

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

May 2013



SAVE THE DATE!
2013 AAC Conference and Research Symposium
November 21-23, 2013, at the Westin Ottawa

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada is pleased to partner with the Economic Club of Canada for a Health Care Reform Expert Panel Discussion luncheon November 21st

A final program and registration will be available shortly.
Stay tuned...

Please contact Jaime Coish at
jcoish@mtsina.on.ca for more details.

National Model of Care for Inflammatory Arthritis

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada continues to progress in its development of a national model of care for inflammatory arthritis. The Alliance is working together with the provinces and other key stakeholders in the health system to improve care for patients.

A key component of this model will be a data measurement framework which incorporates indicators that are available to measure performance for inflammatory conditions as well as recommendations on how the information can be measured, reported and used to improve performance. A meeting of key stakeholders has been set for June 7th to work on this development.

If you are interested in finding out more about the project or participating in the development of the model of care, please contact Rhona McGlasson at Rhona.McGlasson@Bell.net.



Mary Pack Arthritis Program (MPAP) – Vancouver Inflammatory Arthritis (IA) Program

Program Purpose:

Front end referral and waitlist procedures were barriers to coordinated, comprehensive care. Having its origins in The Arthritis Program – Interprofessional Training Program, the IA Program was developed to test the feasibility of providing a more intensive, collaborative, team-based, client-centered approach to an inflammatory arthritis population.

Description:

Physiotherapy (PT) or occupational therapy (OT) referrals are screened and clients are invited to participate in the IA program, as compared to usual outpatient care. Clients attend an initial combined PT/OT assessment, collaboratively set goals and commit to the treatment plan.

Advantages:

The program incorporates inter-professional strategies including:

- Shared assessment and charting
- Expedited access to nursing and/or social work services, or education classes
- PT and OT shadowed each other's practice to improve understanding of each other's role
- The Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM) is used to develop the PT/OT treatment plan, using client-centered goals, e.g., "Walk 5 blocks", "Open jars without excessive pain"
- Clients are encouraged to maintain contact for one year post program and may be re-admitted.

Summary and future directions:

Program evaluation showed meaningful improvements in arthritis self-efficacy, fatigue, and ability and satisfaction in performing activities. Clients were highly satisfied with all components of client-centered care. The program requires greater manpower than usual outpatient care and efforts are underway to increase program capacity. Other initiatives being trialed include use of the Patient Activation Measure to match interventions to client level of activation, a Patient Passport to explore how the tool might enhance self-management, and follow-up phone calls to encourage retention of self-management behaviours. The program was the recipient of the 2013 Arthritis Health Professions Association Clinical Innovations Award.

Member Updates

THE ARTHRITIS PROGRAM (TAP)

Clinical Trial Research has traditionally been comprised of pharma sponsored Randomized Clinical Trials. Improved care strategies and new agents have significantly improved the clinical outcomes of patients with Inflammatory Joint Disease. In turn, this has significantly impacted the ability Trials sites to enroll patients into RCTs for new agents.

This has provided an opportunity for sites to participate in observational trials and Investigator initiated trials, appropriate to the Canadian environment.

As a stand alone enterprise site, The Arthritis Program Research Group, in Newmarket, Ontario, participates in recruitment and data collection for SPARCC, CSRG, OBRI and CATCH cohorts, as well as investigator initiated trials, identified by various acronyms, including Optimum, RACAT and CAMEO. Participation in these cohorts affords the site an opportunity to develop a skill set and expertise in assessing and treating specialized indications. The development of the local cohort database provides a resource for potential clinical trial subject recruitment.

These real-life programs allow us to better understand the impact of arthritis in our community, as well as describe Clinical Practice Variation, as a means to identify Best Practices that may impact patients beyond that afforded by medication alone.

THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

Coming off a successful Childhood Arthritis Awareness month (March), The Arthritis Society is excited to announce that it has formed a new advisory committee on childhood arthritis. The Childhood Arthritis Awareness Council (CAAC), chaired by Dr. Brian Feldman of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, includes members from across Canada representing clinicians and health care providers as well as those affected by childhood arthritis including patients and their parents. The CAAC was struck with a mandate to help the Society better understand the issues and needs of people affected by childhood arthritis and to help define the direction, development and renewal of the Society's childhood arthritis strategy. The Council is currently preparing for its first teleconference and subsequent meeting later this summer.

MCCAIG INSTITUTE FOR BONE AND JOINT HEALTH

Save the Date for the second annual Wood Public Forum. This year's topic: Hip and Knee Osteoarthritis.

The forums will be held on **Thursday, September 19th, 2013** at 7:00pm at the University of Calgary and **Thursday October 24th, at 7:00pm** at the University of Alberta.

A variety of topics will be covered including the work currently being conducted to improve care pathways for Albertans, a live hip replacement demo (Calgary), and guests will be invited to 'ask the experts' or participate in a break out session regarding their hip and knee health. Thanks to the generosity of the Wood family, this is a free public forum.

Keep checking mccaiginstitute.com for more information.

CANADIAN ARTHRITIS PATIENT ALLIANCE

On March 27, 2013, the Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance (CAPA), an entirely volunteer-run not for profit organization, held an AGM, and is delighted to announce its President is Linda Wilhelm, the Vice Presidents are Dawn Richards and Marie-Eve Veilleux, and Steering Committee members are from all across Canada.

We are excited to have CAPA back up and running, and will be increasing our level of engagement and interactions with the greater arthritis community and beyond. We value the incredible work of The Arthritis Alliance of Canada and will be supporting its efforts and initiatives, and working to keep consumers engaged and active in all areas of arthritis research. CAPA looks forward to working with all stakeholders to help them understand why the patient perspective and involvement in treatment and research is important.

For more information on CAPA, please see its website www.arthritispatient.ca (under construction) or its [Facebook page](#).

PATIENTS PARTNERS

This month the London group spent a week with the trainees in The Arthritis Society polyarthritis training program. There were 24 participants of which some will go on to take the ACPAC training later this year.

The London Patient Partners were the second group of volunteers to be trained in the program and still have some of the original volunteers, since 1995. Since that original group, training sessions have been held four more times. Presently they have eight active and very busy members many of whom also volunteer for other arthritis groups and programs.

They have been involved in the curriculum of the medical school from the. Currently, they lead sessions with both YR I and YR II students as well as monthly demonstrations with residents in rheumatology, internal medicine and orthopedics. They have also held sessions with all allied health care professional students and also participated in community sessions on request.

The volunteer commitment of the group adds up to hundreds of hours each year with the end result of many faculty hours being freed up for other teaching or clinical duties.

Calendar of Events

Canadian Orthopaedic Nurse Association	May 26-29, 2013	Vancouver, BC
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists	May 29-June 1, 2013	Victoria, BC
Canadian Connective Tissue Society	May 29-June 1, 2013	Montreal, QC
Canadian Pharmacists Association	June 1-4, 2013	Charlottetown, PEI
Canadian Student Health Research Forum	June 4-6, 2013	Winnipeg, AB
Walk to Fight Arthritis	June 9, 2013	
Canadian Public Health Association Annual Conference	June 9-12, 2013	Ottawa, ON
Canadian Association of Continuing Health Education	June 11, 2013	Vancouver, BC
Healthy Outcomes Conference	June 11-12, 2013	Ottawa, ON
European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR)	June 12-15, 2013	Madrid, Spain
Canadian Paediatric Society	June 19-22, 2013	Edmonton, AB
Canadian Orthopaedic Association	June 20-22, 2013	Winnipeg, MB
Society of Atlantic Rheumatologists	June 21-23, 2013	
Arthritis Awareness Month	September 2013	
Cochrane Collaboration Colloquium	September 19-23, 2013	Quebec City, QC
Int'l Association of Inflammation Societies (IAIS)	September 21-15, 2013	Natal RN, Brazil
American College of Rheumatology ASC	October 27-30, 2013	San Diego, USA
Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario	November 7-9, 2013	Toronto, ON
Ontario Orthopaedic Association AGM	November 13, 2013	Toronto, ON
AAC Conference and Research Symposium	November 21-23, 2013	Ottawa, ON

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

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](mailto: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:
Jaime Coish at 416-586-4685 or jcoish@mtsinaion.ca, www.arthritisalliance.ca