

# ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

November 2014

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## ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

### 2ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

#### *“Arthritis Unmasked: Genetics, Treatments and Partnerships”*

Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre Hotel October 31-November 1, 2014 the AAC, in collaboration with the Gairdner Foundation and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (CIHR-IMHA) brought together close to 300 arthritis stakeholders – including

researchers, clinicians, healthcare experts, and people living with arthritis. The event, titled *“Arthritis Unmasked: Genetics, Treatments and Partnerships”* shared the latest in research and program developments impacting the over 4.6 million Canadians living with arthritis. The future of arthritis care, prevention and cures was the focus of the three-day program, some highlights include:

- The Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup> agenda featured the celebration of Sirs Ravinder Maini and Marc Feldmann. Their landmark discovery led to the creation of a new class of medications called “biologics”, treatments which can modulate the process of the inflammatory response in the body’s autoimmune system, effectively halting the progress of joint damage, pain and inflammation. Friday’s program also highlighted presentations from prominent national and international researchers: Dr. Peter Gregersen (New



*From Left to Right: Dr. D. Hart, Sir R. Maini, Sir M. Feldmann, Dr. P. Gregersen, Dr. D. Kastner*

York), Dr. Dan Kastner (Maryland), Dr. Sherine E. Gabriel (Minnesota), Dr. Lawrence Steinman (Stanford), Dr. Laurie H. Glimcher (New York), Dr. Aled Edwards (Toronto), Dr. Claire Bombardier (Toronto) and Dr. Hani El-Gabalawy (Winnipeg).



*From Left to Right: J Yale, A. Kwan, J. Simmonds, M. Mulldoon*

- The “Arthritis Unmasked” Gala and Awards dinner celebrated with a replay of the award ceremony for the 2014 Canada Gairdner Laureates, Sirs Maini and Feldmann. Guests enjoyed live performances by people living with arthritis: actress and singer Marilyn Mulldoon from Vancouver, BC, singer Judy Simmonds and violinist Ariel Kwan from Toronto. The Qualman-Davies Arthritis Consumer Community Leadership Award was a very special moment, recognizing the winner, Ms. Catherine Hofstetter for her leadership for more than 17 years.

**Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>** agenda began with the Arthritis Alliance Annual General Meeting, followed by workshops dedicated to recent developments in:

- *Osteoarthritis Models of Care*
- *Inflammatory Arthritis Performance Measurement*
- *Framework and Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR)*

### Quotes from participants of the conference:

*“The conference was novel in a sense that consumers were a part of it; that was a first for me. Additionally, I have also never been to a conference that had scientific talks coupled with people from regulatory agencies and people from their respective foundations who are both key to mobilizing the means to an end goal...”*

*“Absolutely fabulous! Really great talks in the symposium!”*

*“I really enjoyed the conference. It re-iterated the need to network with people and stay in touch as you never know who might help you”.*

*“I was very satisfied, and while a lot of the science was over my head it made me stretch my brain. Most beneficial part for me was learning about the AAC's future plans”.*

*“I liked group presentations, networking, meeting new representatives of organizations, new groups. I knew nothing about, the two “Sirs”.*

### Thanks to Our Sponsors for their generous support!



## Qualman-Davies Arthritis Consumer Community Leadership Award



*From Left to Right: Sir M. Feldmann, Ms. Catherine Hofstetter, Sir R. Maini.*

The first Qualman-Davies Arthritis Consumer Leadership Award was presented to Catherine Hofstetter at the Awards Dinner following the Arthritis Unmasked conference. This important honor is named for Ann Qualman and Jim Davies whose knowledgeable, principled and determined advocacy was instrumental in the establishment of CIHR-IMHA, and of CAN-NCE. For seventeen years, with intelligence and humor, Catherine Hofstetter, has championed the patient experience, promoted the need for effective treatments and healthcare policies, motivated and mentored arthritis consumers to become involved in research decision-making and positive reform of the healthcare system. She believes that ‘individuals affected by decisions should help make those decisions’. Her gracious acceptance spoke of relatives for whom no adequate RA treatments existed, assistance received in her arthritis journey, and generously recognized her fellow advocates.



Our guests “unmasking” themselves:



*From Left to Right: Dr. L. Steinman, Ms. J. Yale, Dr. John Dirks, Sir M. Feldmann, Sir R. Maini, Mr. Drew McArthur*



*From Left to Right: Dr. M. Zummer, Dr. J. Homik, Dr. C. Baillie*



*From Left to Right: Dr. M. Bell, Dr. S. Gabriel, Dr. E. Badley*



*From Left to Right: Mr. H. Qualman, Mrs. N. Davies*



## Measurement Framework for Inflammatory Arthritis Models of Care

**Performance Measures Open for Comment until *Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>*!**

As a follow up to the Inflammatory Arthritis Performance Measurement workshop on Saturday, November 1st, we would like to get your comments on the candidate performance measures, presented for voting to the workshop participants. The candidate measures and a background document are posted on the Arthritis Alliance website: <http://www.arthritisalliance.ca/en/measurement-framework-for-ia-models-of-care>. We would appreciate your comments by ***Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>***.

### MEMBER'S CORNER

#### THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

##### NATIONAL

##### **Arthritis Society issues annual call for research**

In line with a five-year research strategy that ends in 2020, The Arthritis Society this month announced its Strategic Operating Grants Competition for 2015-16. Canada's brightest researchers are invited to submit research proposals under this year's theme of "Improving our understanding of arthritis and finding the cure."

It's meant to unearth novel ideas in the areas of alleviating pain, preventing or slowing disease progression, restoring joint function, and ultimately curing arthritis for those who live with it. This year includes a commitment to fund at least one project that studies the potential of medical cannabis toward these goals. The Society will fund up to six applications in total, up to \$120,000 annually for one to three years. It will also focus on emerging talent in the field by opening the annual Young Investigator Operating Grant Competition as well as the Young Investigator Salary award. For more information, including how to apply, email [research@arthritis.ca](mailto:research@arthritis.ca).



##### BC & YUKON DIVISION

##### **In the Community with a Chinese Arthritis Forum**

We recently held another successful and very well-attended forum that was delivered in Cantonese and Mandarin. With two rheumatologists, a physiotherapist and two rheumatology fellows under one roof, the title of the forum – "Ask the Experts" – was especially fitting!

Over 75 people joined The Arthritis Society and listened as our experts seamlessly answered all manner of questions in both Cantonese and Mandarin. They were able to differentiate the use of the term 'rheumatism' from inflammatory and osteoarthritis, and were also able to emphasize the importance of clarifying what type of arthritis you have with your doctor from the point of diagnosis, as well as ways to help with daily joint protection.



## CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS (CAOT)

The Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) is proud to share with you the most recent edition of *Occupational Therapy Now*, highlighting the role of occupational therapists in universal design. Universal design is a way to create products and environments that are accessible and usable by all people, regardless of age or ability. Universal design contributes to health and well-being by enabling people to engage in self-care, productivity and leisure. In this issue, you will find articles that highlight success stories relating to housing, playgrounds, universities, hospitals, policy and even teaching methods. We hope you enjoy this variety of articles.

This issue is also available online with free public access at: <http://www.caot.ca/default.asp?pageid=466>. Please feel free to share this information and link widely.

## CANADIAN ARTHRITIS PATIENT ALLIANCE (CAPA)

### New CAPA Board Members

We are pleased to announce that Don Mohoruk and Kathy Lynn Worthman have joined the Board of Directors of the Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance (CAPA). Please join us in welcoming these two wonderful additions to the Board! Don hails from Coquitlam, British Columbia and lives with Psoriatic Arthritis. He has worked as a Patient Partner and volunteered with The Arthritis Society. He has recently retired from a 25-year career as a certified financial and investment advisor and is married with two grown children.

Kathy Lynn lives with Ankylosing Spondylitis and currently lives in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador where she works as a pediatric registered nurse. She is interested in advocating for patient access to timely treatment and has served on the Patient Advisory Board for Abbvie.



## CANADIAN INSTITUTES OF HEALTH RESEARCH - INSTITUTE OF MUSCULOSKELETAL HEALTH AND ARTHRITIS (CIHR-IMHA)

The Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis now welcomes applications for its Undergraduate: Summer Studentship Award – Institute Community Support (2015) program. The application deadline is January 15, 2015. Funding starts May 1, 2015. Eligible students must 1) be enrolled in an undergraduate degree program at a Canadian university and 2) must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada at the time of application. 3) Students must have completed at least their first year of university study (or two academic terms) of a bachelor's degree by the funding start date. Please see full details of this award on ResearchNet [here](#).

## Community Updates

### CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ADMINISTRATIVE DATA (CANRAD) NETWORK



The CANRAD Network team includes a variety of decision makers, epidemiologists, clinicians and researchers interested in the use of administrative data for rheumatic disease research. We will be holding a webinar on Tuesday, December 16th at 2PM EST with a presentation by Jeffrey Curtis, MD, MS, MHP, Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Director of the Arthritis Clinical Intervention

Program. For more information pertaining to the CANRAD Network or to join our webinar please contact Autumn Neville [autumn.neville@clinepi.mcgill.ca](mailto:autumn.neville@clinepi.mcgill.ca) or visit our website <http://www.canradnetwork.ca/>.

### WESTERN UNIVERSITY

#### Western University positions itself among world leaders in bone and joint research

With millions of Canadians suffering from pain and reduced mobility, Western University in London, Canada announced a bold investment that will position it as a global leader in bone and joint research. The new Western Cluster of Research Excellence in Musculoskeletal Health will drive high-impact transdisciplinary research with the goal of providing life-long mobility.

The University is investing \$5 million to support a team of all-star researchers from across five Faculties to provide them with additional personnel, resources and infrastructure to attract, retain and mentor future leaders. More information and multimedia resources are available at: [www.communications.uwo.ca/media/boneandjoint](http://www.communications.uwo.ca/media/boneandjoint).

## Calendar of Events

Inflammatory Diseases: Recent Advances in Basic and Translational Research and Therapeutic Treatments	January 13-18, 2015	Vancouver, BC
Registered Nurses Association - Annual Nurse Executive Leadership Academy	March 1-4, 2015	Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
Canadian Rheumatology Association Annual Scientific Meeting & AHPA Annual Meeting	February 4-7, 2015	Quebec City, QC
Inflammatory Bowel Diseases, 11 <sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation	February 18-21, 2015	Barcelona/Spain
Power of Movement	March 1, 2015	Nation wide
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons Annual Meeting	March 24-28, 2015	Las Vegas, Nevada
Orthopaedic Research Society Annual Meeting	March 28-31, 2015	Las Vegas, Nevada
Ontario Physiotherapy Association - Inter-Action	March 27-28, 2015	Ottawa, ON
Canadian Foundation of Healthcare Improvement- Taming of the Queue	April 16-17, 2015	Ottawa, ON
Ontario Gerontological Association 34 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference	April 21-22, 2015	Toronto, ON
Society for Biomaterials Annual Meeting & Exposition	April 15-18, 2015	Charlotte, NC
Canadian Conference on Medical Education 2014	April 25-28, 2015	Vancouver, BC
Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America AGM	April 29-May 2, 2015	Atlanta, GA

Canadian Orthopaedic Nurse Association Conference	May 24-27, 2015	Fredericton, NB
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists Annual Conference	May 27-30, 2015	Winnipeg, MB
Primary Care Today Conference	May 6-9, 2015	Toronto, ON
12 <sup>th</sup> Annual World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology	July 19-22, 2015	Montréal, QC
Global Summit on the Physical Activity of Children	February 22-25, 2015	San Diego, CA
Canadian Pain Society's 36 <sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting	May 20-23, 2014	Charlottetown, PEI
Ontario Rheumatology Association AGM	May 22-24, 2015	Muskoka, ON
Canadian Pharmacists Association Conference	May 28-31, 2015	Ottawa, ON
Canadian College of Health Leaders and Canadian	June 15-16, 2015	Charlottetown, PEI
Canadian Connective Tissue Conference	May 28-30, 2015	Québec, QC
EULAR - European League Against Rheumatism International Conference with FIMS (International Sport Medicine Federation)	June 10-13, 2015	Rome, Italy
Canadian Physiotherapy Association National Congress	June 18-21, 2015	Halifax, NS
Canadian Paediatric Society Annual Conference	June 24-27, 2015	Toronto, ON
Biotechnology Industry Organization International Convention	June 15-18, 2015	Philadelphia, PA
9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Obesity Boot Camp	April 28- May 2, 2015	Toronto, ON
Council of the Federations (COF) - 2014 Council of the Federation Summer Meeting	July 14-18, 2015	Newfoundland
American Society for Bone & Mineral Research AGM	October 9-12, 2015	Seattle, WA
Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses - Dynamics of Critical Care Conference	September 27-29, 2015	Winnipeg, MB
Cochrane Collaboration Colloquium	October 3-7, 2015	Vienna, Austria
American College of Rheumatology Congress	November 6-11, 2015	San Francisco, CA

### **ABOUT THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA**

With more than 36 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 [jcoish@arthritisalliance.ca](mailto:jcoish@arthritisalliance.ca) or visit our website [www.arthritisalliance.ca](http://www.arthritisalliance.ca)