

UPDATE FROM THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

TOWARDS A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ARTHRITIS

August 31, 2012

18 days to the launch!

It's almost here! Eighteen days and counting to the release of *JOINT ACTION ON ARTHRITIS: A Framework to Improve Arthritis Prevention and Care in Canada.*



Where are we now?

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

On Monday, August 27th the Executive Committee reviewed the pre-release version of the National Framework document. In addition to the report, there will be a two-page executive summary hand out. The document will go to print the week of September 4th. Embargoed copies will be sent to members during the week of **September 10, 2012.**

PRE-LAUNCH

Invitations for the stakeholder Webinar meetings will be sent next week. The webinars will provide pre-launch briefings on the National Framework for Arthritis Alliance stakeholders and government officials. The two webinars are expected to take place the week of **September 10th.**

THE LAUNCH

As previously announced, the launch event will take place at the **McCaig Tower**, located at 3134 Hospital Drive NW, **Calgary, Alberta** at **10:00 AM mountain time** on **September 18, 2012.** A launch committee has been established and is working with the Alliance's PR/GR partner, Edelman, through a detailed communications plan to support the event.

The launch will be webcast so that all interested stakeholders can participate. Webcast details will be sent prior to the launch.

MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to report that two more organizations have agreed to join the Arthritis Alliance:

Arthritis Research Foundation

Institute for Work and Health

If you know of any organizations that would be interested in and aligned with the Arthritis Alliance initiatives, please let us know by contacting the Arthritis Alliance office at jcoish@mtsinai.on.ca or 416-586-4770.

How can you help promote the National Framework?

We need your help to promote the National Framework! The following materials are currently being developed for you to include in your promotional activities:

- Summary paragraph describing the National Framework
- One page summary of the National Framework
- Weekly newsletters
- National Framework report and Models of Care tool

Finally, the National Framework is a living document and its priorities will continually be updated as new issues and challenges are revealed. To this end, keep sending us your suggestions and ideas for the National Framework.

How can you be part of the solution?

You can also help and get involved by:

- Visiting www.ArthritisAlliance.ca
- Providing feedback. Give us your ideas
- Giving us an update to share with the group
- Telling us about your upcoming events, initiatives and announcements that are aligned with the National Framework
- Helping us to promote the launch of the National Framework
- Telling our story and telling yours
- Telling your friends and family
- Writing and calling your local MP/MPP, your Premier, Minister of Health, etc.
- Sharing on Twitter, Facebook and other social media channels

Updates from our members

ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS- to launch Report Card on provincial formulary reimbursement listings for biologic response modifiers

Arthritis Consumer Experts (ACE) annually ranks publicly funded medication formularies based on the number of medically necessary arthritis medications (biologic response modifiers or "biologics") the formularies list.

This year, ACE intends to release its Report Card following the launch of the National Framework as a supporting document to further advance the key strategies of the Framework.

In practice, the Report Card is a call to action for 1) consumers to be able to choose the medication most appropriate for their specific risk factors; and 2) governments to assess and improve their performance in providing access to biologics in treatment for rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, and psoriatic arthritis.

THE CANADIAN ORTHOPAEDIC FOUNDATION - Hip Hip Hooray

The Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation (COF) needs your help to keep Canada moving. We invite you to celebrate your mobility by joining orthopaedic patients and surgeons across the country for *Hip Hip Hooray!* September 26-30. Count your steps with a pedometer to raise money for bone and joint health.

What is *Hip Hip Hooray!*? *Hip Hip Hooray!*, the signature fundraising campaign of the COF, is a walk for bone and joint health. Everyone can participate from coast-to-coast between September 26 and 30.

Here's how it works: Participants set a walking goal for themselves and, from September 26-30, wear a pedometer on their waist to count their steps. They wear it all day and track their progress against their goal. A healthy adult should be walking at least 10,000 steps a day to be considered "active".

To participate simply order a walker package (\$25 per person) which includes: a pedometer, goal card and step tracking worksheet.

How to Register Yourself or a Team: You may register at www.hiphiphooray.org.

For Questions and More Information: Contact Donna Weiss at hjh@canorth.org or 1-800-461-3639 ext 2.

CONSUMER ADVISORY BOARD OF THE ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CENTRE OF CANADA-ARTHRITIS - ACTIVE FOR LIFE!

To ensure that the latest osteoarthritis research gets into the hands of people with arthritis, the Consumer Advisory Board of the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada is hosting ROAR (**R**eaching **O**ut with **A**rthritis **R**esearch) on **Saturday, October 13, 2012**. The scientific researchers at the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada (ARC) will be speaking about the best ways for those with osteoarthritis (OA) to stay active for life. This event will provide the latest OA management strategies and an update on current research activities.

ROAR is an interactive, educational forum that was developed in British Columbia seven years ago. It is an event where the "latest" research findings are presented to people with arthritis, their family members and the public, in easy to understand language.

ROAR brings the "latest" arthritis research to you!

Public Forum:
Saturday, October 13, 2012
9:30 am - 1:00 pm

Alice MacKay Room, Library Square, Vancouver Public Library
Registration: www.arthritisresearch.ca/ROAR
or call 604-207-4005
Fee: \$5

Webcast: The event will be webcast for those outside the Vancouver area. For more details on accessing the webcast please email ecarruthers@arthritisresearch.ca and put ROAR 2012 Webcast in the subject line of your email.

Calendar of Events

September

Arthritis Awareness month

- September 13 Arthritis Alliance of Canada Steering Committee and AGM teleconference (5:00 pm ET)
- September 18 Launch Event for the National Framework, 10:00 AM (MT), McCaig Tower, Calgary, AB
- September 21-23 The Arthritis Society/CAN Trainee Workshop, Deerhurst, Huntsville, ON
- September 26-30 Hip Hip Hooray! 2012 – Step Up to the Challenge! The Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation
- October 12 World Arthritis Day
- October 13 Arthritis - Active for Life!, 9:30- 1:00 PT Pacific Vancouver Public Library (live web stream)
- October 16 World Spine Day
- October 17 World Trauma Day
- October 19 World Pediatric Bone & Joint Day
- October 20 World Osteoporosis Day

THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE NEEDS TO HEAR YOUR SUCCESSES, STORIES AND PROJECTS THAT WILL SUPPORT THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK EFFORT. IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO BE FEATURED HERE, PLEASE FORWARD YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO jcoish@mtsinaion.ca.

ABOUT THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada, formerly the Alliance for the Canadian Arthritis Program (ACAP), was formed in 2002. Its goal is to improve the lives of Canadians with arthritis.

With more than 20 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 416-586-4770 or jcoish@mtsinaion.ca
www.arthritisalliance.ca