

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

NEWSLETTER

June 2016

Inside this issue:

Arthritis Alliance of Canada

Update on Government Relations Efforts.....1	1
Consultations on Flexible Work Arrangements	1
Arthritis Alliance of Canada 2016 Annual Meeting - SAVE THE DATE.....2	2
Meeting Program Outline.....2	2
Criteria for Provision of Letters of Support for Arthritis-Related Research Peer-Reviewed Grants	3

Member's Corner

The Arthritis Society	
National	2
BC & Yukon.....	2
Alberta Bone & Joint Health Institute.....	3
Arthritis Consumer Experts	3
Arthritis Health Professions Associations	3
Arthritis Research Canada Patient Advisory Board	4
McCaig Institute of Bone and Joint Health Institute, University of Calgary	4

Community Updates

Canadian Rheumatology Administrative Data (CANRAD).....	4
University of British Columbia Department of Physiotherapy	5

Calendar of Events.....5

About the Arthritis Alliance.....5

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA Update on Government Relations Efforts

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC) continues its government relations efforts in Ottawa to build relationships and work to prioritize arthritis as a major health concern and priority for action. In June, the Alliance met with the Chairs, Vice-chair and members of the various Standing Committees; Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities, Health, Finance, Health Research Caucus and Office of Disability Issues, Employment and Social Development Canada.

Government Consultations on Flexible Work Arrangements

The AAC has identified areas of alignment between the Federal government and the arthritis community, including; homecare (non-medical) support for people with chronic conditions to ensure their independent living, flexible work arrangements and workplace accessibility for workers living with chronic conditions.

The Alliance was invited to participate in an “invite only” Federal Government consultation on flexible work arrangements, in both Toronto and Vancouver. A discussion paper on [“Flexible Work Arrangements”](#) initiated by the Department of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour in May 2016, set the stage for the discussion.

The Toronto roundtable discussion on June 17th focussed on three areas:

- 1) What forms of flexibility can be recommended from participants’ experience?
- 2) Views on mandating a “right to request” workplace flexibility; and
- 3) Implementation and enforcement.



Workplace culture and attitude was another topic at the core of the discussion, and raised the issue of people with chronic disease being comfortable to disclose their medical conditions to employers when making request for flexibility. The matter of flexible work arrangement is still a work in progress as there are many implications and matters to tackle for successful implementation.

At the roundtable discussion in Vancouver on June 20th, the AAC highlighted the lack of reference to older workers and persons living with arthritis in the discussion paper issued by government. The barriers to flexible work were discussed, as well as the benefits received when given to workers with arthritis. The impact of autoimmune arthritis on the indigenous population that will enter the workforce was underscored, with the need for education to that group right now. Similar to Toronto, the stigma attached to requesting flexible work was discussed, as well as lack of a standardized procedure. Solutions to address these issues and an approach for implementation were discussed. The AAC will follow up to both consultations with a written summary document to government in the next week.

How can you get involved?

Everyone has a role to play! Please join us in our summer outreach program to target MPs in their local jurisdictions to build upon and strengthen messaging around the aligned priorities discussed above. We have developed an MP outreach toolkit consisting of all the necessary templates and tracking documents to assist you in your outreach efforts. Please contact lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca for a copy of the toolkit. 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!





Annual Meeting Program Outline:

Thursday, October 27, 2016

- *The Arthritis Society Trainee Session-closed session*
- *CIHR's-IMHA Session-closed session*
- AAC Inflammatory Arthritis Models of Care Workshop
- AAC 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, Partner at Crestview
- CIHR's-IMHA Research Ambassadors Workshop-
- Reception/Poster Viewing Session
- Networking Dinner

Friday, October 28, 2016

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

Saturday, October 29, 2016

- The Arthritis Society Congress

Criteria for Provision of Letters of Support For Arthritis-Related Research Peer-Reviewed Grants

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada is pleased to share with you its “Criteria for Provision of Letters of Support (LoS) for Arthritis-Related Research Peer-Reviewed Grants,” available at www.arthritisalliance.ca.

The document establishes the principles for providing letters of support to individual researchers, research teams or research organizations.



MEMBER'S CORNER

THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

NATIONAL

Staffing updates from The Society's national office

- **Joanne Simons**, our chief mission officer and executive director, Ontario Division, has left the Society to serve as CEO of Casey House, a hospital dedicated to the care and support of people with HIV/AIDS. This is a tremendous career opportunity for Joanne and we thank her for her outstanding contribution during her time with us.
- With Joanne's departure, our national mission portfolio is now being jointly led by **Ed Ziesmann**, VP of education, programs and services, and **Kate Lee**, VP of research who each brings a wealth of experience and dedication to their roles. You can reach Ed and Kate at eziesmann@arthritis.ca and klee@arthritis.ca, respectively.
- **Ahmad Zbib** is now executive director, Ontario Division and responsible for leading The Society's efforts on behalf of the two million Ontarians living with arthritis. Ahmad brings a great deal of health-related experience to this role having held leadership positions over his 10-year career with the Heart and Stroke Foundation. You can reach Ahmad at azbib@arthritis.ca.

- **Jan Mollenhauer** joins The Society as Vice-President, Marketing & Communications effective July 5th having served in senior marketing and communications roles in the health charity and retail consumer sectors. She will be responsible for leading The Society's efforts to raise Canadians' awareness of and engagement in the arthritis community. She can be reached at jmollenhuer@arthritis.ca.

BC & YUKON

Winner of the Gert Vorsteher Award from BC Rehab



Wanda Huynh, a member of The Arthritis Society community in BC, and devoted volunteer and support to all who meet her, was a recent winner of a Gert Vorsteher Memorial Award from BC Rehab. Carefully selected individuals who have been faced with life-changing injuries or the effects of a disease like arthritis, are recognized for their demonstrated courage and perseverance in regaining or working towards personal independence. The awards are accompanied in a form of a bursary and are given annually. Congratulations to Wanda who will be using her bursary toward additional education and tools to facilitate her ability to attend and participate.

ALBERTA BONE AND JOINT HEALTH INSTITUTE

ABJHI Funding Research to Shed New Light on Risks for Obese Patients Undergoing Hip and Knee Replacements. Alberta researchers will attempt to shed new light obesity's effect on the progression of osteoarthritis (OA) in the hips and knees and on additional health risks obese patients face following joint replacement surgery.



The research will be funded by Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute and led by Dr. Benham Sharif, who has been awarded a two-year post-doctoral fellowship to conduct the work. It is the first fellowship funded with proceeds from the 2015 Music in Motion gala to fight bone and joint disease. "This work marks an important expansion of ABJHI's role in research using the rich and growing provincial data repository and our expertise in analytics and knowledge transfer," Christopher Smith, ABJHI's Chief Operating Officer, said. ABJHI has partnered with physicians and Alberta Health Services to build the only bone and joint data repository in Canada that collects information along the patient journey from referral to treatment and long-term follow-up.

ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS



The European League Against Rheumatism's Annual Congress conducted media interviews with speakers and healthcare professionals that attended their congress in June. Cheryl Koehn discusses the importance of treatment conversations between patients and healthcare professionals in one of these [interviews](#). Reporting live from EULAR 2016, Cheryl Koehn and Arthritis Consumer Expert's Twitter feed garnered 31,000 impressions over 2 days (#EULAR2016).

ACE's annual JointHealth™ Medications Guide will be arriving in mailboxes in June. This trusted, concise reference guide for arthritis medications is designed to help the approximately 600,000 Canadians living with a type of autoimmune arthritis, such as rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis and juvenile arthritis, better understand their treatment options and support them in their discussions with their healthcare team.

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=SHve4Vp2eLzWaozTdCbz3Gsqeoi9ucfBTbmFNqe3G8Q1rC3xSX7TCAfodHRwczovL3d3dy5haHBlLmNhL3Jlc2VhcmNoL3Jlc2VhcmNoLWdyYW50cy8>.

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

ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CANADA (ARC) PATIENT ADVISORY BOARD

The Arthritis Research Canada (ARC) Patient Advisory Board is bringing arthritis research to the public on Saturday, October 1, 2016 with "Action on Arthritis: Steps to a better you." The public forum will be held in Burnaby, BC from 9:30AM-12:30PM PST with a simultaneous webcast.



By attending you will hear about research that supports best outcomes and facilitates self-empowerment for patients from speakers: Drs. Catherine Backman, Claire Barber, Hyon Choi, Diane Lacaille, and Linda Li, and ARC trainees Jenny Leese, Graham MacDonald, and Sharan Rai.

McCaig INSTITUTE FOR BONE AND JOINT HEALTH University of Calgary



MCCAIG INSTITUTE
FOR BONE AND JOINT HEALTH

The McCaig Institute is one step closer to the official opening of its Centre for Mobility and Joint Health (MoJo). On May 31st, more than 50 supporters of the Institute had a behind-the-scenes look at the new research Centre, where scientists are using state of the art imaging, motion assessment and diagnostic equipment to assess individual bone and joint health on every level.

Researchers in the MoJo work with physicians, patients and the Alberta health system to develop new technologies for the prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of bone and joint injury or disease, with the goal of translating research evidence into health care solutions. The official announcement of the Centre will occur in the fall of 2016.

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 was fortunate to hear a presentation by Drs. Deborah Marshall and Behnam Sharif of the University of Calgary this past month on "Integrating dynamic simulation modelling and administrative data to inform health services delivery and planning."



For more information pertaining to this webinar, our past and future 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) team was funded by CIHR to enhance the validity and accuracy of Canadian research on real-life comparative effectiveness and safety of drugs by developing novel methods using prospective longitudinal cohorts. Our 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. For information on our queries or for more information on our team, please contact Autumn Neville at autumn.neville@clinepi.mcgill.ca or visit our website <http://canaim.ca/>.



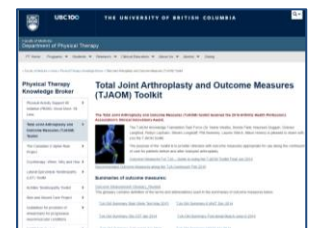
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA Department of Physiotherapy

Online toolkit of resources to support care of patients with hip or knee replacements

Do you need to:

1. Demonstrate that the treatment of a patient with a TKA or THA was effective?
2. Determine the best outcome measures to track a patient's progress?
3. Write discharge letters reporting the results of treatment?

If you answered yes to any of the questions above, help is available from the free online **Total Joint Arthroplasty Outcome Measures (TJAOM) Toolkit**.



The **TJAOM Toolkit** (available at <http://tinyurl.com/TJAOM>) is a Physical Therapy Knowledge Broker facilitated project involving a 6 year collaboration of 30 clinicians and researchers culminating in the development of the following resources derived from the integration of the results of a chart audit, focus group, survey, Delphi process and synthesis of the literature. The recommended outcome measures (both patient-reported and performance-based measures) for each phase of the continuum of care (pre-op, acute, post-acute and active living):

1. Brief summaries of each recommended outcome measure (what it measures, who it is appropriate for, how to apply it, how to score it, how to interpret it)
2. Template of a discharge letter that may be used to share the results and interpretation of the change in each outcome measure
3. Guide for how to use the template of the discharge letter
4. Guide for how to use the TJAOM Toolkit
5. Online interactive learning modules

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

Canadian Paediatric Society Annual Conference	June 22-25, 2016	Charlottetown, PEI
Canadian Pharmacists Association Conference	June 24-27, 2016	Calgary, AB
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