new projects. He has also given valuable feedback and advice to our trainees and who are initiating their own clinical research projects. Logan's kindness, dedication, patience, and innovation distinguish him above and beyond the expectation for a research coordinator.”*

*--Leandra U. Woolnough, MD, MSCS, CARRA Registry Site PI  
University of Florida/Shands Hospital*

#### 2023 Honorable Mentions:

- **Joanne Drew, MFA, CCRP** (Nationwide Children's Hospital)
- **Ingrid Goh, PhD** (Hospital for Sick Children/Toronto)
- **Erin Hammelev** (Medical College of Wisconsin)
- **Livie Huie** (University of Alabama, Birmingham)
- **Lori Ponder, BS, CCRC** (Emory University)
- **Allison Shuster** (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia)
- **Jennifer Twachtman-Bassett** (Connecticut Children's Medical Center)
- **Victoria Westheuser** (IWK Health Center)



## Outstanding Patient/Caregiver Service Award

*Ela Chintagunta (Chicago, IL)*



Ela Chintagunta

**About this award:** This award recognizes outstanding contributions to CARRA by a caregiver or patient with impact demonstrated by one or more of the following:

- This individual enhances **patient engagement in CARRA** through specific projects, workgroups, committees, grant review, or other CARRA activities.
- This individual displays a **willingness to advance CARRA** through their attendance, participation, and responsiveness.
- This individual assumes a **leadership role** and/or is responsible for deliverables.
- This individual **raises awareness** of CARRA and CARRA activities in their community.
- This individual **engages additional patients/caregivers** in CARRA's work.

*“Ela always contributes to the conversation and provides valuable insight to our group. Ela displays dedication, knowledge, and enthusiasm for being a part of the group. It is an honor for me to be able to partner with Ela. She is an amazing young adult and has clearly been able to overcome much and use it as an achievement in her life. We are truly fortunate to have her in our workgroup.”*

*--Beth Gottlieb*

*CARRA JIA Outcomes Workgroup Leader*

*“Ela was a panel speaker at the recent ACR22 meeting. She also co-authored a paper with the CARRA transition workgroup. Ela has established herself as a prominent patient advocate and now people actively seek her out for her priceless input. This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize Ela's contribution to CARRA and the rheumatology community.”*

*-Ingrid Goh*

*CARRA Implementation Science Workgroup Leader*

*Senior Research Associate, Division of Rheumatology, The Hospital for Sick Children*

**Thank you to all the 2023 Honorees and Honorable Mentions for your contributions to CARRA!**