

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

Advocacy Efforts to Position Arthritis a National Priority

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC) has successfully completed the first round of nine introductory meetings with government representatives in Ottawa, February 22-24, in line with its strategic plan to work with governments across Canada to prioritize arthritis as a major health concern and priority for action. The AAC delegates met with the officials from Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), Health Canada, Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development, and Labour, Ministry of Employment and Social Development, Ministry of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Ministry for Families, Children and Social Development and Ministry of Sport and Persons with Disabilities.

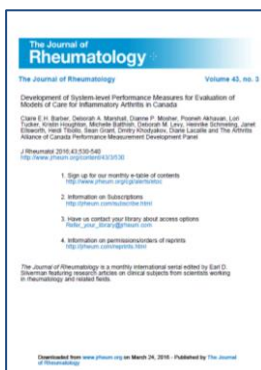
The AAC continues its efforts on building relationships with the new Liberal government with a second round of meetings in Ottawa, end of March-April. Stay tuned for more information!

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!

System-Level Performance Measurement Framework for Inflammatory Arthritis Models of Care

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 for IA care, the approach and methods of their evaluation. Please forward and share with your colleagues.



This work led by AAC and its stakeholders represents significant progress towards improving the lives of Canadians living with IA and being highlighted in the News Release dated March 29, 2016. Please click [here](#) to view a full version of the News Release.

Osteoarthritis Models of Care

Osteoarthritis (OA) sufferers have almost twice the risk of losing work time due to illness or disability as those without OA and are three times as likely to become unemployed, a research team from the University of Calgary and Statistics Canada has found. Please click [here](#) to view a News Release, issued by Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute on March 24th, highlighting the results of the study on the lack of work loss prevention programs for people with OA – the fastest growing cause of disability worldwide.

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Save the date!

Annual Meeting

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA



October 27–28, 2016

INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL
MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC

In partnership with

The Arthritis Society

and

CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis





MEMBER'S CORNER

THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

NATIONAL

2016-17 Research Funding Competition

The Arthritis Society has launched new research funding opportunities for the 2016-17 competition. Applications for the [Young Investigator Salary Awards](#), [Training Graduate Salary Awards](#) and [Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards](#) are due at 3:00 pm (EST) on April 15th, 2016.

For more information on our current funding opportunities, please visit our website at: <http://arthritis.ca/research/the-arthritis-society-s-research-program/how-to-apply>. To apply, please visit our research portal at: https://arthritisresearch.smartsimple.ca/s_Login.jsp.



BRITISH COLUMBIA & YUKON

Take Charge of Your Arthritis!

The Arthritis Society, BC & Yukon Division, is pleased to offer a free series of four workshops to help you take charge of your arthritis! These workshops continue to be incredibly popular, and we couldn't offer them without our generous donors, collaborative community partners, and our gaming grant. These sessions have been carefully developed to help empower anyone navigating life with arthritis.

The series takes a detailed look at four very important and distinct areas, providing information, education and tools to help increase knowledge and understanding to aid in the management of this complex disease. We are offering them at different locations around the province. To find out more about what is coming to an area near you call 1.866.414.7766 or visit <http://arthritis.ca/events/find-courses-workshops>.

ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS



Arthritis Consumer Experts was a top influencer in social media at the International Experience Exchange for Patient Organizations in Copenhagen – a meeting that brought together

patient organizations from around the world to expand the global patient support network and share best practices to improve the lives of patients living with chronic diseases. Cheryl Koehn provided a key note address to begin the meeting, featuring ACE's Canada's Best Workplaces for Employees Living with Arthritis program and award.

ACE is also conducting outreach with candidates and political parties in two current provincial election campaigns. We are surveying Saskatchewan and Manitoba electoral candidates about their plans on how to improve arthritis prevention, treatment and care. The Saskatchewan election will be held on April 4 and the Manitoba election will be held April 19.

ARTHRITIS HEALTH PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION (AHPA) 2016 Award Winners

The following AHPA awards were presented at the CRA/AHPA Annual Scientific Meeting in Lake Louise, Alberta, February 2016:

- Extraordinary Service Award – Rashmi Mandhane
- The Arthritis Society Research Award - Dr. Lucie Brosseau
- Clinical Innovation Award - Dr. Marie Westby
- Barbara Hanes Memorial Award – Dr. Karine Toupin-April
- Carolyn Thomas Award – Dr. Raquel Sweezie

Congratulations to all award recipients!

ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CANADA

Arthritis Research Canada (ARC) Achieves Accreditation from Imagine Canada's Standard Program



Arthritis Research Canada (ARC) is pleased to announce accreditation under Imagine Canada's national Standards Program. The goals of the program are to increase the transparency of charities and nonprofits, and to strengthen public confidence in individual organizations. Our policies and procedures in five areas of compliance were evaluated by a group of volunteers from the sector, and were found to be compliant with the Standards Program. These areas include Board Governance, Financial Accountability and Transparency, Fundraising, Staff Management, and Volunteer Involvement. Our commitment is to uphold the highest standards and policies to ensure the continued trust of our stakeholders, donors and supporters.

ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CANADA PATIENT ADVISORY BOARD

The latest newsletter is now available. It features an interview with Dr. Linda Li about the significance of engaging patients in research and stories from patients on their path to taking an active role in research. Check it out at <http://www.arthritisresearch.ca/the-arthritis-newsletter-spring-2016-web-version>.



CANADIAN ARTHRITIS PATIENT ALLIANCE

As some of you may know, CAPA has launched a project on pregnancy and parenting with arthritis. A first step in the project was the development of a survey to identify patient information needs during these critical stages of life. CAPA Board Members, Laurie Proulx and Dawn Richards, presented a poster highlighting the survey findings at the annual Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) conference. The survey findings indicate that patients have a high need for information when considering pregnancy and in carrying out their role as parents. Issues identified by respondents include:

- medication safety during pregnancy and breastfeeding
- dealing with fatigue and flares
- physical care of children.

CAPA Board Member, Nathalie Robertson, will be attending the 9th International Conference on Reproduction, Pregnancy and Rheumatic Disease in San Diego, California. If you are attending the conference, please check out the CAPA poster at the poster session!

CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION CRA Programs for Future Leaders and Young Rheumatologists

Future Leaders in Rheumatology Training (FLIRT) is a mentorship program designed for Rheumatologists at an early career stage who are likely to become leaders in research and/or education and/or advocacy in Canada. **Application deadline: April 1, 2016.** For more information, [click here](#). The Dilemma Rheum is a series of educational teleconferences designed for recently certified rheumatologists and trainees. Each session features an expert on a particular topic who will discuss and answer questions on cases brought forward by participants. To register, [click here](#).

McCaig INSTITUTE FOR BONE AND JOINT HEALTH University of Calgary

Congratulations to McCaig Institute member Dr. Cheryl Barnabe on winning the CRA/ARF Best Epidemiology/Health Services Research Award for her presentation "Biologic Therapy Complications in the Alberta Aboriginal Population with Rheumatoid Arthritis." Dr. Barnabe's work has highlighted that aboriginal patients on biologics experience higher rates of all-cause hospitalization, serious infections, malignancy and thromboembolic events.



In other news, McCaig researcher Dr. Deborah Marshall and her team published a paper in Rheumatology that found Osteoarthritis (OA) sufferers have almost twice the risk of losing work time due to illness or disability as those without OA and are three times as likely to become unemployed.

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

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 are happy to announce that we will be hosting a Spring 2016 webinar! We are delighted to have a presentation by Drs. Deborah Marshall and Behnam Sharif of the University of Calgary. Date and subject details to follow. For more information pertaining to our upcoming webinar, 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 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/>.



NETWORK OF NETWORKS (N2)

N2's clinical trials video has launched- feel free to use and share it!

Continuing to build on resources to help the Network of Network (N2) members educate patients, potential participants and the public about clinical trials, N2 has launched videos (English and French) to accompany our clinical trials awareness website: www.itstartswithme.ca / www.cacomenceavecmoi.ca!

The video provides some basic information about clinical trials; a starting point for having a conversation about clinical trials. The video can be found on the homepage of the website or on Youtube ([English](#) and [French](#)). This resource has been created with patient and caregiver input to help N2 members and anyone else interested in clinical trials, so feel free to link to the video, embed it in on your site, play it in waiting rooms, or distribute it in any way that you wish. As always, we welcome any feedback that you have. Please send any comments via email to n2@n2canada.ca.



ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE OIRM Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Symposium

Join us for a day of innovative science! Hear the latest research from the OIRM Disease Teams, represented by stem cell biologists, biomedical engineers and translational clinicians from across Ontario. **Monday, April 18, from 8:30am to 5:00pm at the Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning.**

This event is recommended for scientists as the presentations will consist of high level research. For the day's agenda and to register visit: oirmsymposium2016.eventbrite.ca".

"Stem Cells 101: The Promise and Potential"

What is a stem cell?
What's new in stem cell research?
What kinds of treatments are using stem cells today?
What is stem cell tourism?

If you are interested in these questions, OIRM has the answers. Join us in [Toronto](#) for a free public event on Tuesday, April 26th from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning. Events will also be hosted in [Hamilton](#) (April 21), [London](#) (April 19) and [Ottawa](#) (May 10). You will hear from experts in the stem cell and regenerative medicine field: a stem cell biologist, a physician and an ethicist. This event is open to everyone so click on the city you are interested in to visit the event registration page."



Calendar of Events

OARSI World Congress	March 31-April 3, 2016	Amsterdam, Netherlands
10 th 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 th 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 th 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 nd 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

Arthritis Alliance of Canada Members

Member Organizations

Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute
 Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre
 Arthritis Community Research & Evaluation Unit
 Arthritis Consumer Experts
 Arthritis Health Professions Association
 Arthritis Research Centre of Canada
 Arthritis Research Foundation
 The Arthritis Society
 Bone and Joint Canada
 Canadian Alliance of Pediatric Rheumatology Investigators
 Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance
 Canadian Academy of Sports and Exercise Medicine
 Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
 Canadian Chiropractic Association
 Canadian Obesity Network
 Canadian Orthopaedic Association
 Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation
 Canadian Physiotherapy Association
 Canadian Rheumatology Association

Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology
 Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology
 Canadian Spondylitis Association
 Cochrane Collaboration
 Consumer Advisory Board of the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada
 Institute for Work and Health
 McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health
 Patient Partners

Member Companies

AbbVie Corporation
 Amgen Canada Inc.
 Bristol-Myers Squibb
 Celgene Inc.
 Hoffmann -La Roche Limited
 Janssen Inc.
 Pfizer Canada Inc.
 UCB Canada Inc.

THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA NEEDS TO HEAR YOUR SUCCESSES, STORIES AND PROJECTS THAT WILL SUPPORT THE FRAMEOWRK EFFORT. IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO BE FEATURED HERE. PLEASE FORWARD YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO LGAZIZOVA@ARTHRITISALLIANCE.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