

# ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

December 2016

*Seasonal Greetings!*

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*Dear Readers,*

*On behalf of the Arthritis Alliance Board of Directors and staff, we wish you and your families warmest greetings for bright and happy holiday season!*

*We would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support and commitment to the AAC family. Without you, the important work that we do to improve the lives of people living with arthritis, would not be possible. We are stronger together!*

*Wishing you all a bright and prosperous 2017!*



## Arthritis Alliance of Canada Research Awards Program CALL FOR APPLICATIONS!

The AAC is pleased to accept applications for its newly launched Research Awards Program.

### Key Deadlines:

- **Notice of Intent email due Wednesday, December 21st, 2016 (midnight ET).** Applications and instructions are available here: <http://www.arthritisalliance.ca/en/2016-11-08-02-26-19>.
- **Full applications** received to AAC office: [lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca](mailto:lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca) by **Tuesday, January 3, 2017 (midnight ET).**
- **Decisions to be announced** in March 2017.

The AAC will provide seven (7) awards valued at \$750 CAD/award. One award in each of the following categories, to nationally recognize high quality research:

1. **Master Student** - sponsored by McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health
2. **PhD Student** - sponsored by Arthritis Consumer Experts



3. **Post-doctoral Fellow** - sponsored by CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis
4. **Young Faculty Researcher (graduate within the first five years of faculty appointment)** – sponsored by CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis
5. **Knowledge Translation (KT) research** (*open to all investigators, at any career level*) – sponsored by Bone and Joint Institute of the University of Western Ontario
6. **Knowledge Translation (KT) practice** (*open to all investigators, at any career level*) – sponsored by Janssen Inc.
7. **Patient for active engagement in arthritis research** - sponsored by The Arthritis Society.

### Developing an Osteoarthritis Toolkit for Primary Care, a Collaboration Project

The [College of Family Physicians of Canada](#) (CFPC) and the [Arthritis Alliance of Canada](#) (AAC) have partnered with the [Centre for Effective Practice](#) (CEP) to develop an **Osteoarthritis Toolkit for Primary Care**. The clinical practice toolkit will be used to assist primary care providers in treating and managing patients with osteoarthritis. Two virtual focus groups to provide additional input into the development of the toolkit, will take place in January 2017.

The primary care practitioners’ focus group registration is full and now closed, thank you for your participation! If you are or know a patient interested in participating in the patient virtual focus group in January, please contact Lina Gazizova at: [lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca](mailto:lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca). **Your input is very important to us. Thank you for your support and participation in this project!**



## MEMBER'S CORNER

### ALBERTA BONE AND JOINT HEALTH INSTITUTE

#### Productivity Loss from Osteoarthritis Will Cost Canadian Economy \$17.5 Billion a Year by 2031

Rising rates of osteoarthritis (OA) will cost the Canadian economy an estimated \$17.5 billion a year in lost productivity by 2031 as the disease forces greater numbers of people to stop working or work less, a study has found. The upsurge in work time loss comes just as Canadian productivity comes up against a momentous challenge: finding enough workers to replace retiring baby boomers after decades of low birth rates.

“Our findings underscore the importance of implementing public strategies to prevent OA while also developing ways to maintain the workplace productivity of people who have the disease,” Behnam Sharif, the research team lead, said. “Canada could lose a significant portion of its shrinking work force to osteoarthritis unless policies are developed now to sustain the employability of people who have pain and loss of function in their hips and knees.” Dr. Sharif is an Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute post-doctoral fellow based at the University of Calgary.

### THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

#### NATIONAL

#### More funding for medicinal cannabis research



The Arthritis Society has announced the winner of its latest research grant for the study of medical cannabis and arthritis. McGill University’s Dr. Mark Ware, who has garnered a worldwide reputation as a leader in pain research, will lead a trial examining the use of oral cannabinoids for fibromyalgia. The study was selected from among several proposals submitted by Canadian researchers to receive a three-year grant.

Many fibromyalgia patients have reported that cannabis has positive effects on pain and symptom management, but this has not yet been confirmed in large-scale clinical trials. This study will be used to help educate patients and health professionals regarding the possible risks and benefits of oral cannabis in fibromyalgia therapy.

The announcement comes as the recommendations of the federal task force on marijuana legalization and regulation are due to become public. The Arthritis Society has been a leader in [advocating for the needs of patients](#) throughout the task force’s consultation, and will continue to be active in ensuring that any new regulatory environment for cannabis in Canada prioritizes the needs of patients.



## Janet Yale testifies about universal pharmacare to the Federal Standing Committee on Health

Arthritis Society President and CEO Janet Yale testified before the Federal Standing Committee on Health (HESA) about the urgent need for solutions to the challenges people with arthritis face when it comes to medications. Ms. Yale stated before the Committee that universal pharmacare is needed for all Canadians.

Ms. Yale informed HESA of the 4.6 million people who are living with arthritis, many of whom are struggling to access and pay for the medication that is right for them. In designing a universal pharmacare program, she urged the Committee to consider balancing two guiding imperatives: lower cost AND wide choice, in what she called a “recipe for real progress.”

## ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS (ACE) Happy Holidays!

This is one of our favorite times of the year at ACE, when we take the opportunity to reflect on our 17 years serving Canadians with arthritis – our members, subscribers and on-line visitors – and share our [plans for the year ahead](#).

ACE extends its best wishes to the hundreds of thousands who have accessed our information and education programs and interacted with us through our social media channels over the past 12 months. We also extend our thanks to those who have supported ACE, the JointHealth™ family of programs and the Arthritis Broadcast Network (ABN) in 2016. Together, as a community, we have made great progress to help the more than 5 million Canadians living with osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, lupus, gout and the many other forms of the disease.



As we turn the corner to 2017, we encourage you to get some exercise this holiday season by [downloading the Walk10Blocks](#) app. Using the Walk10Blocks app is great way to start walking, improve your brain and joint health and contribute to ground breaking research at the same time.

## Community Updates

### The Arthritis Program Celebrates 25 Year Program Anniversary

To celebrate The Arthritis Program's (TAP) 25-year anniversary milestone as one of Southlake's programs, a celebration was held on September 29, 2016. The evening brought together nearly 150 guests which included: patients, academic and industry partners, collaborators and supporters of TAP.



More than 20 TAP patients displayed art visuals with accompanying stories demonstrating how the support of TAP helped them 'put their art in arthritis,' reclaiming their life after developing arthritis. The evening demonstrated TAP's continuing commitment to providing the Ultimate Patient Experience.

### 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 invite you all to our CANRAD Network Winter Webinar, featuring presentations by Drs. Juan Antonio Avina-Zubieta and Diane Lacaille of the University of British Columbia. For more information pertaining to our webinar or all other information concerning the CANRAD Network, please contact Autumn Neville at [autumn.neville@rimuhc.ca](mailto:autumn.neville@rimuhc.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 webinars our team members. For information on our queries, on our upcoming webinars or for more information on our team, please contact Autumn Neville at [autumn.neville@rimuhc.ca](mailto:autumn.neville@rimuhc.ca) or visit our website <http://canaim.ca/>.



## Calendar of Events

Canadian Rheumatology Association Annual Scientific Meeting and AHPA Annual Meeting	February 8-11, 2017	Ottawa, Ontario
Inflammatory Bowel Diseases, 12 <sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation	February 15-18, 2017	Barcelona/, Spain
Global Summit on the Physical Activity of Children: Active Living Research Conference	February 26-March 1, 2017	Clearwater Beach, Florida
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons Annual Meeting	March 14-18, 2017	San Diego, California
Orthopaedic Research Society Annual Meeting	March 19– 22, 2017	San Diego, California
Ontario Physiotherapy Association - InterACTION	March 31-April 1, 2017	Toronto, ON
The Joint Affair gala in Honour of Dr. Anthony S. Russell by The Arthritis Society	March 27, 2017	Edmonton, Alberta
OARSI World Congress	April 27- 30, 2017	Las Vegas, United States
Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America AGM	May 3-6, 2017	Barcelona, Spain
Primary Care Today Conference	May 10-13, 2017	Toronto, ON
Canadian Pain Society's Annual Scientific Meeting	May 23-26, 2017	Halifax, NS
Ontario Rheumatology Association 16 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting	May 26-28, 2017	Muskoka, ON
Canadian Orthopaedic Nurse Association Conference	May 28-31, 2017	Toronto, ON
Canadian Paediatric Society Annual Conference	May 31- June 3, 2017	Vancouver, BC
Biotechnology Industry Organization International Convention	June 19-22, 2017	San Diego, CA
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists Annual Conference	June 21-24, 2017	Charlottetown, PEI
Council of the Federations (COF) - 2017 Council of the Federation Summer Meeting	July 17-19, 2017	Edmonton, AB
Annual World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology	July 23-26, 2017	Rosseau, ON

### 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](mailto:jcoish@arthritisalliance.ca) or visit our website: [www.arthritisalliance.ca](http://www.arthritisalliance.ca)