

Happy Holidays!

December 20, 2012

New tool for evaluating and developing models of care!

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada, together with the musculoskeletal stakeholder community and experts in models of care (MoCs), developed a worksheet for evaluating and developing models of care. It is intended to help model developers assess the completeness of MoCs, suggest improvements and view their readiness for expansion. It can be used for the planning, development or formative evaluation of MoCs.

To download the MoC tool please click on the thumbnail below or visit

<http://www.arthritisalliance.ca/home/index.php>



Results of the New Fit For Work Survey

Janet Yale, president and CEO of The Arthritis Society and Chair of the Arthritis Alliance, presented the exclusive results of the new "Fit for Work" survey at the Economic Club of Canada. The survey revealed the financial, physical, emotional and psychological challenges arthritis presents in the workplace and the necessary role that The Arthritis Society, in collaboration with others, must play in confronting this growing challenge. To view the remarks from the presentation please click [here](#).

Federal and Provincial Government Updates

The Arthritis Alliance continues its outreach to government officials across Canada for the purpose of discussing the Framework and key initiatives for implementation.

Since the release of our last newsletter on November 14th, the Alliance has had successful meetings with the following:

British Columbia

- Bonnie Fiala, Senior Policy Analyst, Seniors' Fall Prevention, British Columbia Ministry of Health Services
- Brenda Higham, Manager, Seniors Policy, Seniors Action Plan Team
- Sherry Bar, Research Officer, Primary Health Care & Specialists Services
- Matt Herman, Director, Chronic Disease/Injury Prevention and Built Environment
- Lei Shen, Chronic Disease Epidemiologist, Primary Health Care & Specialists Services

Manitoba

- Milton Sussman, Deputy Health Minister
- Nathan Hoepfner, Manager, Analysis, Interpretation and Research, Health Information Management Services
- Dayle Ellis, Consultant, Regional Support Services
- Kristin Anderson, Director, Research, Education & Knowledge Transfer
- Rob Shaffer, Executive Director, Provincial Drug Program
- Charlotte Lwanga, Policy Analyst, MB Healthy Living, Seniors & Consumer Affairs

Alberta MLA, Sandra Janssen speaking about the Framework for Arthritis

Alberta MLA Sandra Janssen delivered a compelling message at the launch of the National Framework on September 18th. In this video clip you will find her speaking to the province's legislative assembly about the Framework and the need to address arthritis.

<http://arthritisbroadcastnetwork.org/2012/12/alberta-mla-sandra-janssen-speaks-on-arthritis/>

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

Arthritis Consumer Experts (ACE)

Cheryl Koehn and Dr. Esdaile, attended the BC Minister of Health meeting on behalf of AAC and discussed Joint Action on Arthritis: A Framework to Improve Arthritis Prevention and Care in Canada.

Koehn also attended the 2012 Canadian Health Policy Assembly meeting sponsored by the Cameron Institute where she met with key leaders and experts in various diseases. The event provided a forum for experts and emerging leaders from across the country to discuss strategic issues facing the health care system in Canada.

Lastly, ACE has also been working on the “Fight for Right” campaign. ACE is advocating for changes to the provincial formulary reimbursement listings for biologic response modifiers. ACE is now in the process of contacting key government officials in Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario to further discuss public drug plan medication issues.

Arthritis Health Professions Association (AHPA)

AHPA is a Collaborator Partner on the research grant titled “*Getting A Grip on Arthritis: Interprofessional Online Learning*” lead by Sydney Brooks and her team. Getting A Grip on Arthritis (GRIP) is an inter-professional educational program based on clinical practice guidelines for Osteoarthritis (OA) and Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and adapted by primary care providers and patients to improve arthritis Care in the community (best practice). AHPA has been represented by Kathy Drouin and Karen Gordon.

AHPA is also involved with Dr. Paul Fortin and his team on developing the web-based *Lupus Interactive Navigator (LIN)*. The purpose of LIN is to engage patients as partners in their care and wellness and support health care providers in providing optimal care.

AHPA has supported research grant submissions by Dr. Claire Bombardier, “*Interdisciplinary Dissemination and Local Adaptation Workshop for Canadian Recommendations for the Pharmacologic Management of Rheumatoid Arthritis*”; Dr. France Légaré, “*Transforming Community-based Primary Healthcare: The MOVE/BOUGE Team*”; and Dr. Lucie Brosseau’s Community Outreach Program entitled “*Facebook as a tool to disseminate updated non-pharmacological evidence to rehabilitation professionals*”.

AHPA is a national organization which seeks to improve the care of people with rheumatic diseases through the promotion of education and support of research among health professionals. For further information on AHPA, visit our website at www.ahpa.ca

Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre-Imaging Inflammation Project

The researchers of the Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre have several exciting projects underway. One of these is Imaging Inflammation, which is a new, innovative program, using the most sophisticated equipment available, in the state of the art STTARR Innovation Centre at the University

Health Network (UHN). Scientists at the Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre will be able to identify cells that cause the debilitating inflammation and pain in people suffering from arthritis and arthritis related conditions. Early identification of these cells can lead to early diagnosis, and ultimately to tailored treatments, perhaps even stopping the disease before there is irreversible damage.

The research team believes these non-invasive technologies will lead to early diagnosis, early information on whether a therapy is working, accurate measurement of responsiveness, and will identify which pro-inflammatory cells are causing the tissue damage.

The Canadian Arthritis Network

In April 2012, with continued funding from the Networks of Centres of Excellence until March 2014, CAN began a new and final chapter during which time its aim will be to mobilize its expertise and discoveries and to sustain its most valuable programs.

CAN has three overall goals for this legacy period – to support the development of a National Framework to reduce the burden of arthritis, to strengthen networks to create lasting research efficiencies and to transfer CAN’s successful programs to partner organizations.

CAN will continue to support the development of the Alliance’s Joint Action on Arthritis: A National Framework for Arthritis Prevention and Care. CAN, a founding member, will support AAC as it leads the effort in implementing the Framework. In addition, CAN’s Network Investigators (NIs) have been and will continue to provide knowledge and research expertise to create and lead this framework.

CAN will continue to work with its research network to share platforms developed by CAN’s NIs. Through these platforms, standardized tools, operating procedures and expertise are being developed for the clinical and research communities – all towards the goal of eliminating redundancies, sharing ideas and accelerating achieving results.

Canadian Rheumatology Association

The Mission of the Canadian Rheumatology Association is to represent Canadian Rheumatologists and promote their pursuit of excellence in Arthritis Care, Education and Research.

A new Canadian SLE (Systemic Lupus Erythematosus) Working Group has been developed with endorsement of the Canadian Rheumatology Association, CaNIOS (Canadian Networking of Improved Outcomes in SLE) and other Canadian Lupus Centers, to evaluate the practice patterns of physicians caring for SLE patients in Canada. The results of this assessment will inform future recommendations for SLE evaluation and management. This is especially important as new medications are emerging to treat SLE for the first time in over 30 years.

Wait Time Assessment (WTA) in Arthritis Care

One in six Canadians above 15 years of age report having arthritis and arthritis is the most common cause of disability in women and second among men. The Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) will be taking part in the National Wait Time Initiative with emphasis on identifying reasons for delay in

accessing specialty care by a rheumatologist, initiating disease modifying treatment as well as biologic response modifiers. Variations in arthritis care across provinces and differences between individual practices will be identified. If you are interested in participating in this initiative as an investigator or student/trainee, please send an email to christine@rheum.ca

Calendar of Events

Orthopaedic Research Society Annual Meeting	January 26-29 2013
Canadian Rheumatology Association Annual Scientific Meeting & Allied Health Professionals Association Annual Meeting	February 13-16 2013
Power of Movement (www.powerofmovement.ca)	March 3, 2013
Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month	March 2013
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons Meeting	March 19-23, 2013
Osteoarthritis Research Society International (OARSI)	Apr 18-2, 2013 Philadelphia, USA
Canadian Obesity Summit	May 1-4 2013
Walk to Fight Arthritis (http://www.walktofightarthritis.ca/)	June 9, 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@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 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:
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