

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA Update on Government Relations Efforts

Inside this issue:

Arthritis Alliance of Canada

Update on Government Relations Efforts	1
Arthritis Alliance of Canada 2016 Annual Meeting Program Outline.....	1
Quality Improvement Projects in Osteoarthritis ..	2
<i>AAC and CFPC Collaboration to develop an OA toolkit for family practice</i>	
<i>Canada is Getting GLA:D!</i>	
<i>Canadian Research Team Developing Prediction Tool</i>	

Member's Corner

The Arthritis Society	2
<i>3rd Quebec Forum on Arthritis</i>	
Arthritis Consumer Experts	3
<i>BC Patient Education on Reference Drug Program</i>	
Arthritis Broadcast Network	3
<i>Let ABN pump up your content!</i>	
AAC Consumer-Patient Coalition	4
<i>QD Arthritis Consumer Community Leadership Award</i>	
Arthritis Health Professions Associations	4
<i>AHPA Funding Opportunity</i>	
Canadian Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis	4
<i>Seeking Research Ambassadors!</i>	
Canadian Rheumatology Association.....	4
<i>Rheum series educational teleconferences</i>	
McCaig Institute of Bone and Joint Health Institute, University of Calgary	4
<i>The Cy Frank Legacy Lectureship Award</i>	

Community Updates

Canadian Rheumatology Administrative Data (CANRAD)	5
<i>Webinar on admin data for rheumatic disease research</i>	
Alberta Children's Hospital.....	5
<i>Dawson Jarrock Calgary Vasculitis Symposium</i>	

Calendar of Events

About the Arthritis Alliance

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC) continues its government relations efforts to prioritize arthritis as a major health concern and priority for action. Over the next couple of months the AAC has mobilized regional advocacy teams target Members of Parliament (MPs) in their local jurisdictions, during their time home for the summer period. The focus of the outreach is on three key areas of government's interest in homecare (non-medical) support, workplace accessibility and flexible work arrangements for workers living with chronic conditions. A customized set of materials (a toolkit) has been prepared in both English and French to assist with outreach efforts. Please contact lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca for a copy of the toolkit. **Please join us in our summer outreach program to target MPs** in their local jurisdictions and help us raise the profile of arthritis. To help ensure a coordinated approach, please advise of any outreach you do and/or meetings with your local MP's so that we can track and avoid sending multiple letters to the same person. Thank you!



Arthritis Alliance of Canada 2016 Program Outline

Save the date!

Annual Meeting

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA



October 27-28, 2016
INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL
MONTREAL, QUEBEC

In partnership with
The Arthritis Society
and
CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal
Health and Arthritis






Thursday, October 27, 2016

- The Arthritis Society Trainee Session - *closed session*
- CIHR's-IMHA Session - *closed session*
- AAC Inflammatory Arthritis Models of Care Workshops
- Annual General Meeting/Business meeting
- **AAC Opening Session/Panel Discussion: "Sunny Ways: Building A National Strategy to Overcome Arthritis". Panel will be moderated by Scott Reid, CTV Political Analyst and panel speakers Tim Powers, Vice-Chairman Summa Strategies and, Rob Silver, Carlton University**
- CIHR's-IMHA Research Ambassadors Workshop
- Reception/Poster Viewing Session
- Networking Dinner

Friday, October 28, 2016

- CIHR's-IMHA Session - *closed session*
- AAC Advocacy Workshop
- AAC Osteoarthritis Models of Care Workshop
- The Arthritis Society Trainee Session - *closed session*
- Consumer Coalition Workshop
- AAC Research Workshop

Saturday, October 29, 2016 The Arthritis Society Congress

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN OSTEOARTHRITIS

Arthritis Alliance of Canada and College of Family Physicians of Canada Collaboration Project to develop an OA toolkit for family practice

The AAC and the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) are collaborating to develop a Simplified Osteoarthritis Toolkit for Family Practice. The initiative will strengthen training and develop tools and continuing education in MSK care to supply care providers with the professional knowledge and skills to effectively identify, assess, monitor and care for patients with OA. For more information, please contact Jaime Coish jcoish@arthritisalliance.ca

Canada is getting GLA:D®!



Good Life with osteoArthritis in Denmark (GLA:D®) is an 8-week education and neuromuscular exercise program for individuals with hip or knee osteoarthritis. The program has been shown to decrease pain, improve physical function and increase levels of physical activity for individuals with early or late stages of osteoarthritis. GLA:D™ Canada is provided by certified therapists who attend a 1.5 day training course. Courses have been hosted in

Alberta and Ontario and sites will be accepting patients in September.

The next training course in Ontario is available for registered physiotherapists and registered kinesiologists who work with patients who have OA. The course is on September 16-17, 2016 in downtown Toronto and the cost is subsidized by the Ontario Trillium Foundation funding provided. For more information about the program including the available sites and to register for the Ontario training course, visit www.gladcanada.ca.

How Fast Will Your Knee Osteoarthritis Progress? Canadian Research Team Developing Prediction Tool

A Canadian research team is developing a tool that will calculate the risk of early osteoarthritis (OA) in the knee progressing to the severe stage requiring joint replacement. The risk calculator will be made available to patients and family physicians to predict the rate of OA progression and to graphically illustrate for patients how lifestyle changes they can make, such as weight loss, could slow the disease and forestall surgery or avoid it altogether. "We envision a tool that will be a powerful self-management aid for one of the fastest-growing chronic medical conditions," Dr. Deborah Marshall, the principal investigator, said. Through support from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the research team will develop the web-based tool and evaluate it in a pilot in Alberta. "We will develop a unique tool that assigns an OA progression score in individual patients over a seven-year period based on x-ray, symptoms, pain site, age, sex and body mass index (BMI) score," Dr. Behnam Sharif, a co-investigator in the study, said.



A high BMI is a major risk factor for OA. The tool will calculate the anticipated delay in months or years to end-stage knee OA for different amounts of weight permanently lost during a predetermined period. It will also show how strengthening exercises tailored to the condition of the joint can alleviate symptoms.

MEMBER'S CORNER

THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

QUEBEC

You are a Crucial Link!



The Québec Medical Association (AMQ) and The Arthritis Society invite you to an exceptional day of learning and sharing about interdisciplinary care and the trajectory of care that allows for better management of patients with arthritis.

Offered as part of the 3rd Quebec Forum on Arthritis, the Arthritis Conference training day, held on October 29, will give health care professionals the chance to build an innovative program focused on governance. You are a crucial link in the chain of interdisciplinary health care for your patients, and you can take part in the development of personalized solutions.

**ARTHRITIS CONFERENCE
AS PART OF THE 3RD QUEBEC FORUM ON ARTHRITIS
OCTOBER 29, 2016**

**Palais des congrès de Montréal
quebecforumarthritis.ca**

The greatest arthritis gathering in Canada

The Quebec Forum on Arthritis is a unique event in Canada, bringing together patients, caregivers and health care specialists under one roof. In addition to the Arthritis Conference dedicated to health care professionals, 50 seminars and a number of workshops will be offered to the general public, including an opening seminar and a lunch and learn session moderated by

Dr. Christiane Laberge, and an exhibitor fair where one can learn everything about arthritis. Also new this year, we will offer seven webinars. Visit our quebecforumarthritis.ca website for more details or to register. Spread the word among your colleagues and patients! Arthritis is a serious disease. Let's have a serious discussion.



**ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS
Advocacy**

Along with members of the Better Pharmacare Coalition, ACE lead the development of a patient education campaign in British Columbia focused on provincial government policy changes to its Reference Drug Program or “RDP”. Pricing schemes such as RDP have shown could adversely affect patients, particularly the elderly and low-income populations. ACE is also consulting with other public and private drug plans, which are also using RDP style programs to curb or cut prescription medication reimbursement costs. The patient education campaign includes media relations, government outreach and an information microsite on betterpharmacare.com.

From March to July, ACE conducted a coast-to-coast letter and email campaign with provincial ministries of health and senior drug plan managers, highlighting the ongoing disparity of publicly reimbursed medications for inflammatory arthritis and outlining the impacts resulting from delays in special authority reviews, pricing negotiations and listing decisions. Monthly public formulary listing updates on all Health Canada approved medications for inflammatory arthritis can be found at [here](#).

**Arthritis Broadcast Network
Let ABN pump up your content!**

Arthritis Broadcast Network (ABN) is the legacy of the National Arthritis Awareness Program Powered by ACE, ABN remains the world's only arthritis news aggregator by and for people living with the disease. Now in its fifth year, ABN continues to share both original content and aggregated news and lifestyle stories that inform, educate and entertain consumers-patients about their arthritis.

This month's highlights include a summary of updated recommendations for fibromyalgia, a celebratory message to researchers at Arthritis Research Canada, a report about the over use of digital devices and how that may cause arthritis, an update to the JointHealth™ [Medications Guide](#) and [Arthritis Medications Report Card](#), among other news features.

These publications reached an estimated 9,000 Twitter and Facebook followers and 1,000 read the stories on-line. Let ABN pump up your content: Submit your news, call to action, video or image to chan@jointhealth.org and see the interest in your work grow.



**Arthritis Alliance of Canada
Consumer-Patient Organizations and Groups Coalition**

Does your organization run on volunteer power? Then you must know a person with arthritis who has, or is, providing leadership in the community and deserves recognition for their valuable work. Help us celebrate their contributions by nominating them for the Qualman-Davies Arthritis Consumer Community Leadership Award. The application can be found on the AAC [website](#) and the deadline is **August 26, 2016**. The award will be given during the AAC Annual Conference Networking Dinner on October 27, 2016. Thank you for your support in recognizing arthritis consumer volunteers in Canada.



**ARTHRITIS HEALTH PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION
Attention all Allied Health Professionals
Funding Opportunity!**

Are you currently working in arthritis research or partnering on arthritis research with an investigator at an academic institution? If so, then you may be interested in applying for funding through the Arthritis Health Professions Association's (AHPA)/The Arthritis Society (TAS) Annual Research Grant Competition. The application deadline is **midnight on Sept 16, 2016**. For more details and to view the application package, please visit the AHPA website at: <https://www.ahpa.ca/research/research-grants/<redir.aspx?REF=SHve4Vp2eLzWaozTdCbz3Gsqeoi9ucfBTbmFNqe3G8Q1rC3xSX7TCAfodHRwczovL3d3dy5haHBhLmNhL3Jlc2VhcmNoL3Jlc2VhcmNoLWdyYW50cy8>.

If you have any questions, please contact Raquel Sweezie, Chair of the AHPA Research Committee at research@ahpa.ca.

**CIHR INSTITUTE OF MUSCULOSKELETAL HEALTH AND ARTHRITIS
Expressions of Interest: CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal
Health and Arthritis Research Ambassadors**



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

Get involved in health research! Apply to be a research ambassador. For more information, please contact IMHA@umanitoba.ca or read the full Expression of Interest [online](#).

**CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION
Learning via Teleconference
Announcing the NEXT Dilemma Rheum Fall Sessions!**

The Dilemma Rheum is a series of educational teleconferences designed for recently certified rheumatologists and trainees. Each session features an expert on a particular topic who will discuss and answer questions on cases brought forward by participants. To register in upcoming fall sessions click [here](#)!

- **September 21** Difficult SpA/Seronegative
- **October 5** Dilemma Cases
- **November 23** Difficult CTD



**McCaig INSTITUTE FOR BONE AND JOINT HEALTH
University of Calgary**



"The Cy Frank Legacy Lectureship" commemorates Dr. Cy Frank and the impact he made across Canada. President of CIFAR Dr. Alan Bernstein is the inaugural speaker for this travelling lectureship. He will be speaking on "The Promise of the Health Sciences in the 21st Century- a Revisit" at the University of Calgary on September 9, CAHS meeting on September 16, and University of Toronto on September 21. For more information contact mccaig@ucalgary.ca.

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. Our CANRAD team will be organizing a webinar in the fall. For more information pertaining to our webinars or all other information concerning the CANRAD Network, 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) objective is to respond to key knowledge gaps regarding drug safety and effectiveness by answering queries which arise from Health Canada and other regulatory parties. Recently we received additional funding from CIHR to work with important cohorts to help answer queries, including CATCH, PiMS, CanHepC and GENESIS-PRAXY. Also, we will be joining DSECT's webinar

series to host a webinar from one of our colleagues. For information on our queries, on our upcoming webinars or for more information on our team, please contact Autumn Neville at autumn.neville@clinepi.mcgill.ca or visit our website <http://canaim.ca/>.

ALBERTA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CALGARY

The Annual Dawson Jarrock Calgary Vasculitis Symposium will be held **October 20, 2016** at the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary, AB Keynote speaker is Ivana Akcentjevic, NIH Bethesda. The annual vasculitis patient /parent forum will start at 18:00 on October 20, 2016 more details to come, the focus of this year's program includes: Complement, genes and environment in vasculitis best wishes.

These modules may be accessed at <http://goo.gl/forms/paj0MBZbZx>. An account that provides unlimited free access will be created within seven (7) days. Questions about the TJAOM Toolkit may be addressed to Alison Hoens at Alison.hoens@ubc.ca.



Calendar of Events

Council of the Federations (COF) - 2016 Council of the Federation Summer Meeting	July 20-22, 2016	Whitehorse, Yukon
Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses - Dynamics of Critical Care Conference	September 25-27, 2016	Charlottetown, PEI
4th World Congress on Controversies, Debates and Consensus in Bone, Muscle and Joint Diseases (BMJD)	October 20-22, 2016	Barcelona, Spain
Cochrane Collaboration Colloquium	October 23-27, 2016	Seoul, South Korea
Arthritis Alliance of Canada – 2016 Annual Meeting	October 27-28, 2016	Montreal, QC
The Arthritis Society Congress 2016	October 29, 2016	Montreal, QC
Canadian Vasculitis (CandVasc) Annual Scientific Meeting	October 2016	TBC
Family Medicine Forum	November 9-12, 2016	Vancouver, BC

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 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

