

### Transcript Details

This is a transcript of an educational program accessible on the ReachMD network. Details about the program and additional media formats for the program are accessible by visiting:

<https://reachmd.com/programs/rheumatoid-arthritis-addressing-unmet-needs/why-optimal-ra-treatment-plans-take-so-long-achieve/9801/>

### ReachMD

www.reachmd.com

info@reachmd.com

(866) 423-7849

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## Why Optimal RA Treatment Plans Take So Long to Achieve

### Announcer:

On this episode, titled *Why Optimal Treatment for Rheumatoid Arthritis Take so Long to Achieve* we will hear from Dr. Michele Meltzer from Jefferson University Hospitals.

### Dr. Michele Meltzer:

One of the very sad aspects of being a rheumatologist today is that we see patients who already have advanced disease by the time they come to see us and there are several reasons for this. One is, is that there is just not enough rheumatologists out there. There are not enough of us to educate in medical schools and in the residencies, so that many primary care physicians are unable to recognize early rheumatoid arthritis.

An additional problem is public awareness, and many of the patients assume that their joint pain may be a normal part of aging and don't seek medical attention.

And the third problem is, I already alluded to, is that there is a shortage of rheumatologists, so many communities don't have a rheumatologist, or if there is a rheumatologist, the wait time may be several months.

**Announcer:**

The proceeding program was sponsored by Lilly. To revisit any part of this discussion and to access other episodes in this series, visit [ReachMD.com/addressingRA](https://ReachMD.com/addressingRA). Thank you for listening.

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