

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

May 2015

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA 2015 Annual Meeting

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This year's Annual Meeting will be focused on capacity building for sustainable health care. The AAC is pleased to partner for its annual program again with the CIHRs-IMHA. IMHA will be hosting its 1st "Young Investigators Forum" session on Thursday, October 22nd. The AAC's program will kick-off in the afternoon with the Research Symposium in tribute to the accomplishments and legacy of the late Dr. Cy Frank. The day will conclude with a Gala dinner in honour of Dr. Cy Frank.

Friday, October 23rd, the "Young Investigators Forum" will continue in parallel with the Arthritis Society's Trainee program, followed by a joint poster session in the afternoon. The AAC will host its Annual General Meeting in the morning, followed by four workshops. The program will conclude Friday at 3 pm MT to allow ample time for transfer from Delta Lodge Kananaskis to Calgary airport.

We look forward to seeing you 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

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 aiming to assist health care decision makers to identify and prioritize areas for improvement, benchmarking, strategy planning, system changes and measuring outcomes.

We are pleased to announce that a manuscript on "Development of System-Level Performance Measures for Evaluation of Models of Care for Inflammatory Arthritis" has been finalized; the project lead Dr. Claire Barber, University of Calgary recently submitted the work to the Arthritis Care & Research Journal, American College of Rheumatology.



MEMBER'S CORNER

ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS

The **Walk 10 Blocks** team successfully deployed its survey and finalized the results. There were a total of 344 participants and the findings were discussed at a planning meeting and will be submitted for publication in 2015. The survey confirms that 89% respondents preferred walking as their main source of exercise. ACE led a brainstorming meeting that brought all Walk 10 Blocks stakeholders together. Disease “skits” were performed to help students at the Centre for Digital Media better understand the needs and constraints of the proposed end user. Stay tuned for more news on Walk 10 Blocks!



The Canada's Best Workplaces for Employees Living with Arthritis Awards is back!

ACE is again encouraging employees and employers to nominate their company and describe how their work environment considers the unique concerns of employees living with the most common chronic disease in the workplace – arthritis. The deadline to apply is 5:00 pm EDT on July 24, 2015. To learn more about the program, please [click here](#).

ACE would like to thank everyone for participating in [World Autoimmune Arthritis Day](#) (WAAD). The Canadian race teams included ACE and the Canadian Spondylitis Association. This year's event happened via a virtual global race. People visited social media and organizational websites, joined live webinars and chats, and accessed community resources about autoimmune arthritis from around the world.

ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CANADA

SAVE THE DATE – October 3rd, 2015 – Reaching Out with Arthritis Research (ROAR) 2015

ROAR is an interactive, educational forum that was developed eleven years ago. The latest research is shared with patients affected by arthritis in people-friendly 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. Arthritis Research Canada's Arthritis Patient Advisory Board invites you to the in-person and/or live webcast, with registration opening in early June at <http://www.arthritisresearch.ca/ROAR>. More details coming soon.

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 or (416- 340-4975), or visit the website www.beatarthritisgolf.ca

THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

NATIONAL

Helping Canadians better self-manage their arthritis is a major focus of The Arthritis Society. Late last month, The Society proudly announced its first-ever [National Education Partner](#) to help deliver on this promise. Pfizer Canada Inc. has dedicated \$1 million over three years to help raise the bar for arthritis care, to help people improve their quality of life and reduce the toll of chronic pain. The investment will support many resources, including online training programs, in-person workshops, public forums and print resources for those who intimately need to understand this disease.



The Society also launched its latest online program, called "[You and your health care provider: a guide to effective conversations.](#)" It is intended to support people with arthritis in obtaining the best possible care from their full team of health care providers.

QUEBEC

QUEBEC
FORUM ON
ARTHRITIS
2015



The Arthritis Society is proud to present its second Quebec Forum on Arthritis on October 24th, 2015 in Quebec City. More than 35 expert presentations will be delivered on topics of interest to people with arthritis, their families or caregivers, and health care professionals (who can access professional development opportunities). Two exhibitions will provide a range of services to all those touched by this disease. All about arthritis in one day! To register: quebecforumarthritis.ca.

CANADIAN ARTHRITIS PATIENT ALLIANCE

The Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance is pleased to announce the publication of our [Spring newsletter](#). Read all about [CAPA in action](#) through our various advocacy initiatives including a poster presentation on [patient involvement in drug reviews](#) and the [Arthritis Patient Charter](#). We have also continued to focus on subsequent entry biologics (SEB's) through a [blog post](#) in the Huffington Post and added to the resources on our website. You can receive our newsletter by [registering](#) as a CAPA member on our website.

We also plan on posting resources to our website that were developed by Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) of the Canadian Arthritis Network (CAN). If you were part of developing any of CAC's resources and wish to see these particular items posted, please contact Dawn Richards at dawn.richards@arthritispatient.ca.

CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION

Working together to overcome challenges

The recent launch of Pediafarm's Naproxen Suspension is an important milestone and an excellent example of how the challenges facing industry and prescribers can be overcome. The collaboration between Pediafarm Inc. and Hoffmann-La Roche Limited and support of the CRA, The Arthritis Society, the Ontario Rheumatology Association and Health Canada has helped to ensure that this important treatment will continue to remain available in Canada.

This product, in its suspension form, is only available under prescription (Rx) and is indicated for the treatment of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, and juvenile idiopathic arthritis. Effective March 31, 2015 Naproxen Suspension became available to patients.

“Have You Stood Up?” Rheumatology Workforce Survey

The Canadian Rheumatology Association is conducting a Rheumatology workforce survey to measure the current capacity for Rheumatology care in Canada. It's important to *Stand Up and Be Counted!* to ensure that our patients, and the patients of the future, have the care that they require. Please email claire@rheum.ca for an invitation to this survey.

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. 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 or visit our website <http://www.canradnetwork.ca/>.

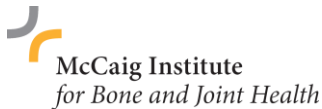
The **CANadian Network for Advanced Interdisciplinary Methods** for comparative effectiveness research' (CAN-AIM) team was funded by CIHR to develop novel methods using prospective longitudinal cohorts and to respond to key knowledge gaps regarding drug safety and effectiveness by answering queries which 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 or visit our website <http://canaim.ca/>.



INSTITUTE OF HEALTH ECONOMICS **“Rheumatoid arthritis in a policy perspective”**

A “Registry for research and better treatment of Albertans” was published by the Institute of Health Economics in March 2015. This report was done in collaboration with the Institute of Health Economics, the University of Calgary, the University of Alberta and the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health. The objectives of this report were to highlight the benefits of the current Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) Biologics registry in Alberta (Alberta Pharmacosurveillance Program) and the importance of an expanded RA registry moving forward. Overall, 11 recommendations were made spanning the areas of funding support, operational changes, evidence generation and partnerships. With subsequent entry biologics now here, there is growing impetus for a registry that expands on the previous biologics registry, which only included patients who were prescribed a biologic therapy.

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



The 2nd Annual McCaig Meeting in Musculoskeletal (MSK) Diseases took place on May 8, 2015 at the University of Calgary. The event is organized annually to bring together the multidisciplinary labs and clinicians in the MIBJH to present their research developments. The keynote speakers were internationally renowned researchers Susmita Bose, PhD from Washington State University and Kathryn Sophia Stok, PhD from Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule in Zurich. About 100 trainees and faculty members attended this year's event which involved 21 talks from trainees and 30 poster presentations; a great opportunity for trainees to practice their presentation skills!

UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK

Toronto Rehabilitation Institute - UHN is pleased to announce the 2015 Musculoskeletal Conference, "Is it really a pain in the...back? An interprofessional approach to back pain assessment and rehabilitation". Join fellow health care professionals to network, exchange knowledge and share best practices in the delivery of care to this population. Leading back care experts will focus on the evolving complexity in caring for individuals with back pain. We will highlight the current health care landscape and trends; conservative management and surgical decision making as well as feature four workshops that will explore: screening and management of inflammatory back conditions; review of x-rays and biomechanics; the role of pharmaceuticals and practical therapeutic interventions in back rehabilitation.

Benefit from a full day of pure productivity featuring enlightening keynote presentations and interactive workshops. Register now and don't miss out!

<http://uhn.us1.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=3e6a33b4287b09c8f6b949426&id=0f6dffea72&e=c1b6c0f453>>

Conference Date: May 29, 2015

Conference Venue: Marriott Bloor Yorkville Hotel

For questions regarding the Conference, please contact Lisa Semeniuk via email at lisa.semeniuk@uhn.ca.

WESTERN UNIVERSITY **Western establishes The Bone and Joint Institute**

Western University has taken another bold step toward positioning itself as a global leader in research and innovation in musculoskeletal (MSK) health by establishing The Bone and Joint Institute. The Institute will focus on four academic priorities: excellence in innovation, including new preventive, rehabilitative, medical and surgical therapies, diagnostic techniques, and medical

and assistive devices; collaboration, bringing together integrated transdisciplinary teams; education, to produce the next generation of MSK researchers; and knowledge translation, to move new knowledge from the laboratory to the community, marketplace and clinic.

The Bone and Joint Institute and the Collaborative Training Program in Musculoskeletal Health Research (CMHR) also announced that Dr. Shabana Amanda Ali has been named the first recipient of the Kirkley Postdoctoral Fellowship in Musculoskeletal Health Research and Innovation, which is aimed at promoting the recruitment of exceptional candidates to foster new collaborative research and bridge existing areas of strength in MSK research at Western. These announcements build on Western's \$5 million investment in the Western Cluster of Research Excellence in Musculoskeletal Health in November 2014, funding more than 70 researchers from the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry and the Faculties of Health Sciences, Engineering, Science and Social Science to study conditions such as arthritis, osteoporosis, trauma, and work, sport and exercise-related injuries.

Calendar of Events

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
Council of the Federations (COF) - 2014 Council of the Federation Summer Meeting	June 24-27, 2015	Toronto, ON
12 th Annual World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology	July 14-18, 2015	Newfoundland
Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses - Dynamics of Critical Care Conference	July 19-22, 2015	Montréal, QC
Cochrane Collaboration Colloquium	September 27-29, 2015	Winnipeg, MB
Vasculitis Symposium	October 3-7, 2015	Vienna, Austria
Canadian Vasculitis (CandVasc) Annual Scientific Meeting	October 8, 2015	Calgary, AB
Arthritis Alliance of Canada 3 rd Annual Meeting	October 9, 2015	Calgary, AB
American College of Rheumatologists (ACR) Annual Meeting	October 22-23, 2015	Kananaskis, AB
	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 or visit our website: www.arthritisalliance.ca