



FACT SHEETS

Organizations and individuals are encouraged to download and share the following fact sheets as you communicate about Rheumatic Disease Awareness Month.

[About Rheumatic Disease Awareness Month](#)

[Rheumatic Diseases: An Overview](#)



[Rheumatic Diseases: Cost, Impact, and Healthcare Challenges](#)

[Infographic - Rheumatic Diseases: Cost and Impact](#)

[Arthritis Does That?](#)

About Rheumatic Disease Awareness Month

- September 2016 marks the first annual Rheumatic Disease Awareness Month (RDAM 2016).
- RDAM 2016 is sponsored by the American College of Rheumatology (ACR), the nation's leading association representing rheumatologists and rheumatology health professionals, and by Simple Tasks, the ACR's national public awareness campaign.
- RDAM was created to raise awareness about rheumatic diseases like arthritis, lupus, gout, and the 100+ lesser known rheumatic diseases that fall under the umbrella term of arthritis.
- RDAM seeks to increase public understanding and awareness of the symptoms, risk factors, treatment options, personal and economic impact, and lifestyle and healthcare challenges associated with rheumatic diseases.
- RDAM is an opportunity for concerned individuals and groups to advocate for the health and wellbeing of those living with rheumatic disease and to advance healthcare policies that help patients access safe, affordable, and effective healthcare.
- All concerned individuals and organizations, including patients, patient organizations, medical professional groups, lawmakers, members of the media, and friends and family members of those affected by rheumatic diseases, are encouraged to participate in RDAM.
- The theme for RDAM 2016 is, **"Hundreds of Diseases. One Voice."** Speaking as one voice, we can improve the public's understanding of rheumatic diseases and advance the health and well-being of millions of Americans living with rheumatic diseases.
- RDAM 2016 will be celebrated throughout the month of September. The ACR and Simple Tasks have developed a number of activities, resources, and tools to help individuals and organizations participate in RDAM. More information can be found on the Simple Tasks website at www.SimpleTasks.org.

communicate.

SPONDYLITIS
LUPUS
GOUT
JIA Sjögren's
OSTEOARTHRITIS
temporal arteritis
Behçet's Disease