

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA Update on Government Relations Efforts

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Arthritis Alliance of Canada

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About the Arthritis Alliance.....

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC) continues to build relationships in Ottawa as part of its efforts to prioritize arthritis as a major health concern and priority for action.

As a result of the intel gathering stage, the AAC has identified two common areas interest between the Federal government and the arthritis community; 1) homecare (non-medical) support for people with chronic conditions to ensure their independent living, and 2) workplace accessibility for workers living with chronic conditions and flexible work arrangements. Hill + Knowlton Strategies, on behalf of AAC, conducted a public opinion survey of Canadians about their perceptions and preferences for the future of care in these two areas. The survey results will strengthen our message to government and serve as a valuable tool for government in the decision and policy making process. The survey results will be translated into toolkits, consisting of one pagers and short PowerPoints to serve as toolkits to engage decision-makers.

How can you help?

Everyone has a role to play! We encourage you to use the toolkits (available soon) and templates provided to reach out to your local MPs. To help us ensure a coordinated approach, please advise of any outreach you do and/or meetings with your local MP's so that we can keep track and avoid sending multiple letters to the same person. Thank you!

Please contact Lina Gazizova lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca for more information or to access templates and toolkits.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN OSTEOARTHRITIS

Feedback of Patient Reported Outcomes in Knee Osteoarthritis to Improve Management in Primary Care: A Pilot Project

The aim of this pilot project was to improve the quality of care of knee OA in a primary care practice. Patients with knee OA were surveyed regarding their care to date using the OA QI Questionnaire, as well as their level of knee pain (using the ICOAP and WOMAC pain subscale). Survey results were reviewed and an e-consult was generated with direct recommendations to patients and recommendations for the primary care provider to consider. The same survey was distributed four months later to assess if OA care had improved.



In summary, the management of knee OA in a primary care practice improved using patient feedback on current care. This approach resulted in an increase in interventions not previously optimized and improved the overall management of knee OA. The process of improving management of knee OA was completed through multiple plan-do-study-act (PDSA) cycles using existing clinical resources and not increasing physician workload. Future directions include further work on streamlining the process to reflect the most effective interventions, automation of survey dissemination and analysis and generation of recommendations. For more information, please contact NatashaGakhal at natasha.gakhal@wchospital.ca.

GLA:DCanada™: Reducing the symptoms of OA

In Denmark, a program called GLA:D® (Good Life with osteoArthritis in Denmark) has successfully helped individuals with hip and knee OA to reduce their symptoms and increase their levels of function and physical activity. It's a 6-week program that includes 2 education sessions and 12 neuromuscular exercise sessions, which focus on stability and control of the knee and hip joints. Working with the researchers from Denmark, Bone and Joint Canada (BJC) has brought the program to Canada under the name "GLA:DCanada™".

The program is being piloted at the Holland Orthopaedic and Arthritic Centre, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre where it is being offered to individuals who have been assessed for hip and knee replacement surgery and who wish to access conservative management. The program is being launched in a number of rehabilitation centres in Ontario, through funding received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and in Edmonton, Alberta through support from Alberta Health Services. Further information about the GLA:DCanada™ program can be found on the web site at www.boneandjointcanada.com.

A New Model of Care for Improving Physical Activity in Patients with Knee OA

Combining the best evidence in osteoarthritis management and wearable technology, Dr. Linda Li and her team are conducting a series of studies on a model to improve physical activity in patients with knee osteoarthritis. The goal is to determine the effectiveness of a remote counselling intervention by a physiotherapist, with the use of a Fitbit. They have developed a new Fitbit-compatible web app, which allows therapists to prescribe and monitor individualized physical activity remotely, without the constraint of a clinic visit.

Better Joints. Better Brain? Being active is known to promote cognitive functions. An exciting aspect of Dr. Li's research is the opportunity to assess the effect of their physical activity counselling intervention on participants' cognitive health. They will also explore the relationship between brain structure and people's tendency to adhere to lifestyle interventions; an emerging field in cognitive psychology. Their work will provide new insight on how to deliver lifestyle interventions.

Arthritis Alliance of Canada 2016 Annual Meeting SAVE THE DATE



The poster features a red vertical banner on the left with the text "Save the date!". The main content is set against a background of a city skyline (Montreal) viewed from across a body of water. At the top, it reads "Annual Meeting" in a large serif font, with "ARTHRTIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA" in a smaller sans-serif font below it. The central text block, on a dark blue background, states "October 27-28, 2016" and "INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC". To the right of this, it says "In partnership with The Arthritis Society and CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis". At the bottom, there are three logos: the AAC logo (Arthritis Alliance of Canada / Alliance de l'arthrite du Canada), The Arthritis Society / La Société de l'arthrite logo, and the CIHR IRSC logo (Canadian Institutes of Health Research / Institut de recherche en santé Canada).

MEMBER'S CORNER

THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

NATIONAL

Medical Cannabis Research Roundtable Urges Federal Investment in Research & Clinical Trials

On May 4, The Arthritis Society released The Medical Cannabis Research Roundtable Report, which urged the federal government to invest \$25 million over the next five years in medical research and trials concerning health impacts and potential therapeutic benefits of medical cannabis. The Roundtable is comprised of high-level physicians, clinicians, patients, health charities, experts and medical researchers. The Roundtable highlighted the scarcity of reliable, peer-reviewed and Canadian-based medical research on the subject of medical cannabis.



The Society also announced a doubling of its own commitment to medical research to a total of \$720,000 between 2015 and 2019, and the creation of the Medical Cannabis Strategic Operating Grant, an ongoing annual commitment of at least \$120,000 toward research into the impacts of medical cannabis.

Links:

Report EN: <http://arthritis.ca/getmedia/f9e3dc04-b3e9-482e-9109-848590a84b7f/Clearing-the-Air-EN-FINAL.pdf>

Research grant application:

<http://arthritis.ca/research/the-arthritis-society-s-research-program/how-to-apply>

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=SHve4Vp2eLzWaozTdCbz3Gsgeoi9ucfBTbmFNqe3G8Q1rC3xSX7TCAFodHRwczovL3d3dy5haHBhLmNhL3Jlc2VhemNoL3Jlc2VhemNoLWdyYW50cy8>.

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

ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS

Since its introduction in 2000, the Annual European Congress of Rheumatology (EULAR) has become the primary platform for exchange of scientific and clinical information in Europe. It is also a renowned forum for interaction between medical doctors, scientists, arthritis consumers, health professionals and representatives of the pharmaceutical industry worldwide.



Cheryl Koehn of Arthritis Consumer Experts will be attending this year's EULAR conference in London as a PARE Member Patient (People with Arthritis and Rheumatism in Europe)/ to give an oral presentation of an abstract entitled 'Understanding the importance of a patient's role in the management of RA: results from a patient-based survey developed by the RA NarRAtive global advisory panel'.

MEMBER'S CORNER

The advisory panel comprised representatives from national patient organizations from 14 countries around the world who collaborated on the survey design, interpretation of results and abstract preparation. The PARE Abstract Session will be presented on Friday, June 10th from 10:15am to 11:45am in Room S19 at the ExCel London, U.K. The project was supported by Pfizer Global.

The Qualman-Davies Arthritis Consumer Community Leadership Award



Do you know a person with arthritis who has, or is, providing leadership in the community and deserves recognition for their valuable volunteer work? The Qualman-Davies Arthritis Consumer Community Award was created in 2014 to recognize one person's contributions to helping Canadians living with the disease be heard in decision-making processes that affect millions. Nominations open June 1! Please [click here](#) for the nomination form.

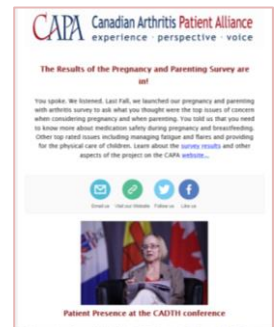
CANADIAN ARTHRITIS PATIENT ALLIANCE ARthritis Patient Charter: How are we doing?

The Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance is pleased to announce the publication of our [Spring Newsletter](#). Key highlights of the newsletter include:

- the [results](#) of the CAPA-led pregnancy and parenting with survey,
- the [patient presence](#) at the annual CADTH conference, and
- a [patient poll](#) on the BC Pharmacare program

We have also launched [a survey](#) to obtain views on the use of the Arthritis Patient Charter. The survey will only require a few minutes of your time. Please note that all answers are anonymous and no identifying information about you is collected.

Stay informed about these and other CAPA initiatives by subscribing to our mailing list on the CAPA [website](#).



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

The CAOT community has advanced on the National Blueprint – MSK, setting the directions for action to support drivers with arthritis. On May 17 and 18 a group of 15 selected panelists came to Ottawa to participate in this leadership initiative.



These panelists were occupational therapists, physiotherapists, physicians, pharmacists, funders and representatives of advocacy organizations.

The program comprised of a free public conference to engage with people with arthritis, a very important stakeholder group. A day was also dedicated to the development of guiding principles, priority goals and directions for action to ensure that people with arthritis are safe behind the wheel.

The release of the resulting document is planned for December 1, 2016, a date selected to kick start the National Safe Driving Week. For any questions related to this project, please contact Julie Lapointe, Director of Professional Practice at the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists at Tel: 613-523-2268 ext.260 / 1 800 434-2268 or by email at practice@caot.ca.

McCaig INSTITUTE FOR BONE AND JOINT HEALTH University of Calgary

A new study by University of Calgary researchers published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine found that not only does a neuromuscular training warm-up program prevent injury in youth soccer; it also saves millions of dollars in health care costs.

McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health members Carolyn Emery and Deborah Marshall were the lead authors of the study, which is the first to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of this type of injury prevention program, considering both the reduction in burden of injuries and the reduction in costs.

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/>.

OSTEOPOROSIS CANADA

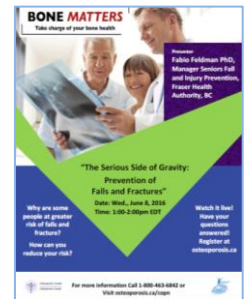
Why are some people at greater risk of falls and fracture?

Osteoporosis Canada is hosting an information session on “**The Serious Side of Gravity: Prevention of Falls and Fractures**”, presented by Fabio Feldman, PhD, Manager Seniors Fall and Injury Prevention, Fraser Health Authority, BC. Register at <http://www.osteoporosis.ca/> and watch it live on:

Date: Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Time: 1:00-2:00pm EDT

For more information Call 1-800-463-6842 or visit <http://www.osteoporosis.ca/osteoporosis-and-you/copn/>.



Calendar of Events

Canadian Orthopaedic Nurse Association Conference	May 29-June 1, 2016	Edmonton, AB
Registered Nurses Association - Annual Nurse Executive Leadership Academy	May 31-June 3, 2016	Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
22 nd Canadian Connective Tissue Conference	June 1-3, 2016	Hamilton, ON
Walk to Fight Arthritis	June 5, 2016	Nationwide
Canadian College of Health Leaders: National Health Leadership Conference	June 6-7, 2016	Ottawa, ON
Biotechnology Industry Organization International Convention	June 6-9, 2016	San Francisco, CA
EULAR - European League Against Rheumatism International Conference	June 8-11, 2016	London, UK
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
Vasculitis Symposium	TBC	TBC
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

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 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.
Janssen Inc.
Pfizer 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 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