

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

July 2015

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE 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."* Read on for more details...

Thursday's programme will kick off with the **Research Symposium**, entitled *"New Discoveries in Osteoarthritis (OA) Research."* The session will look ahead at promising approaches for future studies, identify knowledge gaps and research opportunities and, pay tribute to the tremendous accomplishments and legacy of the late Dr. Cy Frank, our colleague, mentor, scientist, surgeon and dear friend.

The Friday morning programme features the **AAC Models of Care Workshop**, to identify ways to work together to improve sustainability of health care system in Canada. A **Research Workshop**, aiming to engage AAC members, partners and stakeholders in:

- 1) identifying knowledge gaps in osteoarthritis;
- 2) synthesizing and prioritizing key research questions that need to be addressed;
- and 3) identifying programs and strategies to tackle the most critical questions in osteoarthritis research.

The afternoon programme will continue with the **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 federal and provincial health policy formation; and mobilizing regional advocacy teams to engage in policy dialogue with a targeted approach.

The programme will conclude with a **joint poster session** with **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.

Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC)
Annual Meeting and Research Symposium

"Building Capacity for Sustainable Healthcare in Canada"
presented in partnership with
CIHR's Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis
October 22-23, 2015
Delta Lodge Hotel at Kananaskis, Alberta

A Special Gala Tribute Dinner
"DR. CY FRANK AND THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN PIONEERS"
In honour of the accomplishments and legacy of
Dr. Cy Frank
August 3, 1940 - March 5, 2015

The Symposium, entitled "New Directions in Osteoarthritis Research", will look ahead at promising approaches for future studies, and identify knowledge gaps and research opportunities. The AAC workshops will focus on building capacity in research and health care sustainability. The programme will bring together scientists, engineers, healthcare providers, trainees, specialists, key stakeholders and, most importantly, people living with arthritis.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2015
8:00 am - 12:00 pm: CIHR - IMHA "Young Investigator Forum"	8:30 am - 9:00 am: AAC Annual General Meeting
Research Symposium: "New Directions in Osteoarthritis Research"	9:00 am - 10:15 am: AAC Models of Care Workshop
12:45 pm - 1:00 pm: Arthritis Alliance of Canada: Welcoming Remarks	10:45 am - 12:00 pm: AAC Research Workshop
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm: Research Symposium: "New Directions in Osteoarthritis Research"	12:30 pm - 1:45 pm: AAC Advocacy and Awareness Workshop
6:15 pm - 6:45 pm: Reception	1:45 pm - 3:00 pm: Consumer Organizations Workshop
6:45 pm - 9:00 pm: Gala Tribute Dinner "Dr. Cy Frank and The Rocky Mountain Pioneers"	8:00 pm - 1:00 pm: CIHR - IMHA "Young Investigator Forum"
	8:00 pm - 1:00 pm: The Arthritis Society Trainee Session
	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm: Joint Poster Session

Register today: <http://arthritisalliance.ca/conference2015/>

REGISTER NOW!

<http://arthritisalliance.ca/conference2015/>

ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS

Whether it is with an infographic, video, or on-line materials, ACE looks for new, user-friendly ways to share information to help its members, subscribers and visitors stay current with popular arthritis and related healthcare topics and issues. With July's launch of JointHealth™ Shareables, we will provide all three in one convenient location. Each JointHealth™ Shareable will cover a specific topic of interest identified by consumers or healthcare professionals and presented in a format that is easy to share with others. The first two JointHealth™ Shareables cover Private Health Insurance in Canada and Subsequent Entry Biologics (SEBs). We look forward to receiving your input for future Shareables.

ACE created the hashtag #ABNPhotoADay for a campaign to celebrate the athletes and achievements in the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games. Our goal is to encourage people to stay active. We are asking people to submit a daily photo of them or their friends participating in physical activity to our Twitter ([@ArthritisNetwrk](#)) and Facebook ([Arthritis Broadcast Network](#)) account with #ABNPhotoADay.

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA CONSUMER NETWORK



Arthritis Consumer Experts, the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada, the Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance, the Canadian Spondylitis Association and Patient Partners will be awarding the second Qualman-Davies Arthritis Consumer Community Leadership Award at the Arthritis Alliance of Canada's 3rd Annual Conference and Research Symposium. The Qualman-Davies Arthritis Consumer Community Leadership Award was created in 2014 to recognize an individual's contribution to helping Canadians living with the disease to be heard in decision-making processes that affect millions.

Nominations for the Award are encouraged from everyone. Nomination criteria and forms are available online at www.arthritisalliance.ca and www.jointhealth.org

THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

NATIONAL

Making waves into medical cannabis research



This month, The Arthritis Society funded its first research into medical cannabis and arthritis pain. It did so in keeping with a new element of its research strategy, which is to explore the most promising avenues to help relieve pain itself for the millions of Canadians who live with arthritis. The ultimate goal of investigating the potential of medical cannabis is to help Canadians make informed choices about their arthritis treatment – and help their physicians give recommendations that are based in science. As it stands, up to two-thirds of people authorized by Health Canada to use medical cannabis are doing so to relieve arthritis pain.

With a three-year operating grant, Dr. Jason McDougall (Halifax) will examine the ability of cannabis-like compounds to repair joint nerves and relieve neuropathic pain from osteoarthritis. This stems from an emerging theory that part of osteoarthritis pain arises from damage to the nervous system rather than physical joint degeneration. Dr. McDougall's project was selected following an extensive multi-disciplinary peer review process that ranked competing submissions from outstanding Canadian researchers. Later this year, The Arthritis Society will convene the first national conference on medical cannabis bringing together key stakeholders to develop a shared plan to advance research in this field. [Click here](#) for a video with Dr. McDougall that explains the potential of medical cannabis for arthritis. [Click here](#) to take part in an Arthritis Society survey asking you what you feel is most important regarding this area of research.

BC & YUKON

With grateful thanks...

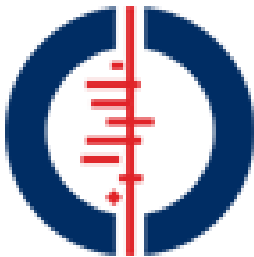
The BC & Yukon Division says goodbye to Colin Bennett from their Divisional Advisory Board. Now retiring from his duties, Colin had participated on the board for the past five years. Colin has always been a very supportive and dedicated member, and was an active and significant fundraiser for the annual Walk to Fight Arthritis. Drew McArthur, the National Board Chair of The Arthritis Society shares, "Colin often had his accounting hat on and asked really good questions...he also took on the role of Walk Committee Chairman and under his stewardship, we did an amazing job at raising money for The Society. It shows the level of commitment and tenacity Colin has. He is truly a champion for the cause." The BC & Yukon Division benefited immensely from Colin's insight, experience and passion for making things better for those living with arthritis.



Colin Bennett Retires

CIHR INSTITUTE OF MUSCULOSKELETAL HEALTH AND ARTHRITIS (IMHA)

Solving the Fibromyalgia Mystery: Researchers need your help.



The CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (IMHA) at the University of Manitoba invites participation in a survey that will be used to help improve the treatment and quality of life of people with fibromyalgia. To take part, you must be over 18 and a person living with fibromyalgia, or a caregiver, clinician or health care worker caring for people with fibromyalgia. Please [click here](#) to take part in a priority-setting survey and for more information about this study. The final top 10 research questions will be posted on CIHR IMHA's [website](#), and shared with researchers and organizations that fund fibromyalgia research. 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.

COCHRANE CANADA

Many of our members are familiar with Cochrane Canada and its mandate to "...bring the use of evidence into healthcare policy and practice... by promoting the use and accessibility of Cochrane Reviews through the Cochrane Library." Indeed, people from all walks of life use Cochrane as a resource to find answers to enable them to make informed decisions about health related questions. In fact over the past two years, 231 Cochrane Reviews from 37 Cochrane Review Groups have been used in 65 Canadian clinical practice guidelines. Whether we know it or not, Cochrane Reviews are guiding the delivery and best health practices from the research bench to the patient/consumer bedside. What subscribers may not know is that effective September 2015 the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) will no longer fund Cochrane Canada. The loss amounts to approximately \$2 million per year and signals the end to Cochrane Canada unless new funding can be found.

Dr. Jeremy Grimshaw, Director of Cochrane Canada made the announcement at the Cochrane Symposium held in Calgary, Alberta on May 21-22, 2015. He explained that he was informed of the CIHR decision two years ago and has been working with CIHR and other funding agencies in an attempt to keep Cochrane afloat. Dr Grimshaw is hopeful that short-term funding can be found until long-term funding is secure. At this point you may be asking yourself, what can I do about the funding loss?

Cochrane is asking all stakeholders who knows of funding sources that might be interested in supporting Cochrane Canada to contact the Cochrane Centre. For further information, please see: The future of funding for Cochrane Canada <http://ccc.cochrane.org/news/future-funding-cochrane-canada>.

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 held our Spring Webinar at the end of May. Drs. Lisa Lix and Natalie Shiff presented their results looking at the validation of JIA/JRA using Manitoba data. 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/>.



HEALTH CANADA ADVISORY PANEL ON HEALTHCARE INNOVATION NEW REPORT

The Advisory Panel on Healthcare Innovation just released their new report, entitled *“Unleashing Innovation: Excellent Healthcare for Canada,”* the executive summary and the full report, providing the details and recommendations is available here <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hcs-sss/innovation/index-eng.php>.

The report identifies five broad areas for innovation and improvements:

- patient engagement and empowerment
- health systems integration with workforce modernization
- technological transformation via digital health and precision medicine
- better value from procurement, reimbursement and regulation
- industry as an economic driver and innovation catalyst.



ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

On Thursday, June 11th, OIRM hosted its first Health Charities Forum to bring together several health charities for whom stem cell and regenerative medicine research could have, or already has had an impact. The forum featured a patient advocate and her physician telling the story and science of her remission and presentations of OIRM's current Disease Team projects.



The forum was successful in starting a dialogue between OIRM and several different health charities, on how we can work together to further the science and move successes into clinical trials. If your organization is interested in this initiative email Sandra Donaldson (Sandra.Donaldson@oirm.ca) for information.

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Healthy and Productive Work Initiative - Pre-Announcement

CIHR and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) are launching a joint initiative: Healthy and Productive Work, aimed at driving innovative, evidence-informed solutions to work and labour market challenges to improve the health and productivity of Canada's diverse workforce. This summer, SSHRC and CIHR will launch the first phase of a two-phase Call for Applications under Healthy and Productive Work. For more information, please visit the CIHR website: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/49213.html>.

Tenure-track Faculty Position in Musculoskeletal Health Economics at Western University, London, Canada

Western University is recruiting early-career investigators and Western Research Chairs to build on strengths in bone and joint health research (<http://www.uwo.ca/research/wcre/index.html>). Applications are invited from exceptional early-career investigators for a tenure-track position in musculoskeletal health economics. Qualified applicants must have a PhD or equivalent, with training in Health Economics and focus on health services research and economic evaluation of musculoskeletal health interventions. The appointment will be in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the rank of Assistant Professor. The successful candidate will become a member of the Bone and Joint Institute (<http://boneandjoint.uwo.ca>).

Full details: http://www.uwo.ca/facultyrelations/faculty/revised_2015_June_2015_MSK_Health_Economist_Advert.pdf.



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

Arthritis Alliance of Canada Members

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 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 Society for Exercise Physiology
Canadian Spondylitis Association
Cochrane Collaboration
Consumer Advisory Board of the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada
Institute for Work and Health
McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health
Patient Partners

Member Companies

AbbVie Corporation
Amgen Canada Inc.
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Celgene Inc.
Hoffmann -La Roche Limited
Janssen Inc.
Pfizer Canada Inc.
UCB Canada Inc.

THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA NEEDS TO HEAR YOUR SUCCESSES, STORIES AND PROJECTS THAT WILL SUPPORT THE FRAMEOWRK EFFORT. IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO BE FEATURED HERE. PLEASE FORWARD YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO LGAZIZOVA@ARTHRITISALLIANCE.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 or visit our website:

www.arthritisalliance.ca