

**April 2023**

Welcome, Dr. Monica Curtis!

Monica joins us from UpToDate, where she was previously a senior physician editor for 10 years. She is clinically active as an attending physician in the Rheumatology Division at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, MA, and an Instructor in Medicine, part-time at Harvard Medical School.

She received her bachelor's degree from Harvard College, her medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine, and a Master of Public Health from the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health. Following her residency in internal medicine at Tufts Medical Center, she completed her rheumatology fellowship at the Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Her clinical interests include general rheumatology, rheumatoid arthritis, vasculitis, and inflammatory myopathies, as well as caring for Spanish-speaking patients.

Monica lives in Cambridge, MA with her husband Matthew and son Alejandro (7). She enjoys spending time with her family and friends and playing tennis.



Learning to Serve our Users

If you've spent time recently on our website (and if you haven't, we urge you to check it out [here](#)), you know that The Manuals team has been making changes in specific features (such as drug monographs) and functionality (such as links to Diagnosis and Treatment heads from the top of topic pages) to better meet the needs of our users.

We've got lots of ideas; you know we always have tons of ideas. But before we implement changes, we need to know what changes will be most effective and meaningful for the health care professionals and patients who use our sites. And that means research.

In late 2021, we conducted in-depth interviews with a group of US medical students to determine how they engage with The Manual. Then, in late 2022, we included a survey on our website in hopes of engaging users and getting information about which features users find most helpful.

We are still working through the findings from both studies. There were many insightful comments and ideas. The biggest finding from the medical student interviews is one we've known for a while: we still need to do more work to ensure that students know about The Manual and all the resources it provides. If you feel so inclined, mentioning The Manual as a valuable (and free!) resource to medical students at your institution would aid our outreach efforts.

Health care professionals who use our site were quick to compliment our offerings but also pointed out changes that might enhance The Manual experience. We'll be evaluating those suggestions and implementing some of them, so keep your eyes on The Manual webpage and apps to see changes as they are rolled out.

Did You Know?

DID YOU KNOW?

The Manuals have hundreds of videos including:

Procedures, Exams, Rehab, and more!



In Memoriam: Dr. Robert Hirschfeld

We are saddened to share the news that Dr. Robert Hirschfeld, our Editorial Board member for Psychiatry, passed away in February. We are grateful for his contributions to The Manuals, and we celebrate his distinguished career. Keryn Lane spoke to Dr. Hirschfeld about a month before his death. He'd told her he had been ill, but he didn't mention how ill. In fact, he told her his Merck Manuals' reviews were at the top of his to-do list. We were touched by that level of dedication.

Read his obituary [here](#).



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