

TOP 10 ONLINE INFLUENCERS

Making a difference in the world of RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

1.3 million+

Number of Americans who have RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (RA)

Source: American College of Rheumatology

Did you know rheumatoid arthritis (RA) affects nearly 1 percent of all U.S. adults? With so many touched by this disease, it's important for all of us to understand its symptoms, diagnosis and treatments, and to know who to ask for help. "SharecareNow 10: Rheumatoid Arthritis" sheds light on the patients, doctors, advocates and authors giving strength, knowledge and encouragement to this community on a daily basis. For answers to your questions about rheumatoid arthritis, visit <http://www.sharecare.com/topic/rheumatoid-arthritis>.



#1 Kelly Young, Rheumatoid Arthritis Warrior

<http://rawarrior.com/>

Kelly Young is a patient advocate, writer and creator of Rheumatoid Arthritis Warrior, a comprehensive website about RA. Through her writing, speaking and use of social media, Young is building a more refined and accurate awareness of RA. She won the 2011 WebMD Health Hero award, and also serves on the Mayo Clinic Center for Social Media Advisory Board.

[@rawarrior](#) [Rheumatoid Arthritis Warrior](#) [KellyRAWarrior](#)

COMMON FIRST SYMPTOMS OF RA

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



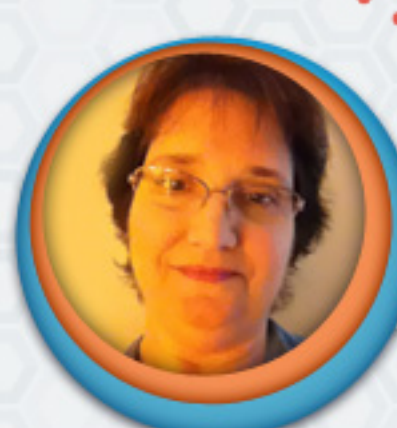
#2 Rheumatoid Arthritis Guy

<http://www.rheumatoidarthritisguy.com/>

Rheumatoid Arthritis Guy has had RA since his mid-20s. He started his blog to share his personal experiences while dealing with the many ups and downs of RA. As he continues his journey through chronic pain and inflammation, he seeks to use humor to lighten the situation.

[@RA Guy](#) [Rheumatoid Arthritis Guy](#)

FATIGUE



#3 Carol Eustice, About.com Arthritis

<http://arthritis.about.com/>

Carol Eustice is About.com's Guide to Arthritis and Osteoarthritis. She is also a patient advocate and author of *The Everything Health Guide to Arthritis*. Carol was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis at age 19, and in 1995 started and moderated the first weekly RA chat room/support group on America Online. She has been the original About.com Guide to Arthritis since 1997, and the About.com Guide to Osteoarthritis since 2007.

[@ArthritisGuide](#) [Arthritis at About.com](#) [Carol Eustice](#)

WEAKNESS



#4 Ashley Boynes-Shuck, Arthritis Foundation, Mid Atlantic Region

<http://midatlanticarthritis.wordpress.com/>

Ashley Boynes-Shuck is an advocate who is living well with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, celiac disease and other autoimmune issues. She writes for the Arthritis Foundation, Mid-Atlantic Region's blog, covering a little bit of everything related to wellness and arthritis, including recipes, research news, advocacy updates and, occasionally, some pretty cool event videos.

[@ArthritisAshley](#) [Arthritis Ashley](#)



#5 Dana, At the Water's Edge

<http://waters-edge.blogspot.com/>

Dana writes for *At the Water's Edge*, covering rheumatoid arthritis and other topics such as astronomy, Christianity, gardening and recipes. She writes about RA through her personal experiences with treatments, progress, pain management and diagnosis, and explains RA-specific terminology and tests.

[@dsymons](#)

MUSCLE SORENESS



#6 William C. Shiel, Jr., MD, MedicineNet.com

<http://www.medicinenet.com>

William Shiel, Jr., MD, co-founded MedicineNet.com in 1996, serving as chief editor and authoring hundreds of articles. In addition to practicing in the field of rheumatology, he is a contributor to the American Board of Internal Medicine and a regular reviewer of board questions on behalf of the American Board of Rheumatology subspecialty. Shiel has also served on the Medical and Scientific Committee of the Arthritis Foundation.



FEVER



#7 Scott Zashin, MD, WebMD Rheumatoid Arthritis Community

<http://www.webmd.com/>

Scott Zashin, MD, is a rheumatologist at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas, Texas, and an active advocate for people with arthritis. He has been an arthritis expert for *The New York Times* and *About.com Arthritis*, and is currently an expert for the WebMD Rheumatoid Arthritis Community. The author of the book *Arthritis Without Pain*, Zashin has served as an Executive Board Member for the Arthritis Foundation of North Texas.

WEIGHT LOSS

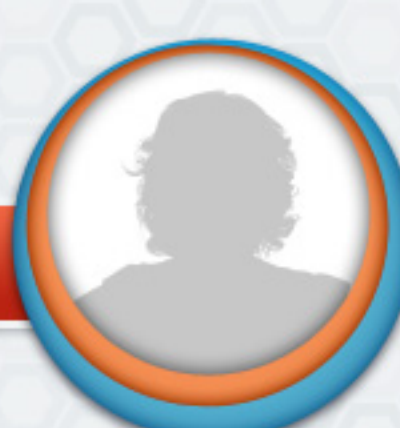


Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

#8 Nancy Walsh, MedPage Today

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/>

Nancy Walsh is a staff writer for MedPage Today, with articles and interviews on rheumatoid arthritis also frequently appearing on *EverydayHealth.com*. She has written for various medical publications in the U.S. and England, including *Patient Care*, *The Practitioner* and the *The Journal of Respiratory Diseases*. For nearly 10 years, Walsh was the New York Bureau Chief for the International Medical News Group.



#9 kvnj, MDJunction Rheumatoid Arthritis Support Group

<http://www.mdjunction.com/>

The group leader of MDJunction's Rheumatoid Arthritis Support Group, **kvnj** was diagnosed with RA in October 2008 and then with fibromyalgia in 2010. For almost four years, kvnj has provided support, encouragement and stories of personal experiences to other patients dealing with RA, sharing this personal philosophy: "I am very thankful for the good days, and try to make the best of them without overdoing it."

25-55

TYPICAL AGE OF RA onset

Source: American Academy of Family Physicians

WHO gets RA?

2.5 women VS 1 man



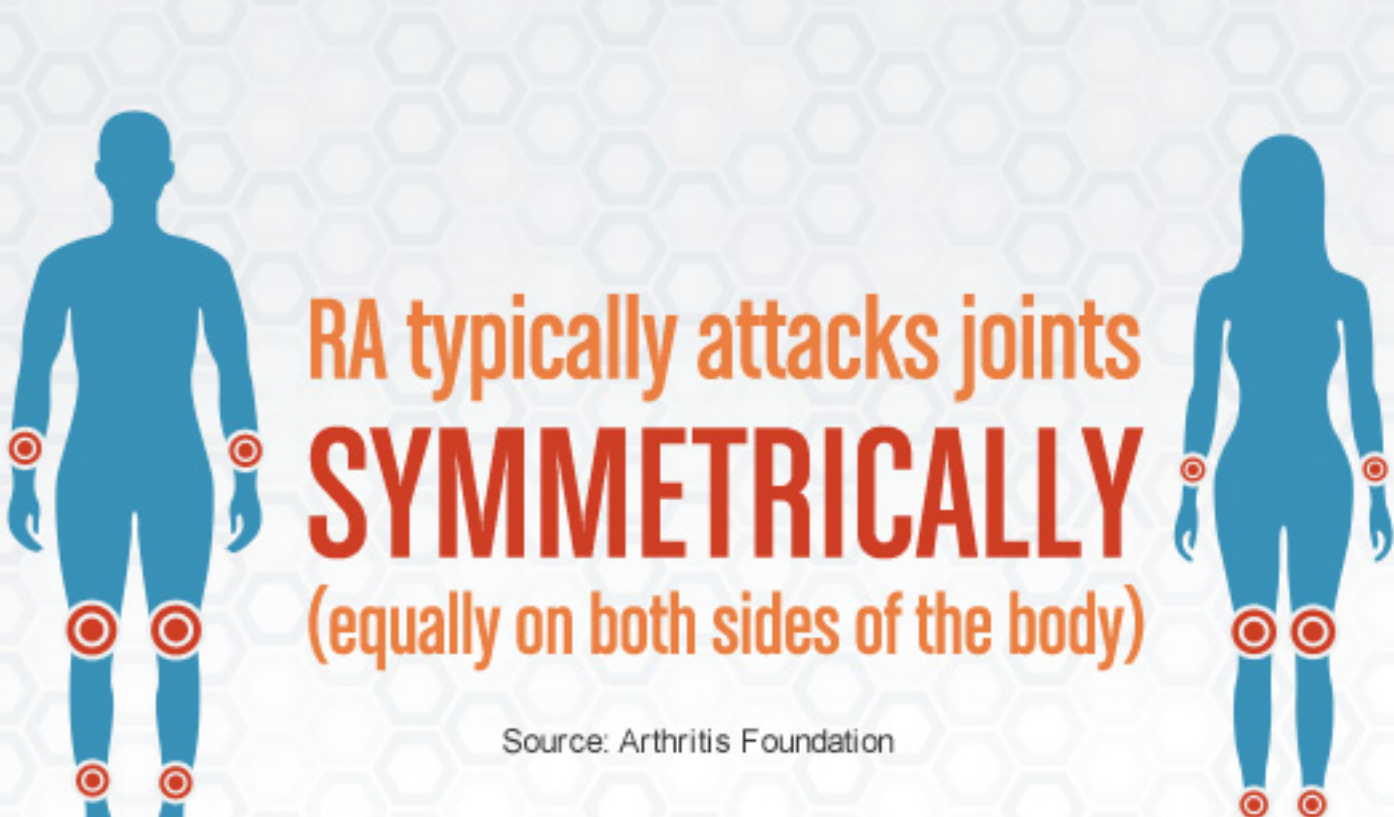
Source: Arthritis Foundation

#10 Lisa Emrich, Brass & Ivory: Life with MS & RA

<http://www.brassandivory.org/>

Lisa Emrich shares bits of her life as a patient diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and RA in her blog, *Brass & Ivory*. She also writes about MS, RA and obesity for *HealthCentral.com* and has been featured in *Momentum Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *Arthritis Today* and *Pharmaphorum*.

[@LisaEmrich](#)



Source: Arthritis Foundation

An estimated 4 percent of women and 3 percent of men will have RA in their lifetimes

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Methodology: How is influence measured?

Influencers included in "SharecareNow 10: Rheumatoid Arthritis" have demonstrated influence within RA conversations online. Influence is calculated through a proprietary algorithm based on more than 40 individual metrics, including disease-area relevance and online syndication, presence and reach. All metrics are based on content produced over the past year (from the list's publish date) across multiple online channels, including Twitter, blogs, forums, mainstream news and video.