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ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

AAC 2018 Annual Meeting Post-Meeting Survey

The AAC 2018 Annual Meeting, November 22nd was a successful event. After the meeting, AAC conducted a post-event survey and received valuable feedback from thirty-two (32) respondents.

Participants gave great amount of positive feedback. For instance, participants enjoyed the overall organization and experience of the meeting and found the keynote speech *“Making a difference for people with arthritis – the power of collaborative working”* by Professor Anthony Woolf (UK) very engaging and informative.

In addition, participants appreciated the opportunity to contribute to discussions on the future of AAC. As a next step, the idea of creating a working group (Task Force) with intention to engage next generation of leadership in suggesting future direction of Alliance, was well received by meeting guests. Here's what some of our participants said about the Annual Meeting:

“It was a very important meeting. Appreciated the opportunity to be informed and have group discussions of the divergent options for the future of AAC.”

“As a trainee, it was a great opportunity to share my lab's research with established clinicians and scientists in the arthritis community.”

Respondents to the survey also provided valuable insight on areas of improvement for future AAC meetings, such as hoping to see more of the young arthritis professionals in the meeting room next year.

OA Information Tool for Patients

AAC's project on developing an OA Information Tool for Patients was recently featured in the Winter 2019 edition of the Journal of the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRAJ). The CRAJ article reiterated the purpose of the Tool and highlighted the importance of the Tool.

The working group, comprising of representatives from consumer organizations; as well as clinical and scientific experts in OA, has been working tirelessly to create the Tool.

Once published, the Tool will assist those with or at risk of OA, in having better conversations with their doctor to other health care professional by informing them about the care they can expect to receive. The initial draft of the Tool will be presented to AAC members and the community for comments and feedback early 2019. Stay tuned!



Project Update: Economic Analysis of the IA Models of Care

The “Cost-Consequences Analysis of Models of Care for Patients with Inflammatory Arthritis” project aims to explore characteristics of examples of models of care for patients with Inflammatory Arthritis in Canada and to assess the associated quality of care and costs in order to identify factors that contribute to a successful model of care in the Canadian environment.

The first phase of this study is currently underway. During this phase, qualitative data on the characteristics of models of care for patients with Inflammatory Arthritis at several sites participating in the Canadian Early Arthritis Cohort and factors that contribute to the success of their models of care are being collected. As of mid-January 2019, 10 (ten) sites, which represent four provinces (Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec) have been recruited to participate in the study. Out of those, eight sites have completed a survey collecting preliminary data on the sites' models of care and two sites have participated in the follow-up in-depth interviews.

Preliminary results of the study's qualitative phase will be presented during the National Update Session at the Canadian Rheumatology Association 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting.

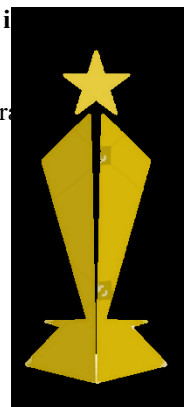
Arthritis Alliance of Canada Research Awards Program

On Wednesday, November 21st, the Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC) recognized [recipients](#) of the AAC 2018 Research Awards program at the AAC Annual Meeting Gala Dinner, at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel. The Research Awards program includes the following seven award categories: 1) **Master Student Award**; 2) **PhD Student Award**; 3) **Post-Doctoral Fellow Award**; 4) **Early Career Researcher Award**; 5) **Knowledge Translation Practice Award**; 6) **Knowledge Translation Research Award**; and 7) **Patient for Active Engagement in Research Award**.

We are excited to carry on the great work this year and announce the 2019 AAC Research Awards Program timelines:

Call for Applications:	Monday, April 1st, 2019
Application Deadline:	Wednesday, May 15th, 2019
Applications Review Process:	June - September 2019
Announcement of Award Recipients:	End of November 2019

Stay tuned for an official “Call for Applications” launch in April!



MEMBER'S CORNER

ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CANADA

Dr. Diane Lacaille as ARC's first Associate Scientific Director



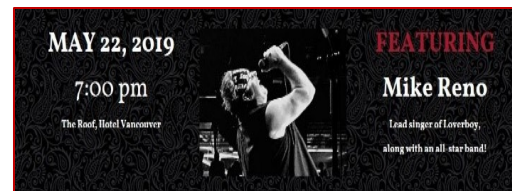
With the busy holiday season behind us, Arthritis Research Canada is looking forward to an exciting year of leading arthritis research. We are proud to announce Dr. Diane Lacaille as Arthritis Research Canada's first Associate Scientific Director.

From establishing an internationally recognized health services research program in arthritis care and employment to pioneering the use of administrative data for quality of care, Dr. Lacaille's work has had a profound impact on optimizing the delivery of care for people living with rheumatoid arthritis around the globe.

2019 ARThritis Soirée

Arthritis Research Canada is excited to announce that tickets are now on sale for our annual ARThritis Soirée, which will take place on **May 22 at The Roof, Hotel Vancouver at 7pm**. Mike Reno, lead singer of Loverboy, along with an all-star band, will give an up close and personal performance that is sure to include some of Loverboy's greatest hits. And guests will join dynamic co-hosts, Fred Lee and Sonia Deol, for a fabulous evening of...

- Gourmet hors d'oeuvres and wonderful BC wines and champagne
- A legendary oyster bar, compliments of Coast Restaurant
- Our exclusive raffle, and live and silent auctions
- Valet parking and a partial tax receipt.



For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit arthritissoiree.ca. Please join us in supporting life-changing arthritis research!

ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS (ACE)

#CRArthritis Facebook and Twitter Live Event

We want you to share your perspectives on arthritis!

Powered by ACE and supported by representatives from the Arthritis Patient Advisory Board of Arthritis Research Canada, Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance, and Canadian Spondylitis Association, [Arthritis Broadcast Network \(ABN\)](#) will host the [#CRArthritis Facebook and Twitter Live](#) event at the upcoming Canadian Rheumatology Association and Allied Health Professions annual meeting. Last year's event reached over 45,000 people and thousands more following the meeting on YouTube.

If you have research or arthritis news to share with our patient and public audience, please contact Anita Chan at chan@jointhealth.org to schedule your ABN interview. We look forward to your participation! Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), using the hashtag #CRArthritis.

CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION



Position Statement on Medical Cannabis Use in Rheumatic Disease

With the legalization of cannabis on October 17, 2018, Canadians may increasingly turn to their physicians for guidance regarding medical cannabis use, which has already entered mainstream medicine.

In the absence of studies examining the effects of medical cannabis in patients with rheumatic diseases, a position statement has been developed and published to help rheumatologists to offer pragmatic advice to their patient in a

caring and empathetic way to ensure harm reduction. [It was published online in The Journal of Rheumatology](#). Please visit the CRA's website to view the [position statement](#) and [FAQ](#).

The CRA Paediatrics Committee

The CRA Paediatrics Committee includes all Canadian pediatric rheumatologists and trainees. The Executive Committee includes the chair [Ron Laxer], past Chair [Deb Levy], vice-chair [Bobbi Berard] and Secretary [Nadia Luca]. This past year, the committee struck up a relationship with the Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS) to form a Special Interest Group and hold workshops at the CPS annual meeting. A new sub-committee, Community Pediatrics, has been established and will be led by Tommy Gerschman. This will provide wonderful opportunities for connection for our community pediatrics members. Under the leadership of Deb Levy, triamcinolone hexacetonide has now become available in Canada without need for the Special Access Program, which will facilitate patient care immensely.

ARTHRITIS SOCIETY: NATIONAL OFFICE

Arthritis Research Top 10

In 2018, the Arthritis Society invested more than \$4 million in some of the most exciting arthritis research projects across Canada. Each year, our researchers are discovering how to best support people living with arthritis today, while working tirelessly towards a cure.

We invite you to learn more about our [Top 10 Arthritis Society Research Advances of 2018](#) made possible through the generosity and vision of our donors and funding partners. The Arthritis Society is proud of what we have accomplished together this past year and look forward to sharing news of the many more discoveries to come.



Arthritis Forum a success in Quebec

The Arthritis Forum, now in its fifth year, attracted 1200 participants who wished to learn more about arthritis. Webcast live from Montreal and including satellite events organized in seven different towns, the Forum could not be a success without the dedication of the Arthritis Society's Quebec team and without the support of more than 80 volunteers!

Arthritis Society 70th Anniversary Gala

The Arthritis Society 70th Anniversary Gala will be held on March 7, 2019 at Arcadian Court in Toronto. The Gala will focus on celebrating and recognizing the achievements of trailblazing women who have had an impact on the research and science surrounding Arthritis. This includes a tribute to Dr. Claire Bombardier and her research as well as the many other women who have contributed to Arthritis research. For more information and to purchase tickets, please contact Amy Burstyn at amy@burstyninc.com or at 647.272.3776



CANADIAN SPONDYLITIS ASSOCIATION

New Resources at The Canadian Spondylitis Association

The Canadian Spondylitis Association has recently updated its Ankylosing Spondylitis Guidebook with the support of Dr. Inman, Dr. Haroon and Brandon Wren (pharmacist). We have also developed a new Guidebook on Psoriatic Arthritis with the support Dr. Gladman, Dr. Chandran, Brandon Wren (pharmacist) and Jennifer Boyle (patient).

Both resources can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.spondylitis.ca/the-latest/downloads/> and hard copies can be ordered by emailing: excdirector@spondylitis.ca.

McCAIG INSTITUTE FOR BONE AND JOINT HEALTH

Congratulations to McCaig Institute members

Happy New Year, from the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health!
It has been a busy few months, with many of our McCaig Institute members receiving awards, including:



- **Dr. Sarah Manske** received funding in the recent Arthritis Society Stars Career Development Award competition
- **Dr. Cheryl Barnabe** won a Killam Teaching and Research Award
- **Dr. Benedikt Hallgrímsson** was elected as a fellow of the American Association of the Advancement of Science
- **Dr. Deborah Marshall** was the recipient of the Peak Scholar Award from the University of Calgary
- **Dr. Scott Brunet** received the AAC Master Student Award (sponsored by the McCaig Institute)
- **Dr. Claire Barber** received the AAC Early Career Research in Health Science/Population Health Award (sponsored by Arthritis Research Canada)
- **Dr. Elena Lopatina** received the AAC PhD Student Award (sponsored by Arthritis Consumer Experts).

Congratulations to all award winners! For more news about the McCaig Institute, download our [winter newsletter](#), or visit our website mccaig.ucalgary.ca.

CANADIAN ARTHRITIS PATIENT ALLIANCE

CAPA's updated website



In response to CAPA members' feedback, we've updated [our website](#) so it's easier to navigate, find resources, and view it on a mobile device. Highlighting some of our resources, these include a [Methotrexate Tips and Tricks sheet](#) informed by patients, reviewed by health care professionals, and now available in 4 languages (English, French, Spanish, and simplified Chinese); and [slides for patients about research and peer review](#) that were created in collaboration with the Arthritis Society.

Feel free to use or share these resources with your own communities and we're always happy to receive input and feedback from you on them.

CANADIAN ACADEMY OF SPORT AND EXERCISE MEDICINE (CASEM)

CASEM launches new clinical workshop

In March of this year CASEM is launching a new clinical workshop on "Understanding the Clinical Management of Osteoarthritis for the Primary Care Provider" with the inaugural course being held on 30th March 2019 at North York Hospital in Toronto. This course is targeted for physicians, but we welcome those healthcare professionals who work with OA including PTs, OTs and nurses.

The multi-disciplinary faculty will present on the diagnosis and management of OA from both a surgical and non-surgical perspective. Program and registration details can be found at: <https://casem-acmse.org/news-events/cme/>.

THE ARTHRITIS HEALTH PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION

AHPA membership drive 2019 is OPEN!

The Arthritis Health Professions Association (AHPA) is a Canadian organization with a mission to build and sustain a community of professionals who provides the best possible care to Canadians with arthritis through knowledge translation, engagement, and inter-professional collaboration.

Membership benefits include a monthly newsletter, continuing education events, webinars, conferences, and other opportunities to share knowledge and expertise at an inter professional level in the field of rheumatology. Members may apply for research grants and awards, attend the annual CRA/AHPA Annual Scientific Meeting and network with experts in the field of rheumatology. Travel bursaries are available to help offset costs. Come join us on this exciting journey! Visit www.ahpa.ca to find out more!

Our website offers a user friendly and efficient renewal process and will provide you with more real time, up to date educational and networking opportunities. We really encourage you to explore our website and learn more about our NEW strategic plan for 2018-2023.

Go to <https://www.ahpa.ca/about/ahpa-strategic-plan-2018-2023/> to find out more!

We hope you can join us at the AHPA Pre Course & Canadian Rheumatology Association Annual Scientific Meeting happening **February 27 - March 2, 2019 in Montreal!**

COMMUNITY UPDATES

CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ADMINISTRATIVE DATA NETWORK

McGill University Health Centre



Interesting research projects are underway at the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI MUHC), led by rheumatologist Dr. Evelyne Vinet. To improve strategies for health professionals counselling pregnant women with rheumatic disease, her team is conducting a focus group study assessing the clinical and psychosocial needs, barriers, and facilitators to pregnancy counselling in women with RA and SLE. The first abstract for this study was presented at the 2018 ACR, and an abstract will be presented at the 2019 CRA. She is also building the Lupus prEGnAnCY (LEGACY) cohort, a large, multi-centre, international prospective cohort of SLE pregnancies, to evaluate adverse pregnancy outcomes, their predictors, and potential preventive therapies.

A Canadian Initiative for Outcomes Research in Arthritis (CIORA) funded randomized controlled trial is underway assessing an educational tool for improving preeclampsia knowledge in pregnant women with SLE. Our Lupus Clinic celebrated 40 years of research this fall! Team members of the Montreal General Hospital Lupus Clinic will take part in the Scotia Bank Charity Challenge 5K run on April 27 to raise funds to support the Singer Family Fund for Lupus Research, funding that is instrumental to funding research activities at the clinic. For more information pertaining to our RI MUHC activities, fundraising efforts and our Lupus Clinic, please contact autumn.neville@rimuhc.ca.

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 will hold our annual CANRAD Network Meeting during the 2019 CRA Annual Scientific Meeting & AHPA Annual Meeting in Montreal, QC on Thursday, February 28! For more information pertaining to our upcoming meeting, webinars or all other information concerning the CANRAD Network, please contact at 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. We are currently working with several enhanced cohorts, including PiMS, CATCH, CanHepC and GENESIS-PRAXY, as well as responding to a number of queries from

Health Canada. Our team has collaborated with DSECT's webinar series; we encourage you to participate in the very informative sessions. For information on our queries, on our upcoming webinars or for more information on our team, please contact at autumn.neville@rimuhc.ca or visit our website <http://canaim.ca/>.



Calendar of Events

Annual Assessment of SpondyloArthritis Workshop (ASAS)	January 18 - 19, 2019	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
12 th Annual Rheumatology Winter Clinical (RWCS) Symposium, The Premier International Academic Rheumatology Meeting	February 13 - 16, 2019	Maui, Hawaii, USA
2019 Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) Annual Scientific Meeting & AHPA Annual Meeting	February 27 - March 2, 2019	Montreal, Quebec
CORA 2019: The 5 th International Congress on Controversies in Rheumatology and Autoimmunity	March 14 - 16, 2019	Florence, Italy
Canadian Rheumatology Ultrasound Society (CRUS) Basic Course	March 23 - 24, 2019	Toronto, Ontario
World Congress on Osteoporosis, Osteoarthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases (WCO IOF-ESCEO)	April 4 - 7, 2019	Paris, France
Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance (CARRA) Annual Scientific Meeting	April 10 - 14, 2019	Louisville, Kentucky, USA
14 th International Society on Scoliosis Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Treatment (SOSORT) Meeting	April 25 - 27, 2019	San Francisco, California, USA
Osteoarthritis Research Society International (OARSI 2019) World Congress	May 2 - 5, 2019	Toronto, Ontario
50 th Edition of the Laurentian Conference of Rheumatology	May 9 - 11, 2019	Esterel, Quebec, Canada
2019 EULAR – The European Congress of Rheumatology	June 12 - 15, 2019	Madrid, Spain

ABOUT THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

With more than 35 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: Lina Gazizova at lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca or visit our website: www.arthritisalliance.ca.