

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

NEWSLETTER

November 14, 2012

JOINT ACTION ON ARTHRITIS: A Framework to Improve Arthritis Prevention and Care in Canada continues to drive momentum!

Since the Arthritis Alliance launched *Joint Action on Arthritis*, there has been an increase in awareness and a steady stream of interest from influential government groups, both federally and provincially.

Please, read on for an update on government meetings and other activities.....



Welcome New Chair

We are pleased to welcome Ms. Janet Yale, CEO and President of The Arthritis Society, as the new Chair of the Alliance. Ms. Yale has already assumed the role with much enthusiasm and we look forward to her leadership in the Alliance.



Janet Yale joined The Arthritis Society as President and CEO in June 2012. Ms Yale served as CEO of Scouts Canada from September 2010 to November 2011. Prior to her role at Scouts Canada, she served in senior leadership roles at TELUS, including as national chair of TELUS' Community Boards from January 2009 to June 2010, further developing and refining TELUS' innovative leadership with its unique corporate philanthropy model. To view Ms Yale' s full bio [click here](#).

Special Thanks to Dr. Dianne Mosher

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada would like to give a special recognition to Dr. Dianne Mosher for her many years of leadership, as President and Chair. Her commitment and hard work played a vital role in getting the organization where it is today. Janet Yale commented that “ we are very pleased to have her continued support in the role of Advisor to the Board” .

Federal and Provincial Government Outreach

We have conducted a multi-staged outreach to government officials across Canada for the purpose of discussing the Framework and key initiatives which may be of particular interest to these officials.

The following meetings with AAC representatives have occurred:

Federal
Hon. Hedy Fry, MP Vancouver Centre, House of Commons Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on Health
Hon. Colin Carrie, MP Oshawa, House of Commons, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health
Ontario
Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
Saad Rafi, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
Alberta
Neil MacDonald, Assistant Deputy Minister, Family and Population Health
Saskatchewan
Margaret Baker, Director, Ministry of Health
Newfoundland
Colleen Stockley, Department of Health and Community Services, Chronic Disease Management
Quebec
Philippe Pagé, Health Minister Cabinet

The following meetings are scheduled for November:

British Columbia
Bonnie Fiala, Senior Policy Analyst, Seniors' Fall Prevention, British Columbia Ministry of Health Services
Manitoba
Milton Sussman, Deputy Health Minister

Want to help?

You can help and get involved by:

- Visiting www.ArthritisAlliance.ca
- Sending promotional material (Joint Action Executive Summary, website information)) to your friends, family and colleagues
- 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 Framework
- Helping us to promote Joint Action on Arthritis
- 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

Member Updates

Canadian Arthritis Trainee Association (CATA)

The Canadian Arthritis Trainee Association (CATA) is excited to announce the launch of a Mentorship Program encouraging collaborations between CATA trainees and partners in the arthritis community. Set to launch in January 2013, the program supports multidisciplinary training of CATA members by facilitating short term placements clinical, research and industry settings.

In the Clinical Mentorship Program, trainees will observe the clinical management of arthritis and are encouraged to identify clinically meaningful outcomes. The Research Mentorship Program supports development of interdisciplinary collaborations and will help trainees gain access to unique resources. In the Industry Mentorship Program trainees will learn how basic research is brought to the marketplace and acquire workplace experience.

If you are interested in hosting a short term placement for a trainee or would like to learn more about how you can get involved, visit the CATA website www.arthritistrainee.ca or contact the CATA External Affairs Officer, Dr. Elisabeth Rok, at communications@arthritistrainee.ca.

Canadian Medical Association (CMA) Referral & Consultation Process Toolbox

Improving the referral/consultation process between physicians has been identified as critical to facilitating timely access to specialty care. Since 2010, with funding from Health Canada, the Canadian Medical Association has been working with the College of Family Physicians of Canada and The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada to provide resources to address this issue, such as the Referral and Consultation Process Toolbox.

This Toolbox is a clearinghouse of success stories with a goal to assist those who wish to improve the referral and consultation process in their region. It was launched in June with information on ways to address communication challenges with patient referrals. Now the Toolbox also contains information on measuring "Wait One", the time a patient waits for the initial specialist consultation, as well as information on several successful Central Intake initiatives underway throughout Canada. In the coming months, information on the use of Physician Directories as a referral tool will also be added.

This Toolbox will be a "living resource" that will grow and evolve as new approaches to improving the referral and consultation process are added to it. Along those lines, a guide to establishing a successful Pooled Referrals system will be added to the Central Intake page in the very near future. If you know of any additional success stories that should be featured in this Toolbox, please let us know.

kelly.higdon@cma.ca

Canadian Obesity Network

Recognizing that excess weight is one of the prime (modifiable) drivers of the OA epidemic, and that the Fall 2011 report suggests that targeting obesity should be a priority (along with better access to joint replacements and adequate pain management) in reducing the burden of arthritis on Canadians, an obesity management framework — called the *5As of Obesity Management*[™] — developed by the Canadian Obesity Network provides health practitioners with five steps to better manage their patients' weight and related health issues.

The core principles of the 5As framework provide a significant departure from traditional ('all excess weight is bad' and 'eat-less-move-more') approaches to weight management and includes a desktop tool to facilitate discussions on weight with patients, as well as a practitioner's guide to incorporating the 5As into daily practice. They are available for a nominal fee at www.obesitynetwork.ca/5As.

WHEN IT COMES TO OBESITY AND ITS RELATED HEALTH ISSUES, THE 3RD CANADIAN OBESITY SUMMIT IS THE CONFERENCE TO ATTEND IN 2013.

The Canadian Obesity Network's can't-miss obesity event for 2013, the **3rd Canadian Obesity Summit** (and Canada's only all-obesity meeting) is set to go in Vancouver, BC from May 1-4, 2013 at the Westin Bayshore. Whether or not you work in health care delivery, research, industry or the policy and not-for-profit sectors, you won't want to miss this 4-day conference designed to highlight the latest knowledge on the causes, prevention and treatments of obesity - and how it impacts what you do on a day-to-day basis. Please consult the conference website for further information: www.con-obesitysummit.ca

Funding Opportunity!

Funding Organization Program Name

Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Undergraduate: Mobility, musculoskeletal health and arthritis (2012-2013)
(Studentship in mobility, musculoskeletal health and arthritis across the lifespan)

Partner(s)/Collaborators(s) CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis and Institute of Aging

Program Launch Date 2012-10-26

Important Dates

Competition	201301SMA
Application Deadline	2013-01-15
Anticipated Notice of Decision	2013-03-15
Funding Start Date	2013-05-01

<http://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/vwOpprtntyDtIs.do?prog=1699&view=browseActive&sponsor=CIHR-1&type=AND&resultCount>

Calendar of Events

National Pain Awareness Week	November 4 th -10 th 2012
Canadian Rheumatology Association Annual Scientific Meeting & Allied Health Professionals Association Annual Meeting	February 13-16 th 2013
Power of Movement www.powerofmovement.ca	March 3 rd 2013
Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month	March 2013
Osteoarthritis Research Society International (OARSI)	Apr 18-21 Philadelphia, USA
Canadian Obesity Summit	May 1-4 2013
Walk to Fight Arthritis http://www.walktofightarthritis.ca/	June 9 th , 2013
European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR)	June 12-15, 2013 Madrid, Spain
International Association of Inflammation Societies (IAIS)	September 21-15, 2013 Natal RN, Brazil
American College of Rheumatology (ACR)	October 27-30, 2013 San Diego, USA

THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE NEEDS TO HEAR YOUR SUCCESSES, STORIES AND PROJECTS THAT WILL SUPPORT THE FRAMEWORK EFFORT. IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO BE FEATURED HERE, PLEASE FORWARD YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO [JCOISH@MTSINAL.ON.CA](mailto:jcoish@mtsina.on.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 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:
Jaime Coish at 416-586-4685 or jcoish@mtsina.on.ca, www.arthritisalliance.ca