

# ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

February 2016

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## ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

### Positioning Arthritis as a National Priority

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC) have engaged Hill + Knowlton Strategies, experts in strategic communications and government relations to develop a strategic plan to work with governments across Canada to prioritize arthritis as a major health concern and priority for action. Efforts are underway to build relationships with the new Liberal government to raise awareness of the burden of arthritis. The AAC has secured an initial round of nine introductory meetings with government over 2.5 days in Ottawa, February 22-24. The meetings are with the government representatives in the following departments:

- ✓ Public Health Agency of Canada
- ✓ Health Canada
- ✓ Ministry of Employment and Social Development
- ✓ Ministry of Indigenous and Northern Affairs
- ✓ Ministry for Families, Children and Social Development
- ✓ Ministry of Sport and Persons with Disabilities; and
- ✓ Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development, and Labour.

The outcomes of this first round of introductory meetings will be shared with our Members via regular updates in the Newsletter and email.

***We need your involvement to position arthritis as a national priority, everyone has a role to play!*** To help us **ensure a coordinated approach**, please advise of any outreach you do and/or meetings with your local MP so that we can keep track and avoid sending multiple letters to the same person. Thank you!

## 2016 AAC ANNUAL MEETING

Save the date!

**Annual Meeting**  
ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA



**October 27–28, 2016**  
INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL  
MONTREAL, QUEBEC

In partnership with  
**The Arthritis Society**  
and  
**CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis**





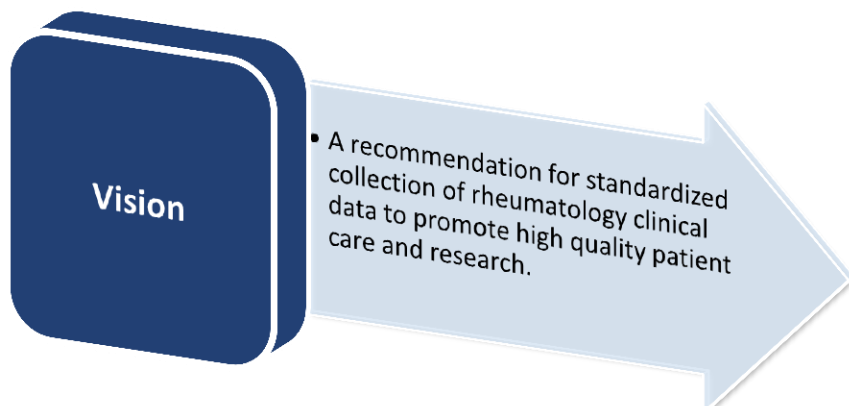

## IA Model of Care System-Level Performance Measurement Framework

The AAC and key stakeholders have worked to define the system-level performance measures for IA care in Canada that will serve as a toolkit for healthcare decision-makers (administrators, clinicians, managers and policy makers) to evaluate health systems and inform health system changes with the goal of developing safe, cost-effective, efficient high quality care for patients with IA. This work represents significant progress towards improving the lives of Canadians living with IA.

An article, the “*Development of System-level Performance Measures for Evaluation of Inflammatory Arthritis Models of Care*” was published in the Journal of Rheumatology and available for viewing here:

<http://www.arthritisalliance.ca/en/measurement-framework-for-ia-models-of-care>. The article describes the candidate performance measures, the approach and methods of their evaluation. Please forward and share with your colleagues.

## A PAN-CANADIAN CLINICAL DATASET FOR RHEUMATOLOGY



Duplication of data collection for research purposes is costly and also a burden on healthcare providers and patients. Utilizing EMR's and existing databases can drive quality improvements in care and strengthen our healthcare system.

The AAC has formed a national working group of clinicians, researchers, and patients, with an interest in data collection for improved clinical care, quality assurance, and research.

If you would like more information, please contact Jaime Coish:

[jcoish@arthritisalliance.ca](mailto:jcoish@arthritisalliance.ca)

## MEMBER'S CORNER

### NATIONAL

### THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

#### New online learning resources

On Tuesday March 1, The Arthritis Society will be launching two new online learning resources to assist Canadians in managing their arthritis:

#### ***Chronic Pain Management Workshop – Online (CPMW)***

This interactive learning module brings the content from our popular chronic pain management workshops to the web, arming users with strategies to help manage pain and take back control of their lives.

#### ***Symptom Checker***

This interactive tool walks users who are experiencing joint pain through a series of simple questions about their symptoms. It then generates a PDF they can take to their health care provider to help facilitate a discussion of their symptoms and aid in diagnosis. The tool also suggests a common arthritis type or types the user may want to be aware of based on their answers.

Watch for these new tools to go live March 1 at [www.arthritis.ca/education](http://www.arthritis.ca/education)

#### **Childhood Arthritis Month**

March is Childhood Arthritis Month, and we're telling the stories of children and teens living with arthritis to help make sure no child is left out of school or play because they're in pain. As many as 24,000 Canadian children aged 18 and under live with a form of arthritis, or more than 3 out of every 1,000 kids. Find out more at [www.arthritis.ca/childhood](http://www.arthritis.ca/childhood), or check with your local Arthritis Society office to find out about events in your region.



## ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS



Across Canada, public and private drug plans are increasingly using reference-based pricing policies to contain costs. The BC government is expanding its program for reference price and reference product through Reference Drug Program (RDP)

Modernization. In anticipation of this change in policy, Arthritis Consumer Experts has led efforts on behalf of the Better Pharmacare Coalition to survey the opinions of British Columbians regarding this change in policy.

ACE managed the media and government outreach around the February release of the poll that found 82% of British Columbians concerned administrators of the BC PharmaCare program will be implementing a policy that tells physicians which medications they can prescribe for patients, even if it goes against physicians' opinions of the best care for their patients. Cheryl Koehn, founding member of the Better Pharmacare Coalition, in interviews with CBC and in an Op-Ed in the Huffington Post, was quoted expressing concerns that this policy change will adversely affect thousands of patients, in particular, our most vulnerable patient populations: the elderly and low-income.

## ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CANADA



Arthritis Research Canada is pleased to announce the release of 2 different videos in celebration of Chinese New Year 2016. These arthritis educational videos have been produced to reach the Chinese-speaking population. **We believe these videos are the first of their kind to be produced:** <http://www.arthritisresearch.ca/educational-videos-chinese>. Please see the attached PDF media release for more information and details. For media enquiries or to arrange an interview, please call 604-207-4010 or [kallen@arthritisresearch.ca](mailto:kallen@arthritisresearch.ca).

## CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION

### 2016 Award Recipients

**Dr. Ronald Laxer**

Distinguished Rheumatologist Award

**Dr. Proton Rahman**

Distinguished Investigator Award

**Dr. Lori Albert**

Teacher-Educator Award

**Dr. Nigil Haroon**

Young Investigator Award

**Dr. Ines Colmegna**

Summer Studentship Mentor Award

**Dr. Henry Aaverns**

Practice Reflection Gold Award

**Dr. Philip Baer and Dr. Jean -Pierre  
Raynauld**

Practice Reflection Silver Award

**Dr. Robert Ferrari**

Practice Reflection Bronze Award



***Congratulations to all award recipients!***

## CANADIAN SPONDYLITIS ASSOCIATION

The Canadian Spondylitis Association will be holding patient forums addressing both AS and PsA in Hamilton and Ottawa, Ontario, in September 2016. We will also be holding one or more AS forums in Haida Gwaii, likely in the Spring and will be participating in The Arthritis Society's Quebec Arthritis Congress in Montreal in October.

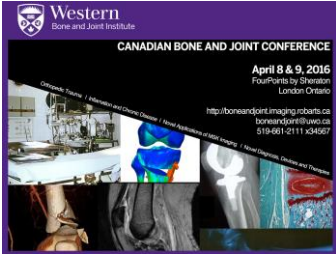
Other projects in 2016 include the production of an AS Guide for patients and an awareness campaign targeted at primary and allied health care providers with the objective of reducing the time from onset of disease until diagnosis.

**McCaig INSTITUTE FOR BONE AND JOINT HEALTH**  
**University of Calgary**

In April, the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health will host the first TENET I2C (Innovation to Commercialization event at the University of Calgary. TENET I2C is a "Dragons' Den" style competition that will award up to 100K to a team to transition medical research into product development. On April 5th six teams will pitch their ideas and compete for the title of 2016 TENET I2C winner. Check our website for more information: [www.mccaiginstitute.com](http://www.mccaiginstitute.com).

In other news this month, Drs. Norm Schacher and Cy Frank were named as Fellows of International Orthopaedic Research (FIOR). These are lifelong honours, acknowledging the service, research productivity and leadership of distinguished Canadian Orthopaedic Research Society (CORS) members.

**WESTERN'S BONE AND JOINT INSTITUTE**  
**Canadian Bone and Joint Conference 2016 - London, Ontario, 8-9 April, 2016**



The Bone & Joint Institute at Western University, Canada is pleased to invite Abstract Submissions for the 2016 Canadian Bone and Joint Conference, to be held in London Ontario, April 8th & 9th 2016. The Canadian Bone and Joint Conference (CBaJC) is thrilled to announce that funding for a limited number of travel awards is now available to trainees submitting abstracts for the 2016 conference.

To encourage trainees from outside our local region to attend the Conference, CBaJC will be providing financial assistance to a limited number of trainees participating in either poster or oral presentations at this year's conference. Students, whose abstracts are received prior to the **extended deadline of February 28th**, will be considered for travel support. Travel awards will be pro-rated based on distance from London Ontario (e.g. greater than 50km but less than 250Km; greater than 250km but less than 1000Km; greater than 1000km).

Travel awards will be selected by the Selection Committee and awardees will be notified by no later than March 15th, 2016. Awards will be distributed to attendees by mail directly following the conference. Full conference details can be found at: <http://boneandjoint.imaging.robarts.ca/>.

## Community Updates

### ADVANCED CLINICIAN PRACTITIONER IN ARTHRITIS CARE (ACPAC) PROGRAM

The [Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care \(ACPAC\) Program](#) is pleased to announce that applications for the 2016-2017 program are **now open**. Offered through the [Office of Continuing Professional Development](#) at the University of Toronto, ACPAC is an [award-winning clinical-academic program](#) that prepares experienced Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, and Nurses from across Canada for extended practice roles, including the diagnosis and management of patients with arthritis. ACPAC graduates have been recognized at the local, provincial, national, and international level for providing:

- Improved access to quality arthritis care
- Reduced clinic wait times and improved triage for arthritis patients
- Enhanced continuum of care for arthritis patients

**The program runs from October 2016 to June 2017. Deadline to apply is Friday May 20, 2016 at 5pm ET**

### BONE, MUSCLE AND JOINT DISEASE (BMJD)

**The 4th World Congress on Controversies, Debates and Consensus in Bone, Muscle and Joint Diseases (BMJD)** will take place October 20-22, 2016 in Barcelona, Spain: <http://www.congressmed.com/bmjd/>. The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of BMJD will address the most burning questions in the fields of Osteoarthritis, Pain, and Inflammatory Arthritis, and will provide an effective forum to discuss and debate these questions. In addition, there will be ample time allocated to speaker-audience discussions. BMJD is very interested in having members of your society/organization attend the congress.

CANADIAN CONNECTIVE TISSUE SOCIETY  
22<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Connective Tissue Conference 2016  
Hamilton, McMaster University, 1-3 June 2016

The 22nd Annual Scientific Conference of the **Canadian Connective Tissue Society** will be held for the first time in Hamilton, Jun 1-3 2016. CCTC consists of two days of oral and poster presentations, and as usual, a majority of the oral presentations are selected from the submitted abstracts to promote young scientists. In addition, internationally recognized invited speakers will attend, such as: Dr. Ben Alman, Chair, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery; Duke University, USA; Dr. Drew Rowan, Head, Musculoskeletal Research Group & Professor of Molecular Rheumatology, Newcastle University, UK; Dr. Eric White, Director, Sarcoidosis Program, University of Michigan Medical School, USA; Dr. Cheryle Seguin, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Western University, Canada. REGISTRATION and ABSTRACT SUBMISSION will be open shortly. In coordination with the CCTC, the **Scleroderma Research Group** meeting is scheduled just prior to the CCTC, during the day of June 1. We would be delighted to have you join us in Hamilton. The Scientific and local Organizing Committee is looking forward to your registration and participation. Carl D. Richards, Conference Chair 2016 CCTC, McMaster University.

CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ADMINISTRATIVE DATA (CANRAD) NETWORK

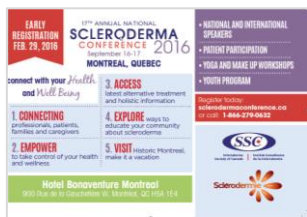


The CANRAD Network team includes a variety of decision makers, epidemiologists, clinicians and researchers interested in the use of administrative data for rheumatic disease research. We held a CANRAD Network meeting at the 2016 CRA Annual Scientific Meeting & AHPA Annual Meeting to receive research updates from our team. We heard interesting presentations on different applications of administrative data and also received updates of research activities across the provinces. For more information pertaining to our meeting, our past and future webinars or all other information concerning the CANRAD Network, 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 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/>.



SCLERODERMA SOCIETY OF ONTARIO



The National Scleroderma Conference will give you the chance to take control of your health and wellness. You can absorb the newest information in alternative and holistic treatments as well as scientific research. You can learn from the experience of others. You can gain insight from researchers, physicians and professional caregivers and find ways that your experience and knowledge can support their work. The 17<sup>th</sup> annual Scleroderma Conference takes place on September 16 and 17, 2016 at the Hotel Bonaventure Montréal. Everyone is welcome! For more information, visit: [sclerodermaconference.ca](http://sclerodermaconference.ca) or call 866.279.0632.

RheumInfo Symptom Assessor



RheumInfo has completed four symptom assessors tool to improve care for patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA), Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS), Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) and rheumatologists. The Symptom Assessor was created to help patients get the most out of their rheumatology visits. It will also provide a rheumatologist with important information such as up-to-date disease symptom scores, medication inventories and doses so they can better monitor and treat your disease. Patients are encouraged to complete online assessments prior to their appointment, and bring the results to their rheumatologist. To have an access to the Symptom Assessor, please follow the links: [ra.rheuminfo.com](http://ra.rheuminfo.com); [psa.rheuminfo.com](http://psa.rheuminfo.com); [as.rheuminfo.com](http://as.rheuminfo.com); [jia.rheuminfo.com](http://jia.rheuminfo.com).





## Calendar of Events

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons Annual Meeting	March 1-5, 2016	Orlando, Florida
Orthopaedic Research Society Annual Meeting	March 5-8, 2016	Orlando, Florida
Inflammatory Bowel Diseases, 11 <sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation	March 16-19, 2016	Amsterdam/Netherlands
OARSI World Congress	March 31-April 3, 2016	Amsterdam, Netherlands
10 <sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Obesity Boot Camp	April 2016	Kananaskis, AB
Ontario Physiotherapy Association - InterACTION	April 8-9, 2016	Toronto, ON
2016 Canadian Bone and Joint Conference	April 8-9, 2016	London, Ontario
Canadian Conference on Medical Education 2014	April 16-19, 2016	Montreal, QC
Annual World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology	April 17-20, 2016	San Diego, CA
Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America AGM	April 27-30, 2016	Indianapolis, IN
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists Annual Conference	April 19-22, 2016	Banff, AB
Ontario Gerontological Association 35 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Aging	May 4-5, 2016	Toronto, ON
Primary Care Today Conference	May 4-7, 2016	Toronto, ON
Canadian Pain Society's Annual Scientific Meeting	May 24-28, 2016	Vancouver, BC
Canadian Physiotherapy Association National Congress	May 26-28, 2016	Victoria, BC
Ontario Rheumatology Association 15 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting	May 27-29, 2016	Muskoka, ON
Canadian Orthopaedic Nurse Association Conference	May 29-June 1, 2016	Edmonton, AB
Registered Nurses Association - Annual Nurse Executive Leadership Academy	May 31-June 3, 2016	Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
22 <sup>nd</sup> Canadian Connective Tissue Conference	June 1-3, 2016	Hamilton, ON
Canadian College of Health Leaders: National Health Leadership Conference	June 6-7, 2016	Ottawa, ON
Biotechnology Industry Organization International Convention	June 6-9, 2016	San Francisco, CA
EULAR - European League Against Rheumatism International Conference	June 8-11, 2016	London, UK
Canadian Paediatric Society Annual Conference	June 22-25, 2016	Charlottetown, PEI
Canadian Pharmacists Association Conference	June 24-27, 2016	Calgary, AB
Council of the Federations (COF) - 2016 Council of the Federation Summer Meeting	July 20-22, 2016	Whitehorse, Yukon
Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses - Dynamics of Critical Care Conference	September 25-27, 2016	Charlottetown, PEI
4th World Congress on Controversies, Debates and Consensus in Bone, Muscle and Joint Diseases (BMJD)	October 20-22, 2016	Barcelona, Spain
Cochrane Collaboration Colloquium	October 23-27, 2016	Seoul, South Korea
Vasculitis Symposium	TBC	TBC
Arthritis Alliance of Canada – 2016 Annual Meeting	October 27-28, 2016	Montreal, QC
The Arthritis Society Congress 2016	October 29, 2016	Montreal, QC
Canadian Vasculitis (CandVasc) Annual Scientific Meeting	October 2016	TBC
Family Medicine Forum	November 9-12, 2016	Vancouver, BC

### 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)