

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

March 27, 2013

Progress in Models of Care

A top priority of the Arthritis Alliance is to enhance the quality of care for patients with arthritis through improvements in how care is delivered; efficient and effective models of care (MOC). Please read on to learn more.



Dr. Vandana Ahluwalia, Ontario

Recently the Arthritis Alliance of Canada hosted a meeting inviting the provinces to join efforts in the development of a national model of care framework. The Ontario MOC committee representatives were pleased to attend this meeting, sharing best practices on key pillars that are specifically relevant to the Ontario provincial framework. Specific tactical enablers were presented for the 5 key pillars of the Ontario model which include: 1) engagement and awareness; 2) early access and efficient triaging; 3) evidence based treat to target practices; 4) outcome measurements; and, 5) education and adherence.

Since the last report, there have been several important new developments:

- In an effort to better understand the current care map for patients, the Ontario team has dedicated time and resources to field research exploring how individual patients diagnosed with Inflammatory Arthritis progress through the system in order to access drug therapy (DMARDs/ biologics) and disease management support. Particular attention is being given to identifying any rate limiting steps or “levers” to accessing the Ontario system. Once this work is completed it will be used to define the costs associated with current care pathways and any costs savings that could be realized using a new model of care.
- Continued outreach to other speciality groups including the Inter-professional Spine Assessment and Education Clinics (ISAEC) program to learn specifically how these models were set up and how funding platforms were secured for provincial implementation.

Important key stakeholder meetings continue to take place with the payers (Ontario Ministry of Health, private payers and pharmaceutical partners) to advocate for support and funding of this important initiative.



Dr. Dianne Mosher, Alberta

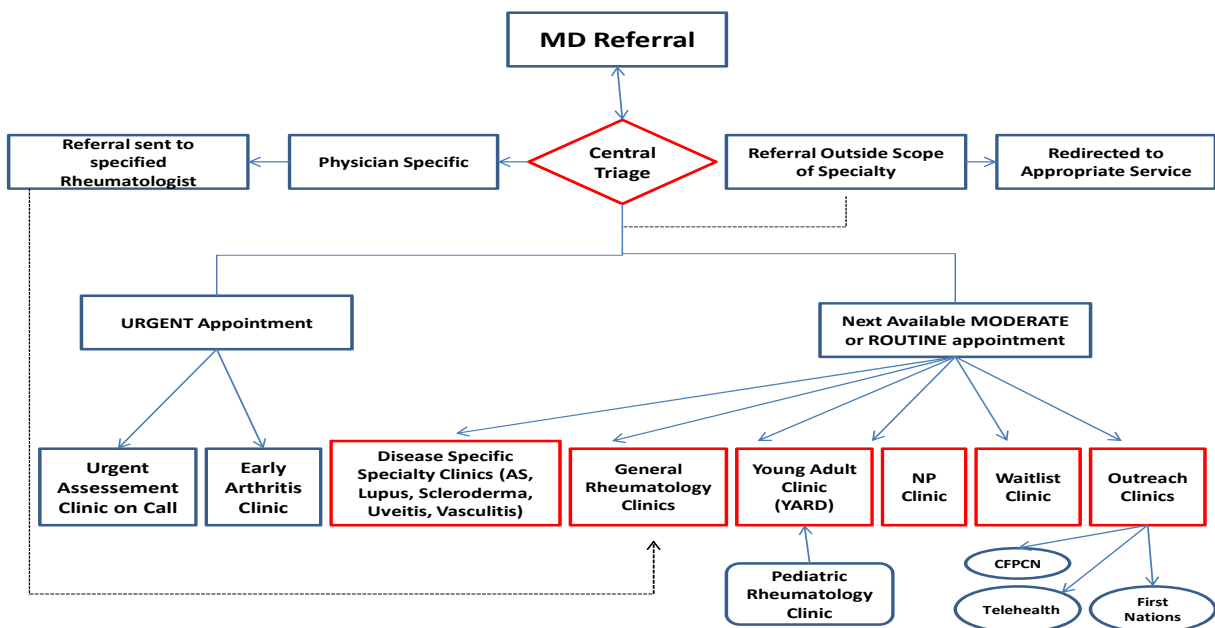
The use of a coordinated central intake and triage system has been shown to significantly improve access for patients experiencing inflammatory arthritis in Calgary. Rheumatology Central Triage forms the platform for the Calgary Rheumatology Model of Care. Central triage was developed in 2005/2006 through an Innovation opportunity offered by Alberta Health’s Alternative Relationships Plan (ARP) program. It was

identified that primary care providers had difficulty identifying which specialist to refer to and that there were communication barriers as to when patients would be seen. To date over 38,000 referrals have been documented in the database. A central database is used to track the referrals and receive between 100-150 per week (recent increase since April 2012).

On receipt of all information the referral is assigned a triage urgency and assigned to either a speciality clinic or a general rheumatology clinic. Patients who appear to be Early Inflammatory patients are called by the nurse, and screened for the Early Inflammatory Arthritis clinics.

The Calgary speciality clinics consist of: Early Inflammatory Arthritis, Spondyloarthropathy, Lupus, Vasculitis, Uveitis, Scleroderma, Nurse Practitioner clinic, Young Adult Rheumatic Disease, Telehealth, Telerheumatology consult service, Aboriginal outreach clinics, Primary Care Network MSK clinic, General Rheumatology Clinics (Academic and Community). Speciality clinics are multidisciplinary in nature with Rheumatologists, Allied Health Professionals (nurses, physiotherapists, pharmacist, social worker), linking to Community Resources.

Further information on the Rheumatology Central Triage in Calgary will be available soon at www.arthritisalliance.ca.



ADVANCED CLINICIAN PRACTITIONER IN ARTHRITIS CARE (ACPAC) PROGRAM

The Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC) Program will be offered September, 2013-June, 2014, through a joint partnership involving St. Michael’s Hospital, The Hospital for Sick Children, The Arthritis Society, and the Ministry of Health (Ontario). The aim of this inter-professional program is to produce highly skilled and measurably competent extended role practitioners who 1) enhance the available human health resources for patients living with arthritis and, 2) are central to the development of new models of arthritis care. These practitioners receive extensive competency-based training with formal evaluation.

This 10-month academic and clinical post-licensure training program focuses on advanced arthritis care (the orthopedic and rheumatology fields).

Highlights of recent changes to the ACPAC Program (2013-2014)

- The program has been modified to include an online component, off-site clinical training and a reduction to five weeks of on-site attendance.
- Applicants may be physical therapists, occupational therapists, nurses experienced in the musculoskeletal field, or family physicians.
- Candidates may apply from across Canada with the *proviso* that geographic distribution and regional need will be taken into consideration. A core group of applicants will continue to be from Ontario. A maximum of 10 trainees will be accepted into the program for 2013-2014.

Application deadline: Friday May 17, 2013 pending further instruction, posted at:
<http://www.stmichaelshospital.com/programs/mobility/acpac.php>

THE ARTHRITIS PROGRAM AT SOUTHLAKE REGIONAL

Since 1991, The Arthritis Program (TAP) at Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket, Ontario has seen overwhelming success in patient outcomes and team-based treatment strategies. Using an inter-professional framework, the program brings together rheumatologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, pharmacists, social workers, kinesiologists and dietitians to provide assessment, education and treatment to patients with arthritis with the collective goal of disease self management and empowerment. TAP has won numerous awards recognizing results in teaching and leadership. Team members are actively involved in many research related activities. With funding from the Canadian Initiative For Outcomes in Rheumatology Care (CIORA), TAP has developed a curriculum to teach inter-professional collaboration. This curriculum has demonstrated success with many rheumatology teams across Canada.

Save the Date! 2013 Inaugural Conference and Research Symposium

It's officially underway, the Arthritis Alliance will be holding its first annual Research Symposium **November 21st-23rd, 2013** at the Westin Ottawa. The event will showcase the latest scientific discoveries and highlight advances in clinical practice across the country and feature workshops for trainees.

Member Updates

ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS

During the 2013 Canadian Rheumatology Association Annual Scientific Meeting, **Arthritis Consumer Experts (ACE)** and the Arthritis Broadcast Network (ABN) conducted English and French interviews with rheumatologists, researchers, arthritis community members and the public. Respondents offered their views on arthritis in Canada, the expanding role of pharmacists in arthritis healthcare, and challenges women face living with arthritis.

ACE also served as the social media host for the conference and provided up-to-date news on events at the meetings on Twitter and Facebook, as well as our ABN website. Thanks to all of you that participated in our interviews. Please visit <http://arthritisbroadcastnetwork.org/> to view the interviews.

ACE will be attending the annual Rural and Remote Medicine Course/Conference in Victoria, BC on April 4-6. The Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC) is the national voice of Canadian rural physicians. In addition to exhibiting, ACE will have an active role in social media and conducting interviews at the conference. The goal of the conference is to provide a forum that will discuss issues, present initiatives and foster networks of collaboration between rural physicians and allied health care workers.

STATE-OF-THE-ART CLINICAL RESEARCH FACILITY AT THE MCCAIG INSTITUTE FOR BONE AND JOINT HEALTH

The McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health is home to a multidisciplinary team of basic scientists, engineers, clinicians and health system researchers who have established a world-class research program to enhance the prevention and treatment of bone and joint conditions. We have set our sights on creating a state-of-the-art clinical research facility for the development of innovative treatment and diagnostic tools, which can be quickly implemented into the health care system. This \$17.4 million project will be supported in part by the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI). This new facility will ultimately help us find a way to maintain the mobility of every individual, well into their senior years.

CANRAD NETWORK

The CanRad Network, funded by CAN and CIHR, was established in 2010 to develop consensus statements for using administrative data in rheumatic disease research and surveillance (J. Rheum. 2013). Our team obtained *Réseau de Recherche en Santé* funding to hold our third face-to-face meeting, in Hull, Quebec (February 13, 2013). This focused on the needs of communities like the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, and also pediatric populations. Participants included professional and research groups from across Canada, as well as federal and territorial specialists in chronic disease epidemiology, and a patient representative. Our next goal is an interactive website-stay tuned!

THE CONSUMER ADVISORY BOARD-ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CENTRE OF CANADA

The Consumer Advisory Board of the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada is hosting its 8th Reaching Out with Arthritis Research (ROAR) event-"Don't Let Your Arthritis Kill You- Take Action"- how arthritis can cause heart attacks, strokes and blood clots and- what you can do about it. Webcast and Live Public Presentation Saturday, May 4th, 2013. Registration is now open, to register please visit www.arthritisresearch.ca/ROAR.

UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK AND INSTITUTE FOR WORK AND HEALTH

A recent article published in the Social Science & Medicine *an international journal* "Social Role Participation and The Life Course in Healthy Adults and Individuals with Osteoarthritis: Are We Overlooking The Impact on The Middle-Aged?" compares middle-aged and older adults with osteoarthritis to those without. They found that it was the middle-aged adults with OA who reported the greatest stress and difficulties trying to manage a variety of life roles. Middle-aged adults are often trying to balance working, health problems (that are often not anticipated), and other personal demands (e.g., young children) which create problems balancing different roles and more stress.

CANADIAN SPONDYLITIS ASSOCIATION

The Canadian Spondylitis Association is participating with a team, called A.S. Busters, in Walk Your A.S. Off, an awareness challenge that encourages people to walk and record their steps from March 1 until World Ankylosing Spondylitis Awareness Day on May 4. This year's challenge is to Walk to the Moon. A.S. Busters has a team of 45 walkers from locations all across Canada, the majority of whom have Ankylosing Spondylitis. Walkers are encouraged to tell everyone they know why they are walking to spread awareness of the disease.

MCCAIG INSTITUTE FOR BONE AND JOINT HEALTH SUCCESS STORIES

The McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health is proud to announce that Dr. Deborah Marshall and her team have been awarded two CIHR grants for \$500,000 each. Dr. Marshall was among the four researchers receiving \$2.9 million from the Federal Government and her renewal is a Tier II CIHR grant of \$500,000 over five years.

Her second CIHR grant has been awarded for the development of an innovative tool to assist planning and delivery of care for osteoarthritis patients in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. She also holds a Canada Research Chair in Health Services and Systems Research, focusing on health technology assessment and health systems modeling. Congratulations Dr. Marshall!

QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE RECIPIENTS

The Alliance would like to congratulate those members who were honored by the Arthritis Society with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal for their significant contributions and achievements to Canada on a local or national scope.

Mike Bellhouse	Andrew Grant	Rosie Keough	Dr. Dianne Mosher
Louise Bergeron	Dr. Gillian Hawker	Dr. Dianne Lacaille	Maureen Quigley
Dr. Claire Bombardier	Dr. Jamie Henderson	Dr. (Hons) Jean Légaré	Anne Riddick
Delia Cooper	Catherine Hofstetter	Dan Longchamps	Harold Robinson
Anne Dooley	Dr. Joanne Homik	Anne Lyddiatt	Dr. Rachael Shupak
Dr. Hani El-Gabalawy	Heather Howe	Dr. John Matyas	Dr. Carter Thorne
Dr. Cy Frank	Dr. Rob Inman	Darin McLean	Gordon Whitehead
Dr. Monique Gignac	Syd Jackson	Denis Morrice	Linda Wilhelm

Calendar of Events

Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month

March 2013

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
Northwest Rheumatism Society	April 25-27, 2013	Vancouver, BC
Canadian Obesity Summit	May 1-4 2013	Vancouver, BC
World Ankylosing Spondylitis Awareness Day	May 4 2013	
Primary Care Today	May 9-11, 2013	Toronto, ON
Laurentian Conference of Rheumatology	May 9-11, 2013	Tremblant, QC
World Autoimmune Arthritis Day	May 20 2013	
Canadian Physiotherapy Association	May 23-26, 2013	Montreal, QC
Ontario Rheumatology Association	May 24-26, 2013	Muskoka, ON
Canadian Orthopaedic Nurse Association	May 26-29, 2013	Vancouver, BC
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	June 9, 2013	
Canadian Association of Continuing Health Education	June 11, 2013	Vancouver, BC
Healthy Outcomes Conference	June 11-12, 2013	Ottawa, ON
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	
Cochrane Collaboration Colloquium	September 19-23, 2013	Quebec City, QC
Int'l Association of Inflammation Societies (IAIS)	September 21-15, 2013	Natal RN, Brazil
American College of Rheumatology ASC	October 27-30, 2013	San Diego, USA
Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario	November 7-9, 2013	Toronto, ON
Ontario Orthopaedic Association AGM	November 13, 2013	Toronto, ON
AAC Conference and Research Symposium	November 21-23, 2013	Ottawa, ON

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

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:
Jaime Coish at 416-586-4685 or jcoish@mtsina.on.ca, www.arthritisalliance.ca