

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

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ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

Positioning Arthritis as a National Priority

The growing burden of arthritis, both in terms of its impact on the lives of Canadians and cost to society, requires a concerted, collaborative effort. **We need your involvement to position arthritis as a national priority.** The AAC has already begun relationship building with the new Liberal government by sending congratulatory letters to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the new cabinet ministers. In response to your request to join us in outreach, we supplied you with a template letter and a document providing useful tips for a meeting with your local MP (both, in English and French).

A critical factor in successful engagement with the federal government is for AAC to be well organized internally when we embark on our strategic outreach. Government relations programs are won and lost on organization. Purpose, focus, determination and team information-sharing are all critical.

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!

Furthermore, the AAC has formed a Steering Committee and engaged Hill + Knowlton Strategies for expert strategic communications and government relations support to develop a strategy and tactical plan. It is extremely motivating to see the engagement and enthusiasm from stakeholders to work together collectively, with **aligned, unified common messaging to help advance these activities.**

We are stronger together! If you would like a copy of the template letter and tips sheet please contact Lina Gazizova at: lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca.

2016 AAC ANNUAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE!

Arthritis Alliance of Canada
4th Annual Meeting
Montreal, Quebec

Thursday-Friday, October 27-28, 2016

In partnership with
The Arthritis Society

THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

NATIONAL

Health Care Professional / Consumer Survey

The Arthritis Society will be conducting a survey at the upcoming CRA annual scientific meeting in Lake Louise, exploring priorities in care. This initiative builds on a similar survey conducted in Europe, and will permit comparisons between the health care system in Canada with those of other countries. A report of results will be communicated in the Spring.



ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS



With the National Pharmacare debate heating up, ACE led the development and deployment of a poll in British Columbia seeking public opinion on medication reimbursement reform and expansion through the province's Reference Drug Program. The poll results will be published through the Better Pharmacare Coalition at the end of January and ACE will lead a media and government outreach campaign.

ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CANADA

Dr. Linda Li honoured with Arthritis Research Health Professionals Distinguished Scholar Award

Linda Li, Associate Professor at UBC's Department of Physical Therapy and Senior Scientist at Arthritis Research Canada received the Arthritis Research Health Professionals Distinguished Scholar Award.

Dr. Li's research focuses in two areas: 1) understanding the help-seeking experience of people with arthritis, and 2) evaluating digital media interventions designed to improve arthritis management. Her work with patients' help-seeking experiences has brought new insights into the design and evaluation of interventions to improve the uptake of effective treatment. These interventions include patient decision aids to promote shared decision-making about medications, and online applications to improve physical activity participation.



Save the Date – ARThritis Soirée 2016 – May 26th at The Vancouver Club

The ARThritis Soirée is an evening designed to attract prominent business and community leaders, philanthropists, doctors, scientists and other health care professionals through an appreciation of art and a desire to support arthritis research.

Why an ARThritis Soirée? Research has shown art adds to one's wellbeing and therefore is a great element in managing chronic diseases on a holistic level. Moreover, art adds an extra factor of excitement and depth to the Soirée each year with the introduction of a different art form. This year's chosen art form, the Art of Fencing, will delight guests as Olympic and World champions showcase their art with amazing skill and precision.

CANADIAN ACADEMY OF SPORT AND EXERCISE MEDICINE

The Canadian Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine (CASEM) is an organization of physicians committed to excellence in the practice of medicine as it applies to all aspects of physical activity. CASEM's mission is to forge a strong, collective voice for sport and exercise medicine; to be a leader in advancing the art and science of sport and exercise medicine, including health promotion and disease prevention, for the benefit of all Canadians.

CANADIAN ARTHRITIS PATIENT ALLIANCE

Get up to date on CAPA's activities in [our latest quarterly newsletter](#), highlights include a poster presentation at the CRA (drop by and visit us on Thursday, February 18 at 4:30 pm!) and an update of the [Together Enhancing Arthritis Management slide modules](#) that provide extensive information for patients and their families on inflammatory arthritis and numerous related topics.

CANADIAN OBESITY NETWORK



The [Canadian Obesity Network](#) (CON-RCO) is excited to be launching the [Obesity Knowledge Transfer Series](#) (KTS) – an international collaborative effort developed by world-renowned physicians and tailored for Canadian medical practitioners. We would like to ask for your help sharing this resource centre with your colleagues and members. One in four adult Canadians struggles with obesity and patients are increasingly turning to their family physicians for help. Unfortunately, very few Canadian physicians have the training or resources to help patients develop effective strategies for managing obesity.

That gap is filled by the Obesity KTS. [Dr. Arya Sharma](#), M.D., Scientific Director for CON-RCO, chaired the International Steering Committee as they developed a set of resources and best practices for effective management of obesity. The resulting global model was then tailored to comply with Canadian regulations and address Canadian concerns. In this series, Dr. Sharma walks through the 5As of obesity management (Ask, Assess, Advise, Agree, Assist), designed specifically for use in primary care facilities where explicit bariatric resources may be lacking. To get more information, access our [resource centre](#) or refer to the included press release. <http://www.mdbriefcase.com/ce-programs/nov2015/p-obesity.html>.

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

Congratulations to Dr. Steven Boyd, the newly appointed Director of the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health!

Dr. Boyd has been a member of the McCaig Institute since 2002. In addition to this new role, Boyd is also the scientific director of the Centre for Mobility and Joint Health, a new \$17.9 million initiative that will be the only facility in the world to assess an individual's bone and joint health by integrating state-of-the-art mobility, biomarker and imaging data.



We would like to acknowledge the contributions and leadership of Dr. Marvin Fritzier, the outgoing Interim Director of the McCaig Institute. "Over the past year, Marv has really helped chart the course for the McCaig Institute," says Boyd. "In a short period of time, he has had a tremendous impact, and I look forward to building on what he and leaders before him have established in the Institute."

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



The Bone and Joint Institute at Western University is pleased to invite you to attend the 2016 "Canadian Bone and Joint Conference" to be held in London, Ontario, on April 8 & 9, 2016.

This meeting will bring together scientists, clinicians, biomedical engineers, imaging scientists, consumers and trainees interested in discussing mechanisms, diagnosis and therapies for bone and joint injury and disease. Abstract deadline is February 28. A limited number of travel awards are available to trainees submitting abstracts in advance of the deadline. For more information, please visit: <http://boneandjoint.imaging.robarts.ca/>.

"Cost a tipping point on knee surgeries"

A study from Western's Bone and Joint Institute could save the health-care system millions of dollars while also preventing some knee osteoarthritis sufferers from going under the knife. Previous Western-led research, published in 2008, showed arthroscopic knee surgery provided no extra benefit over non-operative care for sufferers of osteoarthritis. Rates of that surgery have declined in the last seven years; however, it remains one of the most common orthopaedic surgeries internationally.

In response, Western researchers Jacquelyn Marsh, Trevor Birmingham and Robert Giffin conducted the first-ever trial-based analysis on the cost-effectiveness of such surgeries. Their goal was to augment the previous study on effectiveness with economic data comparing both surgical and non-surgical options. The study "Cost-effectiveness analysis of arthroscopic surgery compared with non-operative management for osteoarthritis of the knee" was recently published in the journal BMJ Open. For more information, please visit <http://news.westernu.ca/2016/01/study-cost-a-tipping-point-on-knee-surgeries/>.

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 will be holding a CANRAD Network meeting at the 2016 CRA Annual Scientific Meeting & AHPA Annual Meeting to receive research updates from our team. For more information pertaining to our upcoming meeting, our past and future webinars or all other information concerning the CANRAD Network, 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/>.



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.



Calendar of Events

Canadian Rheumatology Association Annual Scientific Meeting and AHPA Annual Meeting	February 17-20, 2016	Lake Louise, AB
Inflammatory Bowel Diseases, 11 th Congress of the European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation	March 16-19, 2016	Amsterdam/Netherlands
Global Summit on the Physical Activity of Children: Active Living Research Conference	January 31-February 3, 2016	Hilton Clearwater Beach, Florida
Power of Movement	March 6, 2016	Nation wide
Registered Nurses Association - Annual Nurse Executive Leadership Academy	May 31-June 3, 2016	Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons Annual Meeting	March 1-5, 2016	Orlando, Florida
Orthopaedic Research Society Annual Meeting	March 5-8, 2016	Orlando, Florida
Ontario Physiotherapy Association - InterACTION	April 8-9, 2016, 2015	Toronto, ON
Ontario Gerontological Association 35 th Annual Conference on Aging	May 4-5, 2016	Toronto, ON
Canadian Conference on Medical Education 2014	April 16-19, 2016	Montreal, QC
10 th Annual Summer Obesity Boot Camp	April 2016	Kananaskis, AB
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
OARSI World Congress	March 31-April 3, 2016	Amsterdam, Netherlands
Primary Care Today Conference	May 4-7, 2016	Toronto, ON
Canadian Pain Society's Annual Scientific Meeting	May 24-28, 2016	Vancouver, BC
Ontario Rheumatology Association 15 th Annual General Meeting	May 27-29, 2016	Muskoka, ON
Canadian Orthopaedic Nurse Association Conference	May 29-June 1, 2016	Edmonton, AB
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists Annual Conference	April 19-22, 2016	Banff, AB
22 nd Canadian Connective Tissue Conference	June 1-3, 2016	Hamilton, ON
Canadian Pharmacists Association Conference	June 24-27, 2016	Calgary, AB
EULAR - European League Against Rheumatism International Conference	June 8-11, 2016	London, UK
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
Canadian Physiotherapy Association National Congress	May 26-28, 2016	Victoria, BC
Canadian Paediatric Society Annual Conference	June 22-25, 2016	Charlottetown, PEI
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
Cochrane Collaboration Colloquium	October 23-27, 2015	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

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