Dr. Nicole Ward DO, MPH, QME

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Board Certified – Rheumatology

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Education and Certifications

11/2022 – present	Division of Workers Compensation (DWC)	Qualified Medical Evaluator (QME)
07/2020 – 06/2022	University of Southern California	Fellowship in Rheumatology
07/2017 – 06/2020	Westchester Medical Center at New York Medical College	Residency in Internal Medicine
07/2013 – 06/2017	Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine	D.O.
08/2010 – 06/2012	University of California, Los Angeles	MPH
08/2004 – 06/2009	University of California, Santa Cruz, English Literature with Honors in the Humanities	B.A., Hn.

Employment

06/2026 – present	Attending Physician, Los Angeles General Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA
04/2026 – 06/2026	Locum Attending Physician, Los Angeles General Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA
03/2023 – present	Attending Physician, Arthritis and Osteoporosis Medical Center, Monterey Park, CA
07/2022 – present	Attending Physician, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (CSMC), Beverly Hills, California
07/2012 – 06/2013	Health Science Specialist, Veterans Health Administration, Veteran Emergency Management and Evaluation Center (VEMEC)

06/2011 – 06/2012	Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Technician, Brain Stimulation Center
07/2010 – 07/2011	Behavioral Therapist, Autism Behavioral Consultants
06/2009 – 07/2010	Healthcare Aid and Instructional Assistant, BALANCE4Kids State Certified Non-Public Agency

Academic and Professional Honors

2023	Board Certified in Rheumatology
2021	Board Certified in Internal Medicine
2012	Bixby Research Fellow. Health Services Research and Development, Department of Veterans Affairs, University of California, Los Angeles
2009	Dean's Honors List. University of California, Santa Cruz
2009	Honors in Humanities. University of California, Santa Cruz

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

1) **Ward N.K.,** Panush, R.S. Environmental and Occupational Contributors to Autoimmune, Inflammatory, and Musculoskeletal Rheumatic Disease: A Review of Emerging Evidence and Clinical Implications. **Curr Opin Rheumatol**. 2026 Mar 1;38(2):121-142. doi: 10.1097/BOR.0000000000001130. PMID: 41133473.

2) Kobashigawa L., **Ward N.K.,** Ruddy K., Stohl W., Taylor-Albert E., Rheumatic Immune-Related Adverse Events Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Therapy and Ramifications for Health Disparities. **Cureus**. 2025 Aug 20;17(8):e90585. doi: 10.7759/cureus.90585. PMID: 40979015; PMCID: PMC12448134.

3) **Ward N.K.,** Pal, S. Savvas, S. Attitudes And Beliefs Towards COVID-19 and COVID-19 Vaccination Among Rheumatology Patients in a Los Angeles County Safety Net Clinic. **BMC Rheumatology**. 2023, June 1; 13 (2023). doi: 10.1186/s41927-023-00338-7. PMID: 37259135.

4) **Zagelbaum Ward N.K.,** Jun JA, Vecerek N, Donaldson M, Quismorio FP Jr. Dissecting Cellulitis Of The Scalp Associated With Peripheral And Axial Spondyloarthritis: Report Of A Case And Review Of The Literature. **Clinical Rheumatology**. 2022 Aug;41; (8):2553-2560. doi: 10.1007/s10067-022-06128-9. PMID: 35460009.

5) Solomon D.H., Pincus T., Shadick N.A., Stratton J., Ellrodt J., Santacroce L., Katz J.N., Smolen JS... **Zagelbaum Ward N.K.,** Kaine J. Implementing A Treat-To-Target Approach For Rheumatoid Arthritis During The Covid-19 Pandemic: Results Of A Virtual Learning Collaborative Program. **Arthritis Care Res.** 2021 Dec 7. doi: 10.1002/acr.24830. PMID: 35119779.

6) Seto R., Mathias K., **Zagelbaum Ward N.K.,** Panush R.S., Challenges Of Caring For Homeless Patients With Rheumatic And Musculoskeletal Disorders In Los Angeles. **Clinical Rheumatology**. 2021 January; 40(1):413-420. doi: 10.1007/s10067-020-05505-6.

7) **Zagelbaum Ward N.K.**, Linares-Koloffon C., Posligua A., Gandrabur L., Wasserman A., Ash J., Cardiac Manifestations of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. **Cardiology in Review.** 2020 September; doi: 10.1097/CRD.0000000000000358.

8) **Zagelbaum N.K.,** Bhinder J., Aranow W., Frishman W., Peripartum Cardiomyopathy. Incidence, Risk Factors, Diagnostic Criteria, Pathophysiology And Treatment Options. **Cardiology in Review.** 2020 January**;** 2(28): 148–155. doi: 10.1097/CRD.0000000000000249.

9) **Zagelbaum N.K.,** Yandrapalli S., Nabors C., Frishman W., Bempedoic Acid (ETC-1002) ATP Citrate Lyase Inhibitor. **Cardiology in Review.** 2018 December; 1(27): 49-56. doi: 10.1097/CRD.000000000000021.

10) **Zagelbaum N.K.,** AlBadri A., Shufelt C., Wei J., Bairey Merz N.C. Lesser Severity Of Recurrent Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy While Taking Angiotensin II Receptor Blocker And Beta Blocker. **Journal of Medical Cases.** 2018 May; 9(7): 201-203. doi: https://doi.org/10.14740/jmc3079w.

11) **Zagelbaum N.K.,** Yandrapalli S., Frishman W. Ranolazine-Associated Delirium In The Elderly. **American Journal of Therapeutics**. 2018 Jan; 27(6): 700-701. doi: 10.1097/MJT.0000000000000711.

12) **Zagelbaum N.K.** Perspective. Special Issue of **Journal of Medical Humanities**: Pre-Health Humanities. 2017 May; 38(4): 503-504. doi: 10.1007/s10912-017-9458-0.

13) Spano C., Ward M.F., **Zagelbaum N.K.** Spinal Epidural Abscess Complicated By Meningitis, Sepsis, And Thrombocytopenia In A Patient Lacking Traditional Risk Factors: A Case Report. **Clinical Practice and Cases in Emergency Medicine.** 2017 May; 1(2): 115–117. doi: 10.5811/cpcem.2016.12.33001.

14) **Zagelbaum N.K.**, Gilani A., El Zarif S., Krishna K. D'Agati V.D., Obligado S. Granulomatosis With Polyangiitis (GPA): Case Report Outlining The Importance Of Urinalysis In Patients Presenting With Pulmonary Cavitating Lesions. **Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine.** 2016 Nov 24; 1(3): 4-4. doi: 10.15761/PCCM.1000119.

15) **Zagelbaum N.K.**, Ward M.F., Okby N., Karpoff H. Invasive Ductal Carcinoma With Osteoclast Like Giant Cells And Clear Cell Features: Novel Finding And Review Of The Literature. **World J Surg Oncol.** 2016 Aug 26; 14(1): 227. doi: 10.1186/s12957-016-0982-6.

16) **Zagelbaum N.K.**, Heslin K.C., Stein J.A., Ruzek J., Smith R.E., Nyugen T., Dobalian A. Factors Influencing Readiness To Deploy In Disaster Response: Findings From A Cross-Sectional Survey Of The Department Of Veterans Affairs Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System. **BMC Emerg Med.** 2014 Jul 19; 19;14:16. doi: 10.1186/1471-227X-14-16.

Books and Book Chapters

1) **Ward, N.K.** (2025). Work, Trauma, and Rheumatic Disease: A Guide to Understanding.

2) **Zagelbaum Ward, N.K.,** Zagelbaum, G. (2023). COVID-19 and Health: A Guide to Understanding.

3) **Zagelbaum N.K.,** Obligado S. (2019) "Acid Base" in Critical Care Examination and Board Review. ISBN-13: 9781259834356. Mcgraw Hill Professional Publishing.

Presentations

1) **Ward N.K.** Post-COVID Pain Complaints: Inflammatory Arthritis, Fibromyalgia, and Small Fiber Neuropathy. Webinar hosted by Garland & Associates; October 23, 2026.

2) **Ward N.K.** Vaccines. Core lecture to rheumatology fellows, **University of Southern California**; June 12, 2026.

3) **Ward N.K.** Diabetes and Medical Legal Evaluations. Webinar hosted by Garland & Associates; May 22, 2026.

4) **Ward N.K.** Rheumatology and Internal Medicine Medical Legal Evaluations. Webinar hosted by Garland & Associates; February 27, 2026.

5) **Ward N.K.** Internal Medicine and Rheumatology Claims. Kingdon Rating Services Fall Webinar 2025; October 31, 2025.6) Ward N.K. Pain and Medical Legal Claims. Webinar hosted by Garland & Associates; August 15, 2025.

7) **Ward N.K.** Musculoskeletal Complications of COVID-19 and Medical Legal Claims. Webinar hosted by Garland & Associates; July 25, 2025.

8) **Ward N.K.** Rheumatology and Medical Legal Evaluations. Webinar hosted by Garland & Associates; April 11, 2025.

9) **Ward N.K.** Diabetes and Medical Legal Evaluations. Webinar hosted by Garland & Associates; March 6, 2025.

10) **Ward N.K.,** Thaler, N**.** Long Covid-19: Neurological Sequelae and Rheumatologic Perspective. Webinar hosted by Garland & Associates; October 11, 2024.

11) **Ward N.K.** Rheumatology and Medical Legal Evaluations. Webinar hosted by Garland & Associates; September 6, 2024.

12) **Ward N.K.,** Thaler, N. Diabetes and Medical Legal Evaluations — Internal Medicine & Neuropsychological Perspectives. Webinar hosted by Garland & Associates; June 6, 2024.

13) Kobashigawa, L., **Ward N.K.,** Stohl, W., Rheumatic Immune-Related Adverse Events Following Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Therapy and Subsequent Referrals to Rheumatologists at a Private vs Public Medical Center in Los Angeles: Ramifications for Health Disparities. **American College of Rheumatology Annual Meeting;** Presentation; 2023 November 13.

14) Solomon D.H., Pincus T., Shadick N.A., Stratton J., Ellrodt J., Santacroce L., Katz J.N., Smolen J.S… **Zagelbaum Ward N.K.,** Kaine J. Implementing Treat to Target (TTT) for Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) 2) Through a Virtual Learning Collaborative (LC) Program During COVID. **American College of Rheumatology Annual Meeting;** Virtual Presentation; 2021 November 5-9.

15) **Zagelbaum Ward N.K.**, Amarnani, A., Panush R.S. How Might We Care for Rheumatoid Arthritis Patients Unable to See a Rheumatologist And/or Use Certain of Our Medications? Proposed Preliminary Recommendations for RA Patients Who Don't Meet Our Established Guidelines. **American College of Rheumatology Annual Meeting;** Virtual Presentation; 2021 November 5-9.

16) Rai B., **Zagelbaum Ward N.K.,** Amarnani, A., Panush R.S. Challenges of Caring for Patients with Inflammatory Arthritis Experiencing Homelessness: Preliminary (12- Month) Follow-up Observations and Identification of Certain Barriers to Care. **American College of Rheumatology Annual Meeting;** Virtual Presentation; 2021 November 5-9.

17) Akbar S., Bhinder J., **Zagelbaum N.K.**, Zaid S., Dutta T. Epicardial Adipose Tissue Predicts The Presence of Aortic Valve Stenosis. **American College of Cardiology National Conference**; Virtual Presentation; 2020 March 29.

18) Pal S., **Zagelbaum N.K.**, Gennarelli, M., Newman, R., Nabors C. Determinants Of Primary Healthcare Utilization Among LGBT Individuals In Westchester County, New York. **Society of General Internal Medicine National Conference;** Oral Presentation; 2019 May 11; Washington, D.C.

19) **Zagelbaum N.K**., Ward M.F., Brooks H. Establishing A High-Risk Breast Cancer Cohort In A Rural Health Setting. **Osteopathic Medical Education Conference National Conference**; Oral Presentation; 2016 September 17-20; Anaheim, CA.

20) **Zagelbaum N.K**., Ward M.F., Brooks H. Factors Influencing Follow Up Amongst High-Risk Breast Cancer Patients: A Retrospective Case-Control Analysis. **Orange Regional Medical Center Annual Poster Competition**; 2016 April 20; Middletown, NY.

21) **Zagelbaum N.K**., Ward M.F. Utilizing An Evidenced Based Mental Health Training Program Among Medical Students. **New York Osteopathic Medical Society Regional Osteopathic Convention**; 2015 April 17; Middletown, NY.

22) **Zagelbaum N.K.**, Heslin K.C., Stein J.A., Ruzek J, Smith R.E., Nyugen T., Dobalian A. Factors Influencing Readiness To Deploy In Disaster Response: Findings From A Cross-Sectional Survey Of The Department Of Veterans Affairs Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System, **AcademyHealth Gender and Health Interest Group National Meeting**; June 22, 2013. Baltimore, MD.

Vignettes

1) **Zagelbaum Ward N.K.,** Zagelbaum G., Long COVID and Work: An Update. **Workers Compensation Quarterly.** Workers Compensation Section of the California Lawyers Association. Vol 37, No. 1, 2024.

2) Rai, B., Amarnani, A., **Zagelbaum Ward N.K.,** Panush, R. When Rheumatic Disease May Have Affected the Course of Western Civilization. **The Rheumatologist.** 2022 November; https://www.the-rheumatologist.org/article/when-rheumatic-disease-may-have-affected-the-course-of-western-civilization/

3) Amarnani, A., **Zagelbaum Ward N.K.,** Stohl, W. 2 Cases of SLE-Associated Diffuse Alveolar Hemorrhage. **The Rheumatologist.** 2021 August; https://www.the-rheumatologist.org/article/2-cases-of-sle-associated-diffuse-alveolar-hemorrhage/

4) Kim W., Sen A., **Zagelbaum N.K.,** Cho R. Kikuchi-Fujimoto's Disease And SLE. Abstract published at Hospital Medicine 2020, Virtual Competition. Abstract 628. **Journal of Hospital Medicine.** 2021 May 1; https://shmabstracts.org/abstract/kikuchi-fujimotos-disease-and-sle/

5) **Zagelbaum Ward N.K.,** Panush R.S. Reflections On Starting A Rheumatology Fellowship During The Pandemic. **The Rheumatologist**. 2020 October; https://www.the-rheumatologist.org/article/reflections-on-starting-a-rheumatology-fellowship-during-the-pandemic/

6) **Zagelbaum N.K.**, Kabra N., Horblitt A., Dutta T., Jain D. A Case Of Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy In The Setting Of Obstructive Coronary Artery Disease. **American College of Cardiology National Conference**; Oral Presentation; 2019 March 18; New Orleans, LA.

7) **Zagelbaum N.K**, Bairy-Merz, N. Lesser Severity Of Recurrent Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy With The Use Of Beta Blockers And Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers. **Western Regional Medical Conference**; Oral Presentation; 2018 January 25; Monterey, CA.

8) **Zagelbaum N.K**., Vernatter, J. First Case Of Brucella Ovis In Human. **American College of Physicians, New York Chapter Regional Conference**; Oral Presentation; 2017 June 3; Rochester, NY.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Professional Memberships

06/2019 – present	Member, American College of Rheumatology
03/2016 – present	Member, American College of Physicians
07/2012 – 07/2013	Member, VA Women's Health Research Consortium
06/2012 – present	Member, Delta Omega Honorary Society, IOTA Chapter, University of California, Los Angeles

Teaching Positions

04/2026 – present	Preceptor, USC Rheumatology Fellows Clinic, Los Angeles General Medical Center
10/2022 – present	Preceptor, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Rheumatology Fellows Clinic
10/2018 – 06/2020	Preceptor, Foundations of Clinical Medicine Course, New York Medical College
07/2014 – 07/2015	Teacher's Assistant, Department of Biochemistry, Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine
06/2007 – 06/2009	HIV Test Counselor, Student Health and Outreach Promotions, University of California, Santa Cruz