

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

August 2015

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Friday programme will feature:

- ❖ **AAC Models of Care Workshop**, to identify ways to work together to improve sustainability of health care system in Canada.
- ❖ **Research Workshop**, aiming to engage AAC members, partners and stakeholders in identifying knowledge gaps in osteoarthritis research prioritizing key research questions and looking for strategies to tackle them.
- ❖ **Advocacy and Awareness Workshop**, pursuing a review of political landscape across the regions, policy positions and key messaging on arthritis issues and hot topics; exploring strategies for participating in health policy formation; and mobilizing regional advocacy teams to engage in policy dialogue.

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2015 Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC) Annual Meeting will take place October 22nd-23rd at the Delta Lodge Hotel Kananaskis. The programme is focused on "**Building Capacity for Sustainable Health Care in Canada**."

The Thursday **Research Symposium**, entitled "New **Discoveries in Osteoarthritis (OA) Research**" will look ahead at promising approaches for future studies, and identify knowledge gaps and research opportunities, presented by leading experts:

Overview of basic research in osteoarthritis

Dr. Frank Beier, Canada Research Chair in Musculoskeletal Research, Professor and Assistant Chair, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, University of Western Ontario, London, ON



Innovations in orthopaedic surgery for osteoarthritis

Dr. Nick Mohtadi, Director, Sport Medicine Centre, Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB



Preventing joint injury and subsequent osteoarthritis: A population health perspective

Dr. Carolyn Emery, PT PhD, Professor, Associate Dean Research, Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB



Current developments in research on osteoarthritis models of care

Dr. Gillian Hawker, Sir John and Lady Eaton Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON



Knowledge translation of osteoarthritis research

Dr. Linda Li, PT, PhD, Department of Physical Therapy, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC



International perspective in osteoarthritis research

Dr. Ewa Roos, Professor, Head of Research Unit for Musculoskeletal Function and Physiotherapy, Institute of Sports Science and Clinical Biomechanics, Odense M, Denmark



***Titles of speakers' presentations are to be confirmed

The programme will conclude with a **joint poster session** featuring the **IMHA Young Investigators, The Arthritis Society Trainees and Arthritis Consumer Organizations** in Canada". The Arthritis Consumer Organizations invite you to learn "**who does what, where, why, when and how**" at the Poster Session.

REGISTER NOW! <http://arthritisalliance.ca/conference2015/>

IN MEMORIAM OF DR. CY FRANK



Please click [here](#) to read a memorandum article, published by Gillian Hawker, MD, FRCPC and Dianne Mosher, MD, FRCPC in The Journal of the Canadian Rheumatology Association, Summer 2015 (Volume 25, Number 2).

ALBERTA BONE AND JOINT HEALTH INSTITUTE (ABJHI) Dr. Martin Ferguson-Pell Appointed Executive Director of ABJHI

Dr. Martin Ferguson-Pell has been appointed Executive Director of Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute, effective immediately. As ABJHI's senior executive, Dr. Ferguson-Pell assumes responsibility for setting strategic objectives, building productive, mutually beneficial relationships with stakeholders in bone and joint health care, and securing the resources ABJHI requires to meet its long-term priorities. Dr. Ferguson-Pell is Vice-principal, Peter Lougheed Leadership College, Vice-provost (Strategic Initiatives), and Professor in Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Alberta. He will continue in these positions while serving as ABJHI's Executive Director. Dr. Ferguson-Pell is a biomedical engineer and credentialed clinical scientist. His academic career has centred on studying secondary complications of physical disability and their causes to reduce their incidence.



Prior to his appointment as Vice-principal, Dr. Ferguson-Pell was Senior Advisor to the university's President tasked with quickly completing several key initiatives. These included undertaking a major review of graduate education and experience, advancing leadership in digital learning, and establishing presidential review committees.

ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS

ACE, along with its ICON (Dr. Linda Li, PI) Knowledge User Group partners, the Canadian Association for Retired Persons and the Alzheimer's Society of B.C., is nearing the launch pad for the "Walk 10 Blocks" (W10B) mobile app. Presented at the May 2015 AAC membership meeting, the W10B project is one of the OA MoC initiatives aimed at raising awareness around the need to sit less and walk more. Brain health and arthritis research (Liu-Ambrose, Li) shows that walking 10 blocks (about 2,000-3,000 steps or 1 km each day) lowers the risk of dementia, and also has potential to improve cardiovascular, arthritis and bone health. The W10B app beta will study how effective it is at encouraging users to stand up and walk and track the number of steps and blocks walked.

It will also survey users several times during the beta test to ascertain user feedback and behavior change. In two weeks time you will receive an invitation from ACE to install the app on your iPhone (models 5s and 6, with iOS 8 installed) and take part in our beta project. We hope all Alliance members with iPhones will take part in the W10B project. Thank you!

ARTHRITIS HEALTH PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION Attention all Allied Health Professionals!

The Arthritis Health Professions Association (AHPA) invites you to submit an application to our annual research grant competition. Thanks to generous sponsorship from The Arthritis Society, we will be awarding \$5000 to one successful applicant. All applicants must be AHPA members to apply. For more information on the AHPA research grant and membership, please visit www.ahpa.ca.

THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

NATIONAL

On the horizon in Arthritis Awareness Month

Arthritis Awareness Month is around the corner and The Arthritis Society will be lining up some interesting new resources and funding a group of new research projects. Stay tuned at arthritis.ca/September for all the announcements, videos and publications. In the meantime, The Society's backpack program for children with arthritis is back in full swing, thanks to new manufacturer Osprey, which has stepped in to keep this important program going.

Parents whose sons or daughters have arthritis are asked to speak to their pediatric rheumatologists about ordering these backpacks through The Society. They are designed to relieve pressure on the young bodies, and are loaded with helpful resources including a teddy bear containing a hot/cold pack. As for September, the onus is on all of us to ensure that Canadians understand the true impact of arthritis on individuals, families, communities, companies, health-care professionals and the health-care system overall.



QUEBEC

Join us for the largest assembly in Canada bringing together the entire arthritis community!



Organized by The Arthritis Society, the **Quebec Forum on Arthritis** brings together people living with arthritis, caregivers, researchers and health professionals on October 24 at the Québec City Convention Centre. With 37 sessions for the general public, a continuing education day for health care professionals, and two exhibitors' halls, there is plenty to learn about arthritis – on one day, in one place. Visit the website quebecforumarthritis.ca to register and talk about it to your colleagues and patients! Arthritis is a serious disease. Let's have a serious discussion.



ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CANADA

Osteoarthritis and YOU - What you can do NOW! – Reaching Out with Arthritis Research (ROAR) 2015

Hosted by Arthritis Research Canada's Arthritis Patient Advisory Board, join us at ROAR 2015 to find out what the latest studies are telling us about Osteoarthritis. This forum brings together a team of Osteoarthritis experts including a rheumatologist, orthopaedic surgeon, clinical bio mechanist, clinical health researcher and an arthritis patient/consumer advocate to share the research and wealth of experience. Attend **In-Person** at the Vancouver Public Library – Central Branch or online via free **Live Webcast**. Listen. Learn. Ask questions. #eROAR. For further details or to register, please visit www.arthritisresearch.ca/ROAR or call toll free 1.844.207.0400.

Dr. Hue Xie appointed to *Maureen and Milan Ilich/Merck Frosst Chair in Biostatistics for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases* at Simon Fraser University and Arthritis Research Canada

Starting September 1st, Dr. Hue Xie will take on the role of the *Maureen and Milan Ilich/Merck Frosst Chair in Biostatistics for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases*. As an Assistant Professor of Biostatistics at Boston University School of Public Health, Dr. Xie worked with colleagues on a variety of significant research projects related to diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of arthritic diseases. Most recently, Dr. Xie was the Interim Director for the Center of Biostatistics Development, University of Illinois at Chicago. His research interests include developing statistical methods for the design and analysis of clinical and population studies of arthritis diseases and cancer, and clinical trial design and analysis.

It is a huge pleasure to welcome Dr. Xie to Arthritis Research Canada. I know he will make a great contribution to improving the lives of people with arthritis." – Dr. John Esdaile, Scientific Director, ARC.

CANADIAN CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION

The Canadian Chiropractic Association will be hosting its National Convention & Tradeshow September 18-20, 2015 in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Centred on the theme *Advancing Excellence in Patient Care*, the event will bring together Canada's Chiropractic Specialty Colleges, Canada's National Research Symposium, Canadian Chiropractic Protective Association and the Canadian Chiropractic Guideline Initiative.

Delegates will have the opportunity to attend sessions and select from four educational streams: Excellence in Patient Care, Enhancing Patient Care with Research, Exemplary Business Practices and Managing Complex Cases. Learn more about Convention opportunities as a [Delegate](#) or [Exhibitor](#).

CANADIAN INSTITUTES OF HEALTH RESEARCH (CIHR)

CIHR Funding Opportunity Launch: Healthy and Productive Work Application Deadline: November 30, 2015


Healthy and Productive Work, a joint initiative of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), is aimed at driving innovative, evidence-informed and gender responsive solutions to work and labour market challenges to improve the health and productivity of Canada's diverse workforce. Details of the initiative and application requirements can be found on the [CIHR Web site](#). Webinars will be held to communicate details of the initiative.

For more information and to register, please visit the [CIHR Web site](#) or register directly by selecting one of the following presentations:


- [September 9th, 2015](#) 12:30-13:30 EDT– In English
- [September 28th, 2015](#) 12:30-13:30 EDT– In French
- [October 13th, 2015](#) 12:30-13:30 EDT – In English. For questions, please contact: hpw-spt@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

CANADIAN INSTITUTES OF HEALTH RESEARCH (CIHR)

Solving the Fibromyalgia Mystery: Researchers need your help.



James Lind Alliance
Priority Setting Partnerships




CIHR IRSC
Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis / Institut de l'appareil locomoteur et de l'arthrite

Solving the Fibromyalgia Mystery: Researchers need your help.


Seeking people living with fibromyalgia, their families, care givers and health professionals involved with helping them to share what is most important for fibromyalgia research.

Visit this website to take part in an important survey:


James Lind Alliance: Adults with Fibromyalgia Survey



www.surveyyizmo.com/s3/2057354/James-Lind-Alliance-Adults-with-Fibromyalgia-Survey



Canadian Institutes of Health Research / Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada



Canada

The survey is open until September 15, 2015. For more information, please contact: Nicole Szajcz-Keller, Assistant Director, CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis, Phone: 204-318-2551; Email: Nicole.Szajcz-Keller@umanitoba.ca.

CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION The Realities of Research Support

In 2013, Dr. Cheryl Barnabe was awarded the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) - Canadian Initiative for Outcomes in Rheumatology cAre (CIORA) and The Arthritis Society (TAS) Clinician Investigator Award. This salary award was designed to support investigation in inflammatory arthritis (IA) aligned with the research pillars of the CIORA grant program—getting more patients with IA diagnosed, utilizing multidisciplinary care teams to deliver high-quality arthritis services, and advancing educational initiatives.

This research support provided Dr. Barnabe with the opportunity to pursue research on how to improve systems of access and care delivery for indigenous patients with arthritis. To learn more about this research and CIORA's grant program, please [click here](#).

Community Updates

ADVANCED CLINICIAN PRACTITIONER IN ARTHRITIS CARE (ACPAC) PROGRAM

The directors of the ACPAC Program extend their congratulations to the 7 graduates (2 OT/5 PT) who successfully graduated from the University of Toronto's ACPAC Program in June, 2015. The 2014-2015 cohort included 1 trainee from BC, 2 from Alberta and 4 from Ontario. At this time we also welcome 9 new trainees into the 2015-2016 program which begins on October 19, 2015. This cohort includes 3 RNs and 6 PTs with one trainee coming from Saskatchewan, one from Newfoundland, and 7 from across Ontario.



The ACPAC Program is celebrating its ability to attract excellent candidates from coast to coast. We are proud of the ACPAC Program in its effort to reach out at a national level and to improve new models of arthritis care across Canada through human health resource development.

THE CANADIAN NETWORK FOR ADVANCED INTERDISCIPLINARY METHODS (CANRAD)

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 are organizing a fall or winter webinar to showcase the work of our team. For



more information pertaining to the CANRAD Network or information about our past webinar(s), please contact Autumn Neville at autumn.neville@clinepi.mcgill.ca or visit our website: <http://www.canradnetwork.ca/>.



The Canadian Network for Advanced Interdisciplinary Methods for comparative effectiveness research' (CAN-AIM) team was funded by CIHR to develop novel methods using prospective longitudinal cohorts and to respond to key knowledge gaps regarding drug safety and effectiveness by answering queries which arise from Health Canada and other regulatory parties. Our demonstration project looked at the comparative effectiveness of anti-tumour necrosis factor (TNF) agents versus traditional disease-modifying agents (DMARDs) in reducing orthopaedic surgery in rheumatoid arthritis (RA). For information on our preliminary results or for more information on our team, please contact Autumn Neville at autumn.neville@clinepi.mcgill.ca or visit our website <http://canaim.ca/>.

McGILL UNIVERSITY

Tell Us What's Important to Know about Living Well With a Chronic Illness

Our Canadian research team (including patients, health care providers, researchers and policy makers) is exploring new ways to help people with chronic illness live well. You are invited to complete the following survey to give your input on the most important issues you feel the team should consider. Completing this survey will take approximately 20 minutes. By completing this survey, you will help to make sure that health research in Canada is improving the lives of patients in ways that are important to them.

To be in this study, you must be 18 years of age, living in Canada, and have one or more chronic physical and/or emotional illnesses. There is no risk involved. The survey is anonymous and does not require you to give your name or any other identifying information.

If you would like further information on this work, would like to get involved, or prefer to complete the survey by telephone, contact the project coordinator Manon de Raad at 514-345-3511 ext. 3074 or email: manon.deraad@ssss.gouv.qc.ca.

Visit <http://www.mcgill.ca/cansmart/> for more information on this work. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you can contact a patient representative at 514-345-3511 at ext 3301. The link to the study in English is: <http://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/sylvielambert/living-well-with-a-chronic-illness/>. The link to the study in French is: <http://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/sylvielambert/living-well-with-a-chronic-illness-1/>

ONTARIO RHEUMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION

Update on the ORA MOC and EMR

Access to Specialist Care

The Allied Health Rheumatology Triage project is ongoing with over 90 patients participating. The study examines the role of specially trained extended role-practioners working in a triage role to improve access for people with suspected IA.

Knowledge Translation Program

A slide deck program has been developed by the ORA MOC working committee and will soon be available to all Rheumatologists. Content/learning will be dialogued at regional sessions and facilitated by local rheumatology champions. Stay tuned for more details.

Meaningful use and Optimization with EMRs

- ✚ The EMR committee continues to work with Ontario EMRs to develop rheumatology specific tools and support work-flow efficiencies. Rheumatology specific packages are now available and training sessions are scheduled for rheumatologists/office staff: Oscar Training TBD; Accuro Training: August 14 and August 21st – Space is still available. Please email scouto@uhnresearch.ca for more details. A fall training workshop will be scheduled for those unable to attend one of the August dates.
- ✚ The Ontario Best Practice Research Initiative (OBRI), ORA EMR committee and IT experts have launched a pilot study to build and deploy a Rheumatic Diseases Multi-Registry (RDMR) platform that will securely integrate into rheumatology EMRs. The platform will work to seamlessly automate EMR data extraction which will be used for researchers and practice improvement dashboards for clinicians. OBRI is funding the pilot project and once completed will be made available to all rheumatologists participating in its initiative.
- ✚ ORA representatives participated in a data harmonization meeting led by the Arthritis Alliance of Canada. The goal of the meeting was to discuss the development of a national framework to harmonize a core dataset from amongst the provincial databases; and agree on rheumatology indicators to be used within EMR platforms. The outcome of this session will plan for a larger stakeholder meeting during the AACs annual conference this coming fall.



Calendar of Events

4th Edition Benefit Gold Tournament for Scleroderma	August 29, 2015	Notre-Dame-de-la-Salette, PQ
17 th Asia Pacific League of Associations for Rheumatology Congress	September 6-9, 2015	Chennai, India
16th Annual National Scleroderma Conference	September 18-19, 2015	Hamilton, ON
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
Vasculitis Symposium	October 8, 2015	Calgary, AB
Canadian Vasculitis (CandVasc) Annual Scientific Meeting	October 9, 2015	Calgary, AB
Arthritis Alliance of Canada 3rd Annual Meeting	October 22-23, 2015	Kananaskis, AB
American College of Rheumatologists (ACR) Annual Meeting	November 6-11, 2015	San Francisco, CA
Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) Annual Scientific Meeting and AHPA Annual Meeting	February 17-20, 2016	Lake Louise, AB
European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR)	June 8-11, 2016	London, UK

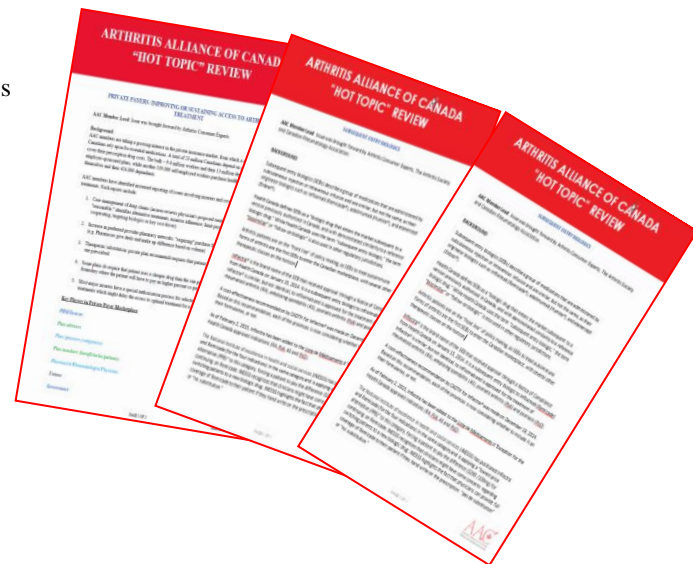
“HOT TOPICS” WANTED!

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada’s Advocacy Committee implemented an evaluation scorecard system to evaluate "hot topics" identified by its Member’s to determine what position, if any, the Alliance should take on the topic.

If you have a “hot topic” for evaluation, please let us know:
jcoish@arthritisalliance.ca.

Current “hot topics” available at www.arthritisalliance.ca, include:

1. Private Payers: <http://www.arthritisalliance.ca/en/hot-topics>
2. Pediatric Rheumatology: Access to Treatment: <http://www.arthritisalliance.ca/en/hot-topics>
3. Subsequent Entry Biologics: <http://www.arthritisalliance.ca/en/hot-topics>



ABOUT THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

With over 30 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 or visit our website:
www.arthritisalliance.ca