

## Acronyms in rheumatology

A unified list of acronyms has been drawn up and approved by the editors of the principal journals in the field of rheumatology. It originally appeared in the November 1998 issue of *Arthritis and Rheumatism* (vol. 41, no. 11, pp. 1901-5) and it is recommended that authors use them to facilitate communication between colleagues. We reproduce the list in full below.

1,25-dihydroxycholecalciferol	1,25(OH) <sub>2</sub> D <sub>3</sub>	computed tomography	CT
25-hydroxyvitamin D	25(OH)D	connective tissue disease	CTD
<sub>1</sub> -macroglobulin	<sub>1</sub> M	cathepsin G	CTG
<sub>2</sub> -microglobulin	<sub>2</sub> m	carpal tunnel syndrome	CTS
<sub>2</sub> -plasmin inhibitor	<sub>2</sub> PI	coxsackievirus B	CVB
anticentromere antibodies	ACA	D-penicillamine	D-Pen
antiacidolipin antibodies	aCL	diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis	dcSSc
American College of Rheumatology	ACR	denatured DNA	dDNA
Arthritis Foundation	AF	dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate	DHEAS
aggregated human IgG	AHG	direct immunofluorescence	DIF
Arthritis Impact Measurement Scales	AIMS	distal interphalangeal joint	DIP joint
antimitochondrial antibodies	AMA	diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis	DISH
antinuclear antibodies	ANA	discoid lupus erythematosus	DLE
antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies	ANCA	dermatomyositis	DM
anti-glomerular basement membrane	anti-GBM	disease-modifying antirheumatic drug(s)	DMARD(s)
alkaline phosphatase	AP	Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium	DMEM
antiphospholipid antibodies	aPL	deoxyribonucleic acid	DNA
antiphospholipid syndrome	APS	dual-photon absorptiometry	DPA
American Rheumatism Association	ARA	double-stranded DNA	dsDNA
Arthritis, Rheumatism and Aging Medical Information System	ARAMIS	dual x-ray absorptiometry	DXA
adult respiratory distress syndrome	ARDS	Epstein-Barr nuclear antigen	EBNA
acute rheumatic fever	ARF	Epstein-Barr virus	EBV
ankylosing spondylitis	AS	European Consensus Lupus Activity Measure	ECLAM
acetylsalicylic acid	ASA	eosinophilic fasciitis	EF
anti-smooth muscle antibodies	ASMA	enzyme immunoassay	EIA
azathioprine	AZA	enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay	ELISA
British Isles Lupus Assessment Group	BILAG	electron microscopy	EM
bone mineral content	BMC	electromyography	EMG
bone mineral density	BMD	extractable nuclear antigen	ENA
body mass index	BMI	ear, nose, throat	ENT
bovine serum albumin	BSA	erythrocyte sedimentation rate	ESR
cortical area	CA	European Spondylarthropathy Study Group	ESSG
cytoplasmic ANCA or classic ANCA	cANCA	endothelin 1	ET-1
complementary DNA	cDNA	fluorescence-activated cell sorter	FACS
collagen-induced arthritis	CIA	fluorescent antinuclear antibodies	FANA
circulating immune complex	CIC	fluorescence in situ hybridization	FISH
counterimmunoelectrophoresis	CIE	fibromyalgia	FM
carpometacarpal joint	CMC joint	familial Mediterranean fever	FMF
cytomegalovirus	CMV	fast protein (or fast performance) liquid chromatography	FPLC
central nervous system lupus	CNS lupus	Felty's syndrome	FS
calcium pyrophosphate deposition disease	CPDD	fluorescent treponemal antibody absorption	FTA-ABS
calcium pyrophosphate dihydrate	CPPD	glycosaminoglycan	GAG
calcinosis, Raynaud's phenomenon, esophageal dysmotility, sclerodactyly, telangiectasias	CREST	giant cell arteritis	GCA
chromosomal RNA	cRNA	granulocyte colony-stimulating factor	G-CSF
C-reactive protein	CRP	granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor	GM-CSF
chondroitin sulfate	CS	glomerulonephritis	GN
cyclosporin A	CSA	IgG phospholipid units	GPL
Cooperative Systematic Studies of the Rheumatic Diseases (group)	CSSRD	hyaluronic acid	HA
		Health Assessment Questionnaire	HAQ

heat-aggregated IgG	HAGG	mixed connective tissue disease	MCTD
hepatitis A virus	HAV	major histocompatibility complex	MHC
hepatitis B surface antigen	HBsAg	micro-enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay	micro-ELISA
hepatitis B virus	HBV	matrix metalloproteinase (or matrix metallo- protease)	MMP
hydroxychloroquine	HCQ	IgM phospholipid units	MPL
hepatitis C virus	HCV	myeloperoxidase	MPO
hepatitis delta virus	HDV	monoclonal rheumatoid factor	mRF
hepatoma cell line	Hep	magnetic resonance imaging	MRI
human epithelial cell line 2	HEp-2	messenger RNA	mRNA
hepatitis E virus	HEV	mass spectrometry	MS
human herpesvirus 6	HHV-6	monosodium urate monohydrate	MSU
histidyl-transfer RNA	his-tRNA	metatarsophalangeal joint	MTP joint
human immunodeficiency virus	HIV	methotrexate	MTX
heterogeneous nuclear RNA	hnRNA	native DNA	nDNA
heterogeneous nuclear RNP	hnRNP	normal human serum	NHS
hypertrophic osteoarthropathy	HOA	National Institute of Arthritis and Musculo- skeletal and Skin Diseases	NIAMS
high performance (or high pressure) liquid chromatography	HPLC	nuclear magnetic resonance	NMR
human papilloma virus	HPV	nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drug(s)	NSAID(s)
human parvovirus B19	HPV B19	osteoarthritis	OA
hormone replacement therapy	HRT	osteocalcin	OC
Henoch-Schönlein purpura	HSP	Outcome Measures in Rheumatoid Arthritis Clinical Trials	OMERACT
hypersensitivity vasculitis	HSV	polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis	PAGE
herpes simplex virus type 1	HSV-1	polyarteritis nodosa	PAN
human T cell lymphotropic virus	HTLV	perinuclear ANCA	pANCA
hemagglutinin virus of Japan	HVJ	proliferating cell nuclear antigen	PCNA
intraarticular	IA	polymerase chain reaction	PCR
inflammatory bowel disease	IBD	Paget's disease	PD
inclusion body myositis	IBM	platelet-derived growth factor	PDGF
immune complex	IC	positron emission tomography	PET
ionized calcium	iCa	prostaglandin	PG
immunodiffusion	ID	proximal interphalangeal joint	PIP joint
isoelectric focusing	IEF	polymyositis	PM
immunofluorescence	IF	polymyositis/dermatomyositis	PM/DM
interferon	IFN	polymyalgia rheumatica	PMR
indirect immunofluorescence	IIF	proteinase 3	PR3
interleukin	IL	psoriatic arthritis	PsA
International League of Associations for Rheumatology	ILAR	parathyroid hormone	PTH
interphalangeal joint	IP joint	partial thromboplastin time	PTT
idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura	ITP	psoralen ultraviolet A	PUVA
juvenile chronic arthritis	JCA	quantitative computed tomography	QCT
juvenile rheumatoid arthritis	JRA	rheumatoid arthritis	RA
keratoconjunctivitis sicca	KCS	rheumatoid arthritis hemagglutination assay	RAHA
kaolin clotting time	KCT	rheumatoid arthritis nuclear antigen	RANA
kaolin cephalin thromboplastin time	KCTT	rheumatic disease unit	RDU
kinetoplast DNA	kDNA	reactive arthritis	ReA
La antigen	La	rheumatoid factor	RF
La/SSB antigen	La/SSB	radioimmunoassay	RIA
lupus anticoagulant	LAC	radial immunodiffusion	RID
Lupus Activity Criteria Count	LACC	ribonucleic acid	RNA
limited cutaneous systemic sclerosis	lcSSc	ribonucleoprotein	RNP
lupus erythematosus cells	LE cells	Ro antigen	Ro
light microscopy	LM	Ro/SSA antigen	Ro/SSA
monoclonal antibody	mAb	Raynaud's phenomenon	RP
metacarpophalangeal joint	MCP joint	ribosomal RNA	rRNA
macrophage colony-stimulating factor	M-CSF		

Reiter's syndrome	RS	single-photon-emission computed tomography	SPECT
remitting seronegative symmetrical synovitis with pitting edema	RS3PE	soluble RNA	sRNA
reflex sympathetic dystrophy (syndrome)	RSD	Sjögren's syndrome	SS
respiratory syncytial virus	RSV	SSA antigen	SSA
reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction	RT-PCR	SSB antigen	SSB
slow-acting antirheumatic drug(s)	SAARD(s)	systemic sclerosis	SSc
sheep cell agglutination test	SCAT	single-stranded DNA	ssDNA
Sclero-70	Scl-70	sulfasalazine	SSZ
subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus	SCLE	simian vacuolating virus 40	SV40
small cytoplasmic RNP	scRNP	temporal arteritis	TA
salmon calcitonin	SCT	total body bone mineral density	TBBMD
sodium dodecyl sulfate	SDS	transforming growth factor	TGF
seronegative enthesopathy and arthropathy (syndrome)	SEA	thin-layer chromatography	TLC
synovial fluid	SF	total lymphoid irradiation	TLI
Spondylitis Functional Index	SFI	temporomandibular joint	TMJ
sex hormone binding globulin	SHBG	tumor necrosis factor	TNF
sacroiliac joint	SI joint	topoisomerase I	topo I
Systemic Lupus Activity Measure	SLAM	tissue plasminogen activator	tPA
Systemic Lupus Criteria Count	SLCC	transfer RNA	tRNA
systemic lupus erythematosus	SLE	type II collagen-induced arthritis	type II CIA
Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index	SLEDAI	undifferentiated connective tissue disease	UCTD
Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics	SLICC	urokinase plasminogen activator	uPA
synovial membrane	SM	undifferentiated spondylarthropathy	uSpA
small nuclear RNP	snRNP	ultrasound transmission velocity	UTV
spondylarthropathy	SpA	Venereal Disease Research Laboratory (test)	VDRL
		Wegener's granulomatosis	WG
		Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index	WOMAC
		left-handed DNA	Z-DNA