

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

September 2013
54 Days to the AAC conference!

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ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE'S ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

Recently, the Arthritis Alliance's Advocacy and Awareness Committee has focused its efforts on the following initiatives:

- 1) The Committee recently issued meeting requests for health Ministers across the country as part of outreach for arthritis awareness month and to discuss models of care for arthritis. Currently, meetings are being scheduled for officials in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Newfoundland. A very productive meeting with the Ontario health Minister's senior staff and critics has already taken place.
- 2) The Advocacy Committee recently implemented an evaluation scorecard system to evaluate "hot topics" identified by its members to determine what position, if any, the Alliance should take on the topic. The first "hot topic" is on the issue of "private payers". This issue was brought forth as a result of the increased reporting of issues involving insurers and coverage of arthritis treatments. The document will be available shortly.

RAPID ACCESS TO CONSULTATIVE EXPERTISE (RACE) PROGRAM

Rheumatologists in British Columbia were among the first specialists provincially to sign on to the new Rapid Access to Consultative Expertise (RACE) program. The program was developed by the Shared Care Committee which included members of BC's Patient Voices Network. Please see the link below for the front page article: <http://blogs.vancouversun.com/2013/09/18/how-to-get-speedy-telephone-advice-from-medical-experts-the-race-program/>

Patients in BC will benefit in many ways from this new RACE program.

1. Patients will be reassured that an inflammatory arthritis will be recognized and an appropriate referral made to a rheumatologist no matter where they live in the province.
2. Patients will receive more expedient treatment because their GP will have access to specialist advice (this could possibly even mean a remission if treatment starts soon enough).
3. Patients with long term RA often have multiple co-morbidities and the GP will be able to seek advice in complex situations rather than sending the patient to emergency or having them wait months for another referral.
4. Patients with inflammatory arthritis may possibly even find it easier to obtain a GP because the doctors will have the backup support (RACE) for these more complex patients.

Community Updates

ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS

On September 9, 2013, Arthritis Consumer Experts, the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada, and Shoppers Drug Mart/Pharmaprix announced a new health awareness campaign offering Canadians free arthritis prevention, screening and treatment information. Pharmacists at more than 1,200 Shoppers stores across Canada will be providing arthritis testing and information to Canadians as part of a three-year partnership between ACE, ARC and Shoppers Drug Mart/Pharmaprix. The launch event in Toronto was attended by Federal Minister of Health Rona Ambrose, Canadian Institutes of Health Research Chief Scientific Officer and Vice President Dr. Jane Aubin, Shoppers Drug Mart Chief Executive Officer and President Domenic Pilla, as well as ACE and ARC executives.



THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY - BC & YUKON DIVISION

The Arthritis Society BC & Yukon Division will be offering a Public Forum called “Fit for Work” at various locations in the province. It will address the reality that pain and fatigue can make it difficult for people in the workplace. We will be encouraging people to learn more about arthritis and how medications and joint protection strategies including posture, pacing, and use of the correct ergonomic aids can help lighten the workload. Those attending will have the opportunity to hear from rheumatologists, occupational therapists, career counsellors and real people in the community who live and work with arthritis.

Over the next six weeks throughout the province of British Columbia, The Society will also be offering 21 Arthritis Self Management Programs (ASMP), 21 Chronic Pain Management Workshops (CPMW) and 23 Public Forums on a variety of topics, including “Fit for Work”. For a full listing of programs please visit, <http://arthritis.ca/BC>.

BONE & JOINT INJURY & REPAIR

There will be a Scientific Conference on Bone & Joint Injury & Repair sponsored by the Bone and Joint Health Interdisciplinary Program at Western University to be held in the London Convention Centre on Thursday, 16 Jan and Friday, 17 January, 2014. There is a call for presentation abstracts and poster abstracts, due by 1 October, 2013 (an extension of the 15 September date shown on the website) at www.boneandjoint.imaging.robarts.ca. Conference symposia will include sessions on Osteoarthritis, Inflammatory Arthritis, MSK Imaging, Evidence-based decision-making for Health Care Policy and Research, Orthopaedic Trauma, Biological Repair and Tissue Regeneration and Novel Therapies for Components and Implants.

CANADIAN ARTHRITIS NETWORK

Continuing to Celebrate the Impact of Health Research - Success Stories in Arthritis

For Arthritis Awareness Month 2013, the Canadian Arthritis Network and the Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis are continuing to [Celebrate the Impact of Health Research](#) by sharing the (arthritis-related) success stories. These stories will continue to be shared through social media - on Facebook and Twitter as well as on our [websites](#). In addition, several stories will be promoted through local and national media. The first of these stories, [Early Detection of Rheumatoid Arthritis in First Nations](#), appeared on CBC Winnipeg TV, CBC Winnipeg radio and has been posted on the [national cbc.ca website](http://national.cbc.ca).

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS (CAOT)

This year, CAOT is doing something a little different for OT Month. We are no longer satisfied celebrating our profession for only one month out of the year. This year, we decided to celebrate with a new yearlong campaign with new materials available to you to help advocate and promote occupational therapy. CAOT introduces a number of new online resources that will be added each month and includes digital copy of the OT Month calendar, digital copy of the vignettes, digital factsheet and a customizable E-card. These resources are free and we encourage everyone to share them with as many people as possible: clients, family, referrers, physicians, colleagues, insurers, politicians, administrators. Keep an eye out on the CAOT Website (www.caot.ca) for OT Month's monthly release of new materials.

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY (CSEP)

CSEP 2013: Extreme Human Physiology from Pathology to Performance.
October 16-19, 2013, Hyatt Regency on King, Toronto, Ontario CANADA
www.csep.confmanager.com

The Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology and Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education, University of Toronto, are pleased to welcome your participation at CSEP 2013 as a delegate and/or presenter. The conference theme - Extreme Human Physiology: Pathology to Performance - was chosen to represent the diverse goals and interests of CSEP members who generate outstanding research and enthusiastically promote a healthy lifestyle for all Canadians. This diversity ranges from the basic cellular and molecular mechanisms of exercise, to the practical application of this knowledge in health, fitness and high performance programs.

OSTEOPOROSIS CANADA

Upcoming Virtual Education Forums

Optimizing Nutrition for Bone Health

- Wednesday, September 25, 2013
- 1:30 to 3:00pm ET
- Speaker: Andrea Miller, MHSc, RD

Osteoporosis Medications: Benefits and Risks in 2013

- Wednesday, October 16, 2013
- 1:30 to 3:00pm ET
- Speaker: Dr. Sandra Kim, MD, MSc, FRCPC, Women's College Hospital

Men and Osteoporosis: So you think it can't happen to you?

- Friday, November 8, 2013
- 1:30 to 3:00pm ET
- Speaker: Jonathan D. Adachi MD, FRCPC, St. Joseph's Healthcare, McMaster University

For registration information, please visit:

<http://www.osteoporosis.ca/osteoporosis-and-you/copn/virtual-forum/>

THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

As a key member of the arthritis community, we are excited to let you know about an exciting new initiative. This fall, a new website will launch: www.ThePain.ca. It will be a place where individuals touched by arthritis can find inspiration in the stories of others.

We'd love your assistance in getting thepain.ca off the ground before we launch it to the public. Between

October 1 and 20 (our 'soft launch'), please take a few moments to share your story. By doing so, you'll help ensure a warm welcome to those who visit the site later. Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your story.

Arthritis Alliance of Canada Inaugural Conference and Research Symposium November 21-23, 2013, at the Westin Ottawa

Our program is finalized, all speakers confirmed and registration is now open!

For program details and registration information please contact Everdina Carter at ecarter@mtsinai.on.ca.



Calendar of Events

Arthritis Awareness Month	September 2013	
Cochrane Collaboration Colloquium	September 19-23, 2013	Quebec City, QC
Int'l Association of Inflammation Societies (IAIS)	September 21-25, 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
Arthritis Alliance Conference and Research Symposium	November 21-23, 2013	Ottawa, ON
Bone & Joint Injury & Repair Conference	January 16-17, 2014	London, ON
Inflammatory Diseases: Recent Advances in Basic and Translational Research and Therapeutic Treatments	January 17-22, 2014	Vancouver, BC
Registered Nurses Association - Annual Nurse Executive Leadership Academy	February 9-12, 2014	TBD
Canadian Rheumatology Association Annual Scientific Meeting & AHPA Annual Meeting	Feb 26-Mar 1, 2014	Whistler, BC
Inflammation, Infection and Cancer	March 9-14, 2014	Whistler, BC
Innate Immunity, Metabolism and Vascular Injury	March 23-28, 2014	Whistler, BC
Ontario Physiotherapy Association - Inter-Action	March 28-30, 2014	Mississauga, ON
Canadian Foundation of Healthcare Improvement - Taming of the Queue	April 3-4, 2014	Ottawa, ON
Canadian Conference on Medical Education 2014	April 26-29, 2014	Ottawa, ON
Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America AGM	April 30-May 3, 2014	Hollywood, CA
Canadian Pain Society's 35 th Annual Scientific Meeting	May 20-23, 2014	Quebec City, QC
Canadian Connective Tissue Conference	June 8-10, 2014	London, ON
EULAR - European League Against Rheumatism	June 11-14, 2014	Paris, France

Member Organizations

Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute
Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre
Arthritis Community Research & Evaluation Unit
Arthritis Consumer Experts
Arthritis Health Professions Association
Arthritis Research Centre of Canada
Arthritis Research Foundation
The Arthritis Society
Bone and Joint Canada
Canadian Alliance of Pediatric Rheumatology Investigators
Canadian Arthritis Network
Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance
Canadian Academy of Sports and Exercise Medicine
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
Canadian Chiropractic Association
Canadian Obesity Network
Canadian Orthopaedic Association
Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation
Canadian Physiotherapy Association
Canadian Rheumatology Association
Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology
Canadian Spondylitis Association
Cochrane Collaboration
Consumer Advisory Board of the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada
Consumer Advisory Council of the Canadian Arthritis Network
Institute for Work and Health
McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health
Patient Partners

Member Companies

AbbVie Corporation
Amgen Canada Inc.
Hoffmann -La Roche Limited
Janssen Inc.
Pfizer Canada Inc.
UCB Canada Inc

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@mtsinal.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@mtsinal.on.ca,
www.arthritisalliance.ca