

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

January 2013

Models of Care-A Top Priority

The Alliance will work together with the provinces and other key stakeholders in the health system to improve care for patients through the use of models of care for inflammatory arthritis, early osteoarthritis, hip and knee replacement and spine. This work will be lead by the co-chairs of the Alliance Models of Care Committee, Drs. Cy Frank, Dianne Mosher and Michel Zummer.

We are pleased to announce that Drs. Vandana Ahluwalia, Dianne Mosher and Michel Zummer are co-leading the inflammatory models of care development which will be the focus of activity over the next few months. To view the Models of Care tool for developing and evaluating models of care, please visit our website: <http://www.arthritisalliance.ca/home/index.php>

Save The Date!

The Arthritis Alliance is pleased to announce its first Annual Research Symposium, to be held at the Westin Ottawa, November 21st-23rd 2013. The purpose of the conference is to:

- Report on the progress and accomplishments of the National Framework since its launch Sept 2012 and seek input into strategies to further its implementation for the coming years;
- Showcase discoveries and new knowledge that are ready for implementation in the care and prevention of arthritis; and
- Increase the level of interest among government and health system representatives about the National Framework and the need for further investment in arthritis research.

Awareness and Advocacy Committee Update

The Awareness and Advocacy committee recently shared their strategic direction for government and public relations to support and advance the Framework for Arthritis Prevention and Care.

Dennis Jeanes has had to step down from the committee due to other commitments. On behalf of the members of the Alliance, we extend our thanks and appreciation to Dennis for his many contributions to the work of the Alliance over the last year.

We are pleased to announce that Kelly Lendvoy, Vice President, Communications and Public Affairs with Arthritis Consumer Experts has stepped into the role of co-chair alongside Tracy Folkes Hanson, VP, Marketing, Communications & Stakeholder Relations, The Arthritis Society.

Federal and Provincial Government Updates

The Arthritis Alliance continues its outreach to government officials across Canada for the purpose of discussing the Framework and key initiatives for implementation.

Since the release of our December newsletter (<http://arthritisalliance.ca/newsletters/index.php>), members of the Alliance have undertaken the following meetings:

Alberta
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fred Horne, Minister of Health• John Sproule, Senior Policy Director and Board Secretary, Institute of Health Economics• Nora Johnston, Director, Healthy Living Policy, Wellness Branch
Ontario
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christine Elliott, Member of Provincial Parliament, Oshawa-Whitby

Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions announces Dr. Cy Frank as the new CEO

Congratulations to Dr. Frank on his new role as CEO at Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions, effective April 1st 2013. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Frank will continue his volunteer work with the Arthritis Alliance. To read the announcement in the globe and mail please click [here](#)

Want to help?

You can help and get involved by:

- Visiting www.ArthritisAlliance.ca
- Sending promotional material (Joint Action Executive Summary, website information) to your friends, family and colleagues
- Providing feedback. Give us your ideas
- Giving us an update to share with the group
- Telling us about your upcoming events, initiatives, and announcements that are aligned with the Framework
- Helping us to promote Joint Action on Arthritis
- Telling our story and telling yours
- Telling your friends and family
- Writing and calling your local MP/MPP, your Premier, Minister of Health, etc
- Sharing on Twitter, Facebook, and other social media channels

Member Updates

CANadian Rheumatology Administrative Data Network

Our CANRADnetwork (CANadian Rheumatology Administrative Data Network) team of decision makers, epidemiologists, clinicians and researchers see administrative health data as a key resource for research and surveillance of rheumatic disease. We developed 13 best-practice consensus statements about the use of administrative data for rheumatic disease research and surveillance in Canada. We are designing a website to share our research, create opportunities for networking and meet new potential team members. Working groups within our team are identifying issues related to different areas of

administrative health research. Our next planned meeting in 2013 will be spent exploring and expanding these working groups.

New Practice Support Program (PSP) module targets musculoskeletal conditions

The PSP's new Musculoskeletal module provides training, tools, and resources for family physicians (FPs) in the treatment of osteoarthritis, low back pain, rheumatoid arthritis, and juvenile idiopathic arthritis.

The module supports FPs to provide appropriate care for patients suffering from these conditions, some of which can prove challenging to identify and manage, and highlights the importance of patient education and self-management in achieving better health outcomes. Visit www.pspbc.ca for more information. *The PSP is a joint initiative of the British Columbia Medical Association and the Ministry of Health.*

New Research Report: Institute for Work & Health

Relatively little attention has been given to understanding the potential health-related barriers faced by older workers who wish to work. Using three representative samples from the Canadian Community Health Survey we examine the relationship between seven physical chronic conditions (hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, back problems, migraines and thyroid conditions) and labour market participation in Canada between 2000 and 2005. Heart disease was associated with the greatest odds of not working due to health reasons (OR = 3.37, 95% CI 2.82 - 4.03), with arthritis being associated with the largest population attributable fraction (29.0%). Particular combinations of chronic conditions (heart disease and diabetes; and arthritis and back pain) were associated with a greater risk than the separate effects of each. Strategies to keep older workers in the labour market in Canada will need to address barriers to stay at work that result from the presence of chronic conditions, and particular combinations of conditions.

Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance and Consumer Advisory Council

Members of the Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance (CAPA) and the Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) of CAN are meeting in Toronto on the weekend of 26/27 January, 2013 to finalize the arrangements for the amalgamation of the two organizations. The plan is to gain synergy by combining the strengths of both groups.

Publication to Celebrate Excellence and Impact in Canadian Musculoskeletal Health Research.

The Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (IMHA), and the Canadian Arthritis Network (CAN) are pleased to create a publication to celebrate excellence and impact in Canadian musculoskeletal health research. Through a national call, we received 34 stories. The stories addressed all six of IMHA's focus areas - arthritis, skin, oral health, MSK rehab, bone and skeletal muscle and all four CIHR research themes.

We would like to thank all the researchers who submitted a story. They all provided excellent examples. The advisory committee will now be reviewing all of the submissions to select the twelve stories for the publication.

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research has posted an updated design document at <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/44761.html>. This outlines changes to the open suite of programs at CIHR as well as reforms to the peer review process. All researchers and related health care organizations will want to read it to be informed about changes taking place over the next several years. The CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis will hold its next Institute Advisory Board in Calgary on February 27-28th. Board members will meet with the research community as well as the new CEO of Alberta Innovates- Health Solutions, Cy Frank. The IMHA- led Inflammation in Chronic Disease Signature Initiative will communicate decisions on the letter of intent stage by March 1, 2013. For more information on CIHR and/or IMHA programs and plans please contact liz.stirling@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

Cochrane Collaboration

The Cochrane Collaboration is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2013. Help us celebrate two decades of evidence-based health decision-making at our upcoming Colloquium - *Better Knowledge for Better Health | Un meilleur savoir pour une meilleure santé* - in Québec City, 19 – 23 September 2013. Visit colloquium.cochrane.org for more information. You can also learn more about The Cochrane Collaboration by viewing the first of 24 videos in our Anniversary Video Series which explores our history, the challenges we have faced, and the individuals that contribute to the Collaboration and Cochrane Systematic Reviews. Visit anniversary.cochrane.org.

Nova Scotia set to improve long wait times for joint surgeries

Nova Scotia is focused on improvements for joint replacement wait times and is planning a Blitz for joint replacement at the QE II HSC in Halifax. The goal is to reach 160 to 180 joints in two weeks and reduce our long waits by over 20% in just two weeks.

These are exciting times for orthopedics in Nova Scotia and great for patient care. Stay tuned for even better news for arthritis care in Nova Scotia

Calendar of Events

- Canadian Rheumatology Association Annual Scientific Meeting & Allied Health Professionals Association Annual Meeting February 13-16 2013 Ottawa, ON
- Power of Movement (www.powerofmovement.ca) March 3, 2013
- Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month March 2013
- American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons Meeting March 19-23, 2013 Chicago, IL
- Osteoarthritis Research Society International (OARSI) Apr 18-21, 2013 Philadelphia PA, USA
- Canadian Conference for Medical Education April 20-23, 2013 Quebec City, QC
- CASEM Annual Scientific Meeting April 25-26, 2013 Whistler, BC
- Canadian Obesity Summit May 1-4 2013 Vancouver, BC

- Primary Care Today May 9-11, 2013 Toronto, ON
- Canadian Physiotherapy Association May 23-26, 2013 Montreal, QC
- Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists May 29-June 1, 2013 Victoria, BC
- Canadian Connective Tissue Society May 29-June 1, 2013 Montreal, QC
- Canadian Pharmacists Association June 1-4, 2013 Charlottetown, PEI
- Walk to Fight Arthritis (<http://www.walktofightarthritis.ca/>) June 9, 2013
- Canadian Association of Continuing Health Education June 11, 2013 Vancouver, BC
- European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) June 12-15, 2013 Madrid, Spain
- Canadian Paediatric Society June 19-22, 2013 Edmonton, AB
- Canadian Orthopaedic Association June 20-22, 2013 Winnipeg, MB
- Arthritis Awareness Month September 2013
- International Association of Inflammation Societies (IAIS) September 21-15, 2013 Natal RN, Brazil
- American College of Rheumatology (ACR) October 27-30, 2013 San Diego, USA
- Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario November 7-9, 2013 Toronto, ON
- Arthritis Alliance of Canada Annual Research Symposium November 21-23, 2013 Ottawa, ON

THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE NEEDS TO HEAR YOUR SUCCESSES, STORIES AND PROJECTS THAT WILL SUPPORT THE FRAMEWORK EFFORT. IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO BE FEATURED HERE, PLEASE FORWARD YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO [JCOISH@MTSINAL.ON.CA](mailto:jcoish@mtsina.on.ca).

ABOUT THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada, formerly the Alliance for the Canadian Arthritis Program (ACAP), was formed in 2002. Its goal is to improve the lives of Canadians with arthritis.

With more than 35 member organizations, the Arthritis Alliance brings together arthritis health care professionals, researchers, funding agencies, governments, voluntary sector agencies, industry and, most importantly, representatives from arthritis consumer organizations from across Canada. While each member organization continues its own work, the Alliance provides a central focus for national arthritis-related initiatives.

For more information about the Arthritis Alliance, please contact:
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