

# ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

April 2015

## Inside this issue:

### Arthritis Alliance of Canada

2015 Annual Meeting.....	1
Measurement Framework for IA Models of Care.....	1

### Member's Corner

Arthritis Consumer Experts (ACE).....	2
Arthritis Health Professions Association (AHPA).....	2
Arthritis Research Centre of Canada (ARC).....	2
Arthritis Research Foundation.....	2
The Arthritis Society National.....	2
BC & Yukon.....	3
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT).....	3
Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance (CAPA).....	3
Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA).....	4
CIHR-IMHA.....	4
McCaig Institute for Bone & Joint Health (MIBJH).....	4

### Community Updates

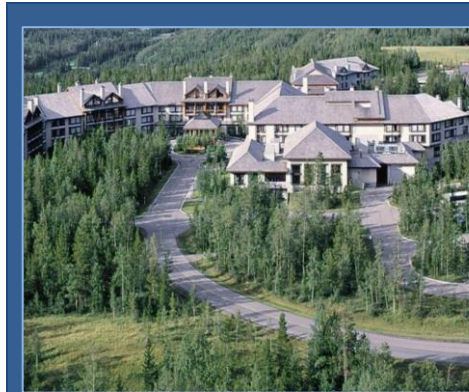
BIOTECanada.....	4
Canadian Rheumatology Administrative Data (CANRAD).....	5
Ontario Rheumatology Association (ORA).....	5
Osteoporosis Canada.....	5
Western University.....	6

Calendar of Events.....	6
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About the Arthritis Alliance.....	6
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## ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA 2015 Annual Meeting

We are pleased to announce that the Arthritis Alliance's Annual meeting will be held, October 22-23<sup>rd</sup> 2015, at the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis Hotel, Alberta. The hotel is nestled in the majestic Canadian Rockies, at an elevation of 1,522 meters (5,000ft). Located 1 hour from Calgary International Airport, the Delta Lodge is known for its miles of hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing trails. We look forward to seeing you all there!



**22-23 OCTOBER 2015**  
**Delta Lodge at Kananaskis**  
**Alberta**

**ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF  
CANADA**

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
in partnership with

**CIHR's Institute of  
Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis**



### Update on the Measurement Framework for Inflammatory Arthritis (IA) Models of Care

As you know, the Arthritis Alliance of Canada is developing a performance measurement framework to evaluate Inflammatory Arthritis Models of Care. The measures are a critical starting point for a discussion of quality and access to arthritis care in Canada and will assist health care decision makers to identify and prioritize areas for improvement, benchmarking, strategy planning, system changes and measuring outcomes. Presently in Canada, there are no existing performance measures for IA care and this work represents significant progress towards improving the lives of Canadians living with IA. The measures were rigorously developed and are expected to be tested in Canadian arthritis centers for feasibility and may be of interest to other arthritis care centers/systems around the world.

Dr. Claire Barber, University of Calgary, the project lead, has prepared a manuscript, entitled, "Development of System-Level Performance Measures for Evaluation of Models of Care for Inflammatory Arthritis", which will be circulated shortly.

## ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS (ACE)

ACE attended the 2015 CADTH Symposium in Saskatoon, the “Paris of the Prairies” from April 12 to 14. Cheryl Koehn presenting a patient perspective on a panel titled “How HTA Recommendations from Decision-Makers on Subsequent Entry Biologics (SEBs): Post-HTA and Back Again.” The ACE team in attendance also generated Symposium-related conversations around emerging arthritis issues on Twitter and Facebook.

### Alberta Election Candidate Survey

ACE sent an open letter and survey to all candidates in the upcoming May 5th Alberta provincial election, asking them how their Party plans to improve arthritis prevention, treatment and care for more than 500,000 Albertans living with arthritis. To see the survey and candidate responses, please go to [jointhehealth.org](http://jointhehealth.org).

## ARTHRITIS HEALTH PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION (AHPA)

### Build a partnership to Strengthen Allied Health Research!

The Arthritis Health Professions Association (AHPA) is looking to build partnerships that will increase support for research led by allied health professionals. This initiative encourages AHPA members to conduct their own investigations and build evidence supporting the value and impact of their roles in arthritis care. It also gives them an opportunity to contribute to the knowledge related to rheumatology clinical best practice. With a shortage of physicians in rheumatology across Canada, there is an increasing demand for AHPs in this field. Research is an important means of validating their contributions to the body of knowledge around caring for people with arthritis. Given, the importance of research that supports clinical practice, the AHPA Board is seeking partnerships to strengthen AHP research and welcomes any suggestions or ideas you may have. Please contact Raquel Sweezie, Research Committee Chair, AHPA Board of Directors: [raquel.ahpa@gmail.com](mailto:raquel.ahpa@gmail.com).

## ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CANADA (ARC)

### ARThritis Soirée 2015 to benefit arthritis research

ARThritis Soirée is an evening that brings together those who share an appreciation of art and a desire to support arthritis research. Each year, the Soirée introduces a different art form and this year is no different as we welcome Master tango dancers from Argentina. Join us for fabulous hors d'oeuvres, champagne, and wine paired alongside a legendary Joe Fortes oyster bar, Northern Divine Caviar bar and amazing entertainment including a Birks raffle, silent and live auctions. Something to suit everyone's taste. For more information, please visit <http://www.arthritissoiree.ca/>.

## ARTHRITIS RESEARCH FOUNDATION



The Arthritis Research Foundation announces their inaugural ‘Beat Arthritis Golf Tournament’ which will be taking place at Glen Eagle Golf Club in Bolton on Thursday June 25, 2015. Registration includes a barbecue lunch, 18 holes of golf (shotgun, best ball), cart, steak dinner with wine and lots of fun. To find out more about the tournament, please contact [Jennifer.marczak@beatarthritis.ca](mailto:Jennifer.marczak@beatarthritis.ca) or (416) 340-4975.

## THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

### NATIONAL

### New Arthritis Medication Guide

In the first of a series of newly updated resources, The Arthritis Society has now released “Arthritis Medications – A Reference Guide”, which can be found online at [www.arthritis.ca/publications](http://www.arthritis.ca/publications). Composed by experts, the guide will help Canadians play an active role in the management of their arthritis by answering questions around available medications, including details on dosages, effectiveness, side effects, warnings and more. This educational tool will also help direct Canadians to specific questions they can bring to their health-care team about their ongoing arthritis treatment and care.

In late March, The Arthritis Society and a wide range of partners in Canada celebrated the return of a uniquely important medication for children with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA). Naprosyn® (naproxen) suspension was discontinued suddenly in Canada two years ago, despite being the most common NSAID used to treat the pain, swelling and stiffness of JIA. Last month, thanks to the coordinated efforts of a variety of parties, the drug returned to market and is now available for all Canadian children who need it. Read the full story [here](#).



## BC & YUKON

### Congratulations to Dr. David Cabral!



Dr. David Cabral has been named as the first holder of The Ross Petty - Arthritis Society Research Chair in Pediatric Rheumatology. In his role as Chair, Dr. Cabral will ensure children with juvenile arthritis (JA) will benefit from research findings sooner rather than later. Working in conjunction with other scientists at BC Children's Hospital and the Child & Family Research Institute, Dr. Cabral will play a critical role in treating children with arthritis today as well as training the next generation of pediatric rheumatologists. Dr. David Cabral is a Clinical Professor and Head of the Division of Pediatric Rheumatology at UBC. His research interests include the study of juvenile idiopathic arthritis and pediatric vasculitis. The photo features Dr. David Cabral (left) and Richard Mulcaster, Executive Director - The Arthritis Society, BC & Yukon Division.

## CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS (CAOT) Management of Arthritis of the Hand: A Practical Approach

**Presenters: Amanda Lock & Lynn Richards**  
**Wednesday, May 27th 8:30-noon, Winnipeg, Manitoba**

There are over 100 types of arthritis, many of which can affect function of the hands: pain, swelling, joint deformity, loss of strength and range of motion. This presentation will focus on practical strategies to address each of these issues for the most common types of arthritis - inflammatory arthritis and osteoarthritis. Participants will learn "low technology" techniques to teach clients how to control pain, protect joints, and increase function. They will learn: how to do a hand assessment, management techniques such as exercise, "easy" splinting techniques (demonstration of custom and off-the-shelf splints). Participants will learn pain management techniques that clients can use at home. Professional Development resources will be made available for further study.



This workshop will focus on evidence-informed and best-practice arthritis management. Presenters will be Arthritis Society OT's working with people with arthritis, who utilize these techniques in their everyday practice. Register today: <http://www.caot.ca/default.asp?pageid=1478>.

## CANADIAN ARTHRITIS PATIENT ALLIANCE (CAPA)

In April, CAPA Board member Janet Gunderson presented at poster at the CADTH Symposium titled "The Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance Common Drug Review Patient Input Process." Janet's poster provides an overview of how CAPA has contributed to the CDR process and also includes suggestions to CADTH on how they can continue to engage patients and patient organizations in new ways.

CAPA is proud to be part of the Network of Network's ([www.n2canada.ca](http://www.n2canada.ca)) successful CIHR SPOR Patient Engagement Collaboration Grant application, "Creation of a Canadian clinical trials information website and awareness campaign in collaboration with patients and lay persons." The grant will support N2's efforts to engage patients and caregivers who are informing N2's development of a clinical trials website for the Canadian public. The website will serve as a foundation for a larger awareness campaign about clinical trials, and the grant will also support the development of materials about working collaboratively with patients and caregivers.



## CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION CRA Membership Engagement

The CRA strives to be the one organization that Canadian Rheumatologists support because we are able to deliver something which no other organization can provide. In working to achieve this "status", we have actively asked our members what they want... We began to explore this last year and led focus groups at our Annual Scientific Meeting, as well as conducted personal telephone interviews and one-on-one meetings at the ORA conference.

We asked residents how the CRA can best support them as they begin their careers, polled members during our annual membership renewal process and most recently, at the 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting in Quebec City, had our board members conduct short interviews with CRA members and potential new members. Following the Annual General Meeting, we concluded our membership engagement process with the 1st CRA Idea Generation Forum and asked members to brainstorm on key areas of interest including research, education, clinical care and representation. As we look towards the future, we will give consideration to ALL of this information to refine and shape a CRA that is indispensable to our members! If you have thoughts or suggestions in regards to the planning of the future of the CRA, please do not hesitate to contact us...whether you are a member or not!...[christine@rheum.ca](mailto:christine@rheum.ca)

## **“Have You Been Counted?” Rheumatology Workforce Survey**

How many rheumatologists are there practicing in Canada and where are they located? Unfortunately, in Canada we don't have a comprehensive answer to this question...yet. The Canadian Rheumatology Association is conducting a rheumatology workforce survey to quantify the current capacity for Rheumatology care in Canada, define the geographic distribution of care, and inform future planning. Please email [claire@rheum.ca](mailto:claire@rheum.ca). And if you are not yet counted, please: **Stand Up and Be Counted!**

## **CIHR INSTITUTE OF MUSCULOSKELETAL HEALTH AND ARTHRITIS (IMHA) Inflammation in Chronic Disease**

On February 12 and 13, together with the CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity, CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (IMHA) co-hosted an inaugural Inflammation in Chronic Disease networking meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Participants hailed from across Canada and included representatives of CIHR's [Inflammation in Chronic Disease Signature Initiative](#) research projects, consisting of nine Health Challenges in Chronic Inflammation Initiative Team Grants, the [Canadian National Transplant Research Program](#), and the [Canadian Microbiome Initiative](#). Guests included patient, charity, and industry representatives. Gairdner Award-winning researcher [Sir Marc Feldmann](#) gave the keynote address. Please see IMHA's February newsletter [On the Move!](#) for more details.

## **McCaig INSTITUTE FOR BONE AND JOINT HEALTH (MIBJH) UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**

Congratulations to Dr. Roman Krawetz who was named a Tier II CIHR Canada Research Chair in Bone and Joint Stem Cell Biology! His lab has demonstrated that the profile of cytokines in the synovial fluid of osteoarthritis (OA) patients may be linked to the inability of the stem cells to generate/repair cartilage. Dr. Krawetz's collaborative research has led to early detection of OA through a blood test or sample of the synovial fluid from a patient's joint. Having an early diagnosis helps the patient seek effective intervention options before OA becomes crippling. The Calgary Health Trust is pleased to present *Encore*, a follow up to the very successful *Music in Motion*. As in the past, the concert will raise funds for bone and joint research in Alberta. The event will take place on October 6, 2015 at the Jack Singer Concert Hall.

## **Community Updates**

### **BIOTECANADA**

BIOTECANADA is the national industry association with nearly 250 members located nationwide, reflecting the diverse nature of Canada's health, industrial and agricultural biotechnology sectors. In addition to providing significant health benefits for Canadians, the biotechnology industry has quickly become an essential part of the transformation of many traditional cornerstones of the Canadian economy including manufacturing, automotive, energy, aerospace and forestry industries.



### **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. Drs. Lisa Lix and Natalie Shiff will be hosting our Spring Webinar on Friday, May 29th at 2PM EST. They will be presenting their results looking at the

validation of JIA/JRA using Manitoba data. All are welcome. For more information pertaining to the CANRAD Network or our upcoming webinar, please contact Autumn Neville at [autumn.neville@clinepi.mcgill.ca](mailto:autumn.neville@clinepi.mcgill.ca) or visit our website <http://www.canradnetwork.ca/>.

The Canadian Network for Advanced Interdisciplinary Methods for comparative effectiveness research' (CAN-AIM) team was funded by CIHR to develop novel methods using prospective longitudinal cohorts and to respond to key knowledge gaps regarding drug safety and effectiveness by answering queries which arise from Health Canada and other regulatory parties. Our demonstration project looked at the comparative effectiveness of anti-tumour necrosis factor (TNF) agents versus traditional disease-modifying agents (DMARDs) in reducing orthopaedic surgery in rheumatoid arthritis (RA). For information on our preliminary results or for more information on our team, please contact Autumn Neville at: [autumn.neville@clinepi.mcgill.ca](mailto:autumn.neville@clinepi.mcgill.ca) or visit our website <http://canaim.ca/>.



## ONTARIO RHEUMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION So, What's NEW with Models of Care?

### Access to Specialist Care

AHRT- Allied Health Rheumatology Triage project is FINALLY underway and will evaluate the role of specially trained extended role practitioners working in a triage role to improve access for people with suspected IA. On March 6, 2015, rheumatologists and therapists participated in an all-day retreat to define roles, triage categories, finalize data collection tools and establish standardization in joint assessments.

### Knowledge Translation Program

- ✦ A *Models of Care Learning & Knowledge Translation Program* is being planned to help inform rheumatologists and health care professionals how they can work collectively and collaboratively within a team based model of care and the tools now available to help support them. Friday April 10<sup>th</sup> 2015, will mark the launch of the new Train the Trainer session in Ontario!
- ✦ Dr Wanrudee Isaranuwachai, health economist at the Centre for Excellent in Economic Analysis Research, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute is working with the MOC committee to develop a business plan for the team based MOC which will be part of the knowledge translation program

### Optimization with EMRs

The EMR committee continues to work with Ontario Certified EMRs to develop rheumatology specific tools and support work-flow efficiencies. Rheumatology specific packages are now available and an ORA Standardized Rheumatology Intake e-Form is being developed for use on the Ocean Tablets.

### Shared-Care

The MOC committee continues to collaborate with the Ontario Pharmacists Association to help community pharmacists refine their knowledge about rheumatology medications. Building on the existing MedsCheck Program, an accredited CE program is being developed for pharmacists that will focus on inflammatory arthritis, treatment options, compliance and adherence strategies and how to work closely with their local rheumatologists to improve health outcomes and support arthritis patients.

## OSTEOPOROSIS CANADA "Beyond the Break" Module 2 – Part 1: Celiac Disease & Osteoporosis

**Date:** May 8, 2015

**Time:** 12:00 pm EDT

**Presenter:** Dr. Maria Ines Pinto Sanchez

**Register at:** <http://www.osteoporosis.ca/health-care-professionals/beyond-the-break/>

## WESTERN UNIVERSITY Suzanne Bernier Memorial Lecture in Skeletal Biology

Western University (London, Canada) is hosting the annual *Suzanne Bernier Memorial Lecture in Skeletal Biology*. On 5 May 2015, Dr. Nancy Lane (University of California, Davis) will speak on *\*Treatment for bone diseases and inflammatory arthritis \*with a little help from your own stem cells\**. On 6 May, Western's Bone & Joint Initiative presents the London Bone & Joint Research Retreat *\*Innovations in Musculoskeletal Health Research\**. All interested members of the arthritis community are welcome to attend. For further information and registration, please go to [www.boneandjoint.uwo.ca](http://www.boneandjoint.uwo.ca).

## Western Research Chairs in Musculoskeletal Health

The *Cluster of Research Excellence in Musculoskeletal Health* at Western University in London, Canada is seeking outstanding candidates for up to three WESTERN RESEARCH CHAIRS IN MUSCULOSKELETAL HEALTH.

Applicants should hold a PhD or equivalent and/or MD/DDS/DVM or equivalent and be internationally recognized for research relevant to musculoskeletal health. Preference will be given to applicants in areas of strategic importance for the Cluster including: Musculoskeletal Imaging; Musculoskeletal Mechatronics; and Exercise, Mobility and Health. However, outstanding researchers in any area related to musculoskeletal health will be considered. Full details are available at:

<http://www.uwo.ca/facultyrelations/faculty/MSK%20Western%20Research%20Chairs%202015%20march%20final.pdf>.

### Calendar of Events

Ontario Gerontological Association 34 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference	April 21-22, 2015	Toronto, ON
Canadian Conference on Medical Education 2014	April 25-28, 2015	Vancouver, BC
9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Obesity Boot Camp	April 28- May 2, 2015	Toronto, ON
Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America AGM	April 29-May 2, 2015	Atlanta, GA
OARSI World Congress	April 30-May 3, 2015	Seattle, WA
Primary Care Today Conference	May 6-9, 2015	Toronto, ON
Canadian Pain Society's 36 <sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting	May 20-23, 2014	Charlottetown, PEI
12 <sup>th</sup> Annual Cochrane Canada Symposium "Reaching New Heights, Measuring Success"	May 21-22, 2015	Calgary, AB
Ontario Rheumatology Association AGM	May 22-24, 2015	Muskoka, ON
Canadian Orthopaedic Nurse Association Conference	May 24-27, 2015	Fredericton, NB
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists Annual Conference	May 27-30, 2015	Winnipeg, MB
Canadian Connective Tissue Conference	May 28-30, 2015	Québec, QC
Canadian Pharmacists Association Conference	May 28-31, 2015	Ottawa, ON
Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation – Bad to the Bone Golf Tournament	June 8, 2015	Uxbridge, ON
EULAR - European League Against Rheumatism International Conference with FIMS (International Sport Medicine Federation)	June 10-13, 2015	Rome, Italy
Canadian College of Health Leaders and Canadian Biotechnology Industry Organization International Convention	June 15-16, 2015	Charlottetown, PEI
Canadian Physiotherapy Association National Congress	June 15-18, 2015	Philadelphia, PA
Canadian Paediatric Society Annual Conference	June 18-21, 2015	Halifax, NS
Canadian Paediatric Society Annual Conference	June 24-27, 2015	Toronto, ON
Council of the Federations (COF) - 2014 Council of the Federation Summer Meeting	July 14-18, 2015	Newfoundland
12 <sup>th</sup> Annual World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology	July 19-22, 2015	Montréal, QC
Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses - Dynamics of Critical Care Conference	September 27-29, 2015	Winnipeg, MB
Cochrane Collaboration Colloquium	October 3-7, 2015	Vienna, Austria
Vasculitis Symposium	October 8, 2015	Calgary, AB
Canadian Vasculitis (CandVasc) Annual Scientific Meeting	October 9, 2015	Calgary, AB
<b>Arthritis Alliance of Canada 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting</b>	<b>October 22-23, 2015</b>	<b>Kananaskis, AB</b>
American College of Rheumatologists (ACR) Annual Meeting	November 6-11, 2015	San Francisco, CA

#### 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)