

# ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

September 2016

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ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA  
Arthritis Alliance 4th Annual Meeting  
The InterContinental Hotel, Montreal, Quebec  
October 27-28, 2016

**Dear Readers!** We look forward to greeting you at the AAC's 4th Annual Meeting, "**Translating Arthritis: Knowledge to Action for Canadians,**" presented in partnership with the CIHR's Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis, and The Arthritis Society.

**Please click here to register:**

[www.arthritisalliance.ca/conference2016](http://www.arthritisalliance.ca/conference2016)



## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016

The Arthritis Society Training Day Workshop - *by invitation only*  
 AAC Inflammatory Arthritis Models of Care Workshop: *A Pan-Canadian Core Clinical Dataset for Rheumatoid Arthritis*  
 AAC Osteoarthritis Models of Care Workshop: AAC and College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) collaborate to develop osteoarthritis (OA) toolkit for family practice: *A clinical tool to effectively identify, assess, monitor and care for the more than 4.3 Million Canadians living with OA*  
 Panel Discussion: *"Sunny Ways: Building A National Strategy to Overcome Arthritis"*  
 CIHR-IMHA's Research Ambassadors Workshop: *Patient Engagement in Research*  
 Reception/Poster Viewing Session: The Arthritis Society Trainees and AAC Arthritis Consumer Organizations  
 Networking/Awards Dinner

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2016

The Arthritis Society Training Day Workshop - *by invitation only*  
 AAC Advocacy and Awareness Workshop: *The Alliance Advantage: Working together to amplify the voice of arthritis in Canada*  
 Arthritis Consumer-Patient Organizations and Groups Coalition Workshop: *Patients in Patient-Oriented Research: What Should It Look Like?*  
 AAC Annual General Meeting/Business Meeting  
 AAC Research Workshop: *Knowledge Translation Research and Practice in Disseminating and Implementing Arthritis Models of Care into Practice*

## Update on Government Relations Efforts Regional Outreach to Members of Parliament

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC) continues working with its regional advocacy teams, meeting with Members of Parliament (MPs) over the next couple of months. Advocacy team members held several successful meetings with MPs across the country, including MP Wayne Long in Saint John (NB), MP Nathaniel Erskine Smith (ON) and MP Yves Robillard (QC). On September 20<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Robillard brought up **arthritis in Parliament in a question to the Minister of Health**, about what the government is doing to help victims of arthritis; furthermore, he linked it on Facebook, see it here: <https://www.facebook.com/YvesRobillardPLC/>.

Additional meetings are being scheduled through the month of September, Arthritis Awareness Month, with Minister of Finance Mounreau, MP Bill Casey (NS), a Chair of the Standing Committee on Health, MP Dan Rimy and MP Sukh Dhaliwal in BC. Team members are working collectively, utilizing the customized set of materials (a toolkit), prepared in both English and French to assist with outreach efforts with common messaging. Please contact [lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca](mailto:lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca) for a copy of the toolkit. **Please join us in our outreach program to MPs and help us raise the profile of arthritis. Thank you!**

The AAC has identified areas of alignment between the Federal government and the arthritis community, including; homecare (non-medical) support for people with chronic conditions to ensure their independent living, flexible work arrangements and workplace accessibility for workers living with chronic conditions.

In June, the Alliance participated in “invite only” Federal Government consultations on flexible work arrangements, in both Toronto and Vancouver. A discussion paper on “[Flexible Work Arrangements](#)” initiated by the Department of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour in May 2016, set the stage for the discussion. The Alliance conveyed the importance and benefits of flexible work arrangements for people living with chronic conditions, like arthritis. As a result of the cross-country in-person consultations and online survey, the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, issued a “What Was Heard” Report indicating that the voices heard will provide a strong foundation for developing evidence-based policy to help Canadians better balance the demands of paid work and their family and other personal responsibilities. To learn more at the government consultations, online and in person, click here to view the report: [http://www.esdc.gc.ca/en/consultations/labour/flexible\\_work\\_arrangements/what\\_was\\_heard.page](http://www.esdc.gc.ca/en/consultations/labour/flexible_work_arrangements/what_was_heard.page)

## Update on Development of a Core Clinical Dataset to Support Quality Rheumatoid Arthritis Care in Canada

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada has formed a committee of clinicians, researchers, and patients, interested in harmonizing rheumatology data collection efforts in Canada. The overall *goal of this process is to develop a recommendation for standardized collection of rheumatology clinical variables, in a quality measurement framework, to promote the highest quality patient care and research* in all rheumatology practices.

There were four phases in the development of the RA Core Clinical Dataset including 1) **listing** of core data elements relevant to RA practice; 2) **review** of the elements during an in-person meeting where a prioritization exercise was held; 3) **review** of the literature results for each individual element and 4) **an online-modified Delphi RAND** process being held over 3 rounds to obtain strategic stakeholder input from a broader representation of rheumatologists, allied health professionals and patients from across Canada. In the 1<sup>st</sup> round of this phase, participants were asked to rate both the importance and feasibility of including each element in the core set on a scale of 1-9.

In the second round, an online moderated discussion was held to review the panelists results from the ranking. In the final round of Phase 4, participants were asked to re-vote, considering the results and discussions arising from the prior two rounds. Elements will be included in the final set if both importance and feasibility ratings had a median  $\geq 7$  without disagreement. Stay tuned to hear more on the outcomes of this project!



## THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

### NATIONAL

#### Celebrating another successful Arthritis Awareness Month



The Society announced its annual research and salary awards, pledging \$4.82 million in funding for arthritis research over the course of the next year. The awards represent our ongoing commitment to arthritis research in support of discoveries that improve treatment and care for those with arthritis while the search for a cure continues. We also announced a further \$150,000 in funding for Canada's arthritis centres. For details on these funding programs, please visit [www.arthritis.ca/research](http://www.arthritis.ca/research).

We hosted our first-ever Facebook live stream event – an interactive conversation between two arthritis ambassadors and our Facebook followers about their journeys, self-management tips and what inspires them. You can view the recorded session on our [Facebook channel](#). These are just two highlights from a month of events and initiatives that took place both nationally and locally in Canada this September, speaking to an increased level of interest in partnering with the arthritis community to advance arthritis awareness and solutions. For more information, visit [www.arthritis.ca/september](http://www.arthritis.ca/september).

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### Visit our new Story Gallery!

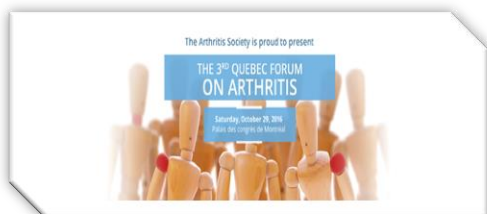
Welcome to our new Story Gallery! Arthritis has many faces, and you can meet some of them here. The Story Gallery is a gathering of personal journeys shared by people who are living with arthritis, as a means of creating a community of support, understanding, encouragement and inspiration. It is for people to visit and see that they are not alone.

We hope you enjoy this space and spend some time here. We will be adding new stories all the time! Enjoy YOUR stories here: [arthritis.ca/YourStoriesBC](http://arthritis.ca/YourStoriesBC). Read Rob Pritchard's story in our Story Gallery.



### QUEBEC

#### Quebec Forum on Arthritis goes national with webinar series After the AAC Annual Meeting, Take Advantage of the Quebec Forum on Arthritis!



Stay in Montreal a day longer and attend The Arthritis Society's [Quebec Forum on Arthritis](#) at the Palais des congrès on October 29th! This one-day event – the only one of its kind in Canada – will bring together nearly 1,000 people, including patients, health professionals and other arthritis stakeholders. The forum features [50 seminars](#), an exhibitor fair, and a [health professional training stream](#) with interdisciplinary care as its main theme.

#### English presentations and webinars

For English-speaking participants, 17 of the 50 presentations will be offered in English or with simultaneous interpretation! If you can't make it to the Palais des Congrès, take part in the event by signing up to one of the eight [webinars](#) (seven in English and one in French).

#### An app to develop your network

Join the community now by downloading the free Forum app – *QFA 2016* – on your cell phone or tablet! The app allows you to create your customized schedule, meet other participants, share stories on discussion forums, and send questions to speakers. Find the app on [Google Play](#), [Apple App Store](#), [BlackBerry World](#) or [Windows Phone Store](#), or explore our web version: [QFA2016](#).

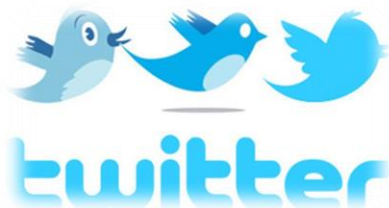
To sign up for the Quebec Forum on Arthritis: <http://quebecforumarthritis.ca/>

To sign up for a webinar at Quebec Forum on Arthritis: <http://quebecforumarthritis.ca/webinars/>

**Arthritis is a serious disease. Let's have a serious discussion.**

## ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS (ACE)

During Arthritis Awareness Month, Arthritis Consumer Experts initiated a “30 Days of Arthritis” twitter campaign aimed at Federal Health Minister Hon. Jane Philpott and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Each day, Cheryl Koehn (@CherylKoehn) is tweeting arthritis news, information, and statistics directly to Minister Philpott and Prime Minister Trudeau. The Arthritis Broadcast Network and ACE continues to share research opportunities and arthritis news via the following channels:



- Facebook: [Arthritis Consumer Experts](#) and [Arthritis Broadcast Network](#)
- Twitter: [@ACEJointHealth](#) and [@ArthritisNetwrk](#)
- [Arthritis Broadcast Network](#)
- [JointHealth](#)

Also in September, ACE is launching the Biosim•Exchange, a reader-friendly information hub for consumers-patients and health care professionals to get the latest biosimilars news. The Biosim•Exchange provides evidence-based information on biosimilars safety and effectiveness, as well as up-to-date public drug formulary biosimilars policy or listing decisions.

Government outreach activities during Arthritis Awareness Month has taken place in Ontario, Quebec and BC.

## ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CANADA

### The *It IS* about us! Report: Patients’ Perspectives on Patient Engagement in Health Research



A new report on arthritis patients’ perspectives of engagement in research was released this month by researchers at [Arthritis Research Canada](#) and patient partners from the [Arthritis Patient Advisory Board](#) (APAB). ‘*It IS about us! Patient Engagement in Health Research*’ builds on a decade of APAB’s work in engagement in research.

It presents early findings from an ongoing project funded by the Vancouver Foundation, in which APAB members were interviewed about barriers and facilitators to engaging in research. Based on these findings, resources are being developed to guide patients, researchers and research organizations in supporting practices of meaningful patient engagement.

## BONE AND JOINT CANADA Next GLA:D™ CANADA Training Course

Through funding provided by the Ontario Trillium Foundation BJC is able to provide training for physiotherapists, kinesiologists and chiropractors at a reduced rate. The second training session is scheduled for **November 19- 20**. Please distribute the information to any individuals who works with people who have OA and would be interested in upgrading their knowledge and clinical skills. Information about the GLA:D program can be found at <http://gladcanada.ca> including a ‘Getting Started’ document that will help individuals decide if the GLA:D program is right for their practice setting. You can also register for our newsletter to find out about future courses.



## CANADIAN ARTHRITIS PATIENT ALLIANCE (CAPA)

### News



We are a proud supporter of Arthritis Month and are encouraging our members to speak out to raise awareness about Arthritis. Arthritis Month is a time to educate the public about arthritis – it can be as simple as speaking to a friend, co-worker or neighbour about what it’s like to live with arthritis.

Our [Fall Newsletter](#) has also been distributed and key highlights of the newsletter include:

- A CAPA-led survey on the [use of Methotrexate](#);
- The next instalment in our series: [A Day in the Life of a Patient Advocate](#), and
- Our contributions to the Health Canada consultations on the use of Acetaminophen.

Our survey on the use of Methotrexate is open and available in [English](#) and [French](#). **The survey will only require a few minutes of your time. Please note that all answers are anonymous and no identifying information about you is collected.** Stay informed about these and other CAPA initiatives by subscribing to our mailing list on the CAPA [website](#).

## CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION Call for Abstracts

Attendees at the 2017 CRA Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) and the Arthritis Health Professions Association (AHPA) Annual Meeting are invited to submit abstracts for oral or poster presentation during the meeting. We encourage you to submit abstracts relating to original research, systematic reviews or meta-analyses or case studies. For more information about Abstract Awards, [click here](#). Abstract submission deadline is October 17, 2016: [Click here to view abstract submission guidelines and submit abstract](#).



## CANADIAN CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION

Millions of Canadians move through their day enduring back and neck pain, migraines and headaches. The Canadian Chiropractic Association (CCA) recently launched a digital campaign called Chiropractic Care Changed My Pain, to share the stories of these Canadians. This campaign was launched in anticipation of [World Spine Day \(WSD\)](#) on October 16<sup>th</sup>, a day where people from across the globe join together to raise awareness of the burden of spinal disorders. Themed “Straighten Up and Move”, WSD will focus on physical activity and improving posture as part of good spinal health and prevention of injury. Read the stories at [chirochangespain.ca](http://chirochangespain.ca).

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

The Centre for Mobility and Joint Health (MoJo) announced its official opening on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The new facility provides a collaborative environment for researchers to develop new technologies for the prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of bone and joint conditions. The MoJo is located at the University of Calgary’s Cumming School of Medicine and was established with support from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Province of Alberta, industry partners and private donors.



To learn more about the MoJo, visit: <http://www.mccaiginstitute.com/>.

## Community Updates



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. Our CANRAD team will be organizing a webinar in the fall. For more information pertaining to our 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) objective is to respond to key knowledge gaps regarding drug safety and effectiveness by answering queries which arise from Health Canada and other regulatory parties. Recently we received additional funding from CIHR to work with important cohorts to help answer queries, including CATCH, PiMS, CanHepC and GENESIS-PRAXY. Also, we will be joining DSECT’s webinar series to host a webinar from one of our colleagues. For information on our queries, on our upcoming webinars or for more information, please contact Autumn Neville [autumn.neville@clinepi.mcgill.ca](mailto:autumn.neville@clinepi.mcgill.ca) or visit our website <http://canaim.ca/>.



## OSTEOPOROSIS CANADA Ontario Osteoporosis Strategy

### Beyond the Break – Special Presentation for World Osteoporosis Day Osteoporosis Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention

**Date:** October 20, 2016

**Time:** 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EST

**TSM#:** 59955006

**Presenter:** Suzanne Morin, MD, MSc, FRCP, FACP, Clinician Scientist- McGill University

To register for this event visit: [www.osteoporosis.ca/health-care-professionals/beyond-the-break/](http://www.osteoporosis.ca/health-care-professionals/beyond-the-break/)





## Calendar of Events

Canadian Vasculitis (CandVasc) Annual Scientific Meeting	October 20, 2016	Calgary, AB
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
Arthritis Alliance of Canada – 2016 Annual Meeting	October 27-28, 2016	Montreal, QC
The 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quebec Forum on Arthritis 2016	October 29, 2016	Montreal, QC
American College of Rheumatology/ARHP Annual Meeting	November 11 - 16, 2016	Washington, DC, USA
Canadian Rheumatology Association Annual Scientific Meeting and AHPA Annual Meeting	February 8-11, 2017	Ottawa, Ontario
Inflammatory Bowel Diseases, 12 <sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation	February 15-18, 2017	Barcelona/, Spain
Global Summit on the Physical Activity of Children: Active Living Research Conference	February 26 - March 1, 2017	Clearwater Beach, Florida.
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons Annual Meeting	March 14-18, 2017	San Diego, California
Orthopaedic Research Society Annual Meeting	March 19 – 22, 2017	San Diego, California
Ontario Physiotherapy Association - InterACTION	March 31-April 1, 2017	Toronto, ON
OARSI World Congress	April 27- 30, 2017	Las Vegas, United States
Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America AGM	May 3-6, 2017	Barcelona, Spain
Primary Care Today Conference	May 10-13, 2017	Toronto, ON
Canadian Pain Society's Annual Scientific Meeting	May 23-26, 2017	Halifax, NS
Ontario Rheumatology Association 16 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting	May 26-28, 2017	Muskoka, ON
Canadian Orthopaedic Nurse Association Conference	May 28-31, 2017	Toronto, ON
Canadian Paediatric Society Annual Conference	May 31- June 3, 2017	Vancouver, BC
Biotechnology Industry Organization International Convention	June 19-22, 2017	San Diego, CA
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists Annual Conference	June 21-24, 2017	Charlottetown, PEI
Council of the Federations (COF) - 2017 Council of the Federation Summer Meeting	July 17-19, 2017	Edmonton, AB
Annual World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology	July 23-26, 2017	Rosseau, ON

### ABOUT THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

With more than 30 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)