

# ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

October 2014

**Inside this issue:**

**Arthritis Alliance of Canada**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference and Research Symposium.....1

**Member’s Corner**  
Arthritis Alliance of Canada Consumer Network.....2  
Arthritis Patient Advisory Board (APAB) and Arthritis Research Centre of Canada (ARC).....2  
The Arthritis Society  
National.....2  
BC & Yukon .....3  
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT).....3  
The Canadian Chiropractic Association (CCA).....3  
McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health.....3

**Community Updates**  
Canadian Rheumatology Administrative Data (CANRAD).....4

**Calendar of Events**.....4

**About the Arthritis Alliance** .....4

**ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA  
2ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**

**“Arthritis Unmasked: Genetics, Treatments and Partnerships”**

To date, 230 participants have registered for the Alliance’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference and Research Symposium October 30 – November 1, 2014.

We look forward to engaging with all of you throughout the program

We wish you a very Happy Halloween!!!



## Arthritis Alliance of Canada Consumer Network



Arthritis Consumer Experts, the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada, the Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance, the Canadian Spondyloarthritis Association, and Patient Partners will be awarding the inaugural Qualman-Davies Arthritis Consumer Community Leadership Award at the Arthritis Alliance of Canada's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference and Research Symposium. The Qualman-Davies Arthritis Consumer Community Leadership Award was created in 2014 to recognize an individual's contribution to helping Canadians living with the disease to be heard in decision-making processes that affect millions. The award is named after two of our early pioneers in arthritis advocacy in Canada. At age 33, in the middle of her successful career in international development, Ann Qualman was diagnosed with severe rheumatoid arthritis and became a leader in national and international arthritis advocacy. After a career serving his country, Jim Davies retired with the rank of Lt. General. Jim also lived with osteoarthritis and in the 1980s; he became an active arthritis advocate. Jim and Ann's shared conviction of the need for research and better care for Canadians with arthritis was instrumental in the establishment of CIHR-IMHA, and of CAN-NCE.

## ARTHRITIS PATIENT ADVISORY BOARD (APAB) AND ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CENTRE OF CANADA (ARC) presents reaching out with arthritis research - roar 2014

ROAR 2014 will be held on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre and online through a live webcast. This interactive, educational forum was developed for people with arthritis, health care professionals, researchers and the general public. At this event, the latest research findings are presented in easy-to-understand language. The face-to-face meeting and live online interaction with researchers will give attendees a unique opportunity to raise personal concerns and pertinent questions. It is crucial to convey the reality of living with arthritis to those who can steer and shape the future directions of research. More information please visit: <http://www.arthritisresearch.ca/roar>.

## THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

### NATIONAL

#### Medical Cannabis and Arthritis

In a [position paper](#) released in late September, The Arthritis Society issued a call for more research into the efficacy and safety of medical cannabis for arthritis pain and associated symptoms. Up to two-thirds of Canadians authorized by Health Canada to use it are doing so to help manage arthritis pain. With new regulations now in place to govern its access, there is still much unknown about medical cannabis, leading to potential risks for patients, and many questions for doctors who might recommend it as a treatment option. To help fill this knowledge gap, The Society [announced](#) that it will fund at least one research study on medical cannabis and also convene a national conference of relevant stakeholders to develop a shared plan of action to advance the body of knowledge on this important topic.



## BC & YUKON DIVISION

### The Bluebird Gala flies high!

It was an outstanding evening! The setting, the food, and an incredible group of guests joined together to honour and raise funds for people living with arthritis, making this an unforgettable and inspiring evening in Vancouver. Emcee Dawn Chubai did a masterful job of shaping the night and keeping the audience entertained, even joining dynamic band, The Strays, onstage for an impromptu song and dazzling the crowd with a soulful "Route 66". But by far, it was the powerful, moving and compelling speech by the Gala's very special guest and speaker, Kris Harrison that defined the event. Kris captivated the audience with his personal story of life with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. Rounding out the night was the extensive silent auction with its variety of exciting items, and the diversity of our guests, demonstrating what true community and inclusiveness is all about.



## CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS (CAOT)

### First ever CAOT Inspirational Talks



CAOT celebrated the theme of service as a driving force in healthcare professional as well as the importance of living a life of service. Current CAOT President, Lori Cyr Practice Coordinator/Clinical Resource Therapist for the Mary Pack Arthritis, spoke of the importance of Learning through Service, while former cabinet Minister Honourable Jack Murta shared his thoughts on the importance of living a life of service and embracing humility. The CAOT Inspirations Talks are available on YouTube. Please take a moment and share in this event with us:

[CAOT Inspirational Talks - Who I am - Learning through Service - Lori Cyr](#)  
[CAOT Inspirational Talks: Hon. Jack Murta - Live a Life of Service](#)

## CANADIAN CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION



**Straighten Up Canada: New Free App Launches to Help Canadians Improve Spinal Health.**  
The Canadian Chiropractic Association, in partnership with 10 provincial associations, has launched a new app to mark World Spine Day on October 16. Straighten Up Canada aims to improve movement and posture through simple exercises. The free app is the first of its kind developed in Canada for Canadians. Straighten Up Canada provides users 12 short exercise videos as well as a tracking feature to monitor progress and share with others. The app is available for free download at the Apple Store, Google Play store and on [www.straightenupcanada.ca](http://www.straightenupcanada.ca). For more information, please contact Ronda Parkes, Director of Communications & Marketing, at [rparkes@chiropractic.ca](mailto:rparkes@chiropractic.ca).

## McCAIG INSTITUTE FOR BONE AND JOINT HEALTH

We are extremely proud of the researchers and trainees who were recognized this month as Killam Scholars and award winners. Dr. Walter Herzog was reappointed as the Killam Memorial Chair and Dr. Carolyn Emery received a Killam Emerging Research Leader Award, CIHR (Canadian Institute of Health Research). Trainees Hayley Britz and Kelsey Collins were also named Killam Pre-Doctoral Scholars. Killam Trustee Ann McCaig was honoured at the awards ceremony for her 20 years of service and leadership. Congratulations also to Dr. Tom Noseworthy who was recently recognized nationally with a CIHR Barer-Flood Prize for Health Services and Policy Research. To read about the research connected to Killam awards go to [www.mccaiginstitute.com](http://www.mccaiginstitute.com).

# Community Updates

## CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ADMINISTRATIVE DATA (CANRAD) NETWORK



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 held the first of our webinars on Thursday, October 9th, 2014 with a presentation on the Population Risk Adjustment Grouper (PRAG) by Heather Richards, Clinical Classification Lead PRAG who handles Case Mix within the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). In December, we are happy to announce another webinar, a presentation by Dr. Jeffery Curtis, MD MS MHP, Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Director of the Arthritis Clinical Intervention Program. For more information pertaining to the CANRAD Network or to join our webinar please contact Autumn Neville [autumn.neville@clinepi.mcgill.ca](mailto:autumn.neville@clinepi.mcgill.ca)

## Calendar of Events

Quebec Rheumatology Association	October 23-25, 2014	Québec, QC
<b>Arthritis Alliance of Canada 2nd Annual Conference and Research Symposium</b>	<b>Oct 30-Nov 1, 2014</b>	<b>Toronto, ON</b>
Wood Forum for Juvenile Arthritis	November 1, 2014	Edmonton, AB
American College of Rheumatology Annual Meeting	November 14-19, 2014	Boston, MA
CRA Annual Scientific Meeting & AHPA Annual Meeting	February 4-5, 2015	Québec, QC
Ontario Physiotherapy Association Inter-Action	March 27-28, 2015	Ottawa, ON
2015 CADTH Symposium	April 12-14, 2015	Saskatoon, SK
Canadian Conference on Medical Education	April 25-28, 2015	Vancouver, BC
Canadian Orthopaedic Nurse Association Conference	May 24-27, 2015	Fredericton, NB
Osteoarthritis Research Society International (OARSI)	April 30 - May 3, 2015	Seattle, US
World Congress on Osteoarthritis 2015		

### ABOUT THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

With more than 36 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 [jcoish@arthritisalliance.ca](mailto:jcoish@arthritisalliance.ca) or visit our website [www.arthritisalliance.ca](http://www.arthritisalliance.ca)