

Arthritis Alliance of Canada NEWSLETTER

December 2017

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ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA SEASON'S GREETINGS!

Dear Readers,

On behalf of the Arthritis Alliance Board of Directors and staff, we wish you and your families warmest greetings for a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous and safe new year!

We would like to thank each and every one of you for your support this year and commitment to the AAC family. Without you, the important work that we do to improve the lives of people living with arthritis, would not be possible.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year 2018!



MEMBER'S CORNER

ALBERTA BONE AND JOINT HEALTH INSTITUTE

ABJHI Expands Research into Link Between Obesity and OA with Two-Year Post-doctoral Position



Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute is expanding its role in research that it hopes will shed new light on the association between obesity and osteoarthritis (OA). ABJHI announced in October that it is making a fully-funded two-year post-doctoral position available for this work. The position is funded with proceeds of the Music in Motion fundraiser and a matching grant from Mitacs Accelerate. In addition to funding the research, ABJHI will lever the information in its large bone and joint data repository to advance the work. "This new position signals further expansion of ABJHI's role in research using the rich data repository and our expertise in analytics and knowledge transfer," Martin Ferguson-Pell, ABJHI's Executive Director, said.

ABJHI has established two other research fellowships with funding from the same sources: one to study the impact of obesity on care for patients with hip and knee OA and another to evaluate a new model of care for rheumatoid arthritis.

Liz Evens Presents Storyboard on Success of Catch a Break at IHI's National Forum



Liz Evens, Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute's Director of Operations (Administrative), presented a storyboard describing the success of Alberta's Catch a Break program at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's National Forum Dec. 10-13. Alberta's Bone and Joint Health Strategic Clinical Network launched Catch a Break in 2014 to prevent fractures caused by osteoporosis and to reduce the rate of hip fracture in the province.

The program is operated by Health Link and coordinated across the province by Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute. The IHI's National Forum is an annual event for promoting improvement in the quality of health care.

ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS

Appointment to the CIHR's Standing Committee on Ethics

ACE is proud to report that the Canadian Institutes of Health has appointed Cheryl Koehn to a three-year term on the Standing Committee on Ethics for the agency. The committee reports to the Governing Council on emerging ethical issues of strategic relevance to health and health research. It provides the Governing Council with high-level strategic advice on the ethical, legal and socio-cultural dimensions of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research's mandate as set out by federal statute. The committee can act on its own initiative to advise the Governing Council or at the request of the President of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The committee includes the Chief of Bioethics for UNESCO, a representative of industry, seven university faculty and now a patient living with arthritis.



ARTHRITIS HEALTH PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATIONS

AHPA Membership Renewal Opened November 1st, 2017

November 1, 2017 marked the opening of the 2018 AHPA membership drive! There are a multitude of benefits, great value and associated opportunities with joining the AHPA Membership. Our annual membership fee is \$100.00. It is our mission to enable arthritis health professionals to provide the best possible care through education, research, advocacy and interprofessional collaboration. We hope to provide you with many opportunities for continuing education, research, and networking. As a member, you will receive our monthly newsletters as well as email notifications regarding research funding, upcoming education, and news about the organization.

We have a very informative website – www.ahpa.ca. Here you can find many resources including information about awards, archived presentations, news briefs, upcoming events, list of members and much more! You could also attend the AHPA Pre-Course, Canadian Rheumatology Association Annual Scientific Meeting and our AHPA annual general meeting (AGM) happening in February 2018 in Vancouver! For more information, please contact our Members at Large in your area: Eastern: Lynne Broderick, Lynne.Broderick@iwk.nshealth.ca; Western: Denise Jupp, westernmember@ahpa.ca; Membership Committee Chair: membership@ahpa.ca.

Arthritis Research Canada Scientists from Across Canada Recognized

British Columbia

The 2017 American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Annual Meeting in San Diego featured many faces from Arthritis Research Canada. The six-day event saw 50 research abstracts from ARC scientists and trainees, as well as several oral research presentations. Five trainees were also awarded with the 2017 Arthritis Research Canada/Lilly Early Rheumatology Researcher Scholarship to attend the Annual Meeting, including: *Nicole Tsao* (Supervisor: Dr. Mary De Vera), *Natalie McCormick* (Supervisor: Dr. Antonio Avina-Zubieta), *Clayon Hamilton* and *Graham MacDonald* (both Supervised by Dr. Linda Li), and *Alix St-Aubin* (Supervisor: Dr. Paul Fortin).



Alberta

Dr. Cheryl Barnabe, ARC Calgary Senior Research Scientist, was awarded a University of Calgary Award for Peak Scholars in Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Knowledge Engagement. Her research seeks to identify and resolve care gaps in arthritis service models provided to Indigenous populations in Canada. Dr. Barnabe’s most recent study found that early rheumatoid arthritis patients in Indigenous populations were less likely to achieve remission, despite having comparable treatment regimens as Caucasian patients. More information on this important study can be found at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/acr.23470/abstract>

Quebec

Dr. Paul Fortin, ARC Quebec Research Scientist, is a collaborator on two, two-year Canadian Rheumatology Association Canadian Initiative for Outcomes in Rheumatology (CIORA) grants. Dr. Fortin works to find a better understanding of the bio-psycho-social impact of chronic rheumatic diseases, and he also actively supports the equal involvement of patients in research. Dr. Fortin also assists PIRA—Quebec’s patient advisory board—as a medical expert.

THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY: NATIONAL OFFICE

National drug coverage, enhanced care, needed for people with arthritis

Earlier this month, the Canadian Pharmacists Association released its plan for universal drug coverage. Arthritis Society President and CEO, Janet Yale, took part in a panel discussion of the need for a pan-Canadian Pharmacy Accord, ensuring drug coverage for all. The panel, hosted by iPolitics, included Canadian Pharmacists Association CEO Perry Eisenschmid, Canadian Parliamentary Budget Officer Mostafa Askari, and MP John Oliver. The Arthritis Society strongly supports the need for Canadians to have equitable and affordable access to treatment, which is an urgent issue for people living with arthritis.

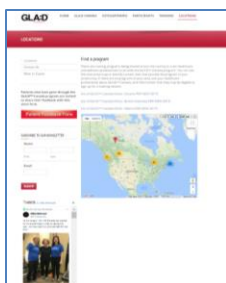


A Fellow on the Road

Dr. Fergus To, a rheumatology Fellow based in Vancouver, recently had the opportunity to expand his training in the new Fellowship Rotation Program through the Arthritis Society. The program aims to address issues with access to care in underserved communities in British Columbia, and was made possible with support and an innovative sponsorship from Celgene. During his four week rotation, Fergus saw 120 patients at the three busy practices. “I had a fantastic time with Drs. Siegel, Godin and Teo. They hand selected cases that were generally quite complex, challenging my clinical reasoning and skills. Because of the higher patient to doctor ratios in these communities, I saw more patients than I typically do in the larger metropolitan communities – a valuable part of any training program.”

CANADIAN ORTHOPAEDIC FOUNDATION

GLA:DTM Canada research results published: 40% improvement in OA pain



Good Life with Osteoarthritis in Denmark is an education and exercise program designed for individuals with hip or knee osteoarthritis (OA). A pilot project was conducted in 2016 at the Holland Orthopaedic and Arthritis Centre, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre to evaluate the GLA:D® program in Canada. The results have been published in the journal *Osteoarthritis and Cartilage* [http://www.oarsijournal.com/article/S1063-4584\(17\)31309-2/fulltext](http://www.oarsijournal.com/article/S1063-4584(17)31309-2/fulltext). These results are:

- 40% improvement in pain
- 24% of patients reported increased physical activity
- 99% of participants indicated they benefitted from the program
- 90% reported using the knowledge they gained in the program daily

Given implementation feasibility and these positive results for Canadian patients, the Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation, through its knowledge translation division, Bone and Joint Canada, is certifying rehabilitation providers to implement the GLA:D™ program across the country. To date, more than 50 clinics across Canada are certified to deliver the GLA:D™ program. To find a clinic, visit <http://gladcanada.ca/index.php/find-nearest-glad/>. The COF is grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for funding to launch the GLA:D program in Ontario.

Community Updates

CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ADMINISTRATIVE DATA 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 during the 2018 CRA Annual Scientific Meeting & AHPA Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC and we will be organizing a CANRAD Network Webinar this winter!

For more information pertaining to our webinars or all other information concerning the CANRAD Network, please contact Autumn Neville at autumn.neville@rimuhc.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. We are currently working with several enhanced cohorts, including PiMS, CATCH, CanHepC and GENESIS-PRAXY, as well as responding to a number of queries from Health Canada. Our team has collaborated with DSECT's webinar series; we encourage you to participate in the very informative sessions. For information on our queries, on our upcoming webinars or for more information on our team, please contact Autumn Neville at autumn.neville@rimuhc.ca or visit our website <http://canaim.ca/>.



Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre

Interesting research projects are underway at the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, led by rheumatologist Dr. Evelyne Vinet. To improve strategies for health professionals counselling pregnant women with rheumatic disease, her team is conducting a focus group study assessing the clinical and psychosocial needs, barriers, and facilitators to pregnancy counselling in women with RA and SLE. She is also building the Lupus prEGnAnCY (LEGACY) cohort, a large, multi-centre, international prospective cohort of SLE pregnancies, to evaluate adverse pregnancy outcomes, their predictors, and potential preventive therapies. More recently, Dr. Vinet was awarded a 2-year operating grant by the Canadian Initiative for Outcomes Research in Arthritis (CIORA) to conduct a randomized controlled trial assessing an educational tool for improving preeclampsia knowledge in pregnant women with SLE.



Calendar of Events

2018 CRA Annual Scientific Meeting & AHPA Annual Meeting	February 21-24, 2018	Vancouver, British Columbia
CRA Canada Night in Chicago	October 22, 2018	Chicago, Illinois
European Lupus Meeting 2018	March 21-24, 2018	Düsseldorf, Germany
World Congress on Osteoporosis, Osteoarthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases 2018	April 19-22, 2018	Krakow, Poland
25th Annual European Congress on Obesity (ECO2018)	May 23 - 26, 2018	Vienna, Austria
Canadian Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine (CASEM) Annual Symposium	June 5-9, 2018	Halifax, Nova Scotia

British Society for Rheumatology Annual Conference 2018	May 1-3, 2018	Liverpool, United Kingdom
International Congress on Autoimmunity	May 16-20, 2018	Lisbon, Portugal
EULAR 2018	June 13-16, 2018	Amsterdam, Netherlands
Course on Sonoguided Interventions and Procedures in Musculoskeletal Diseases CAOT Conference 2018	September 12-14, 2018	Barcelona, Spain
2018 Cochrane Colloquium	September 16-18, 2018	Edinburgh, UK
2018 Canadian Orthopedic Association Annual Meeting	June 20-23, 2018	Victoria, British Columbia
Canadian Academy of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) Conference 2018	June 20-23, 2018	Vancouver, British Columbia
Canadian Obesity Network 7th Conference on Recent Advances in the Prevention and Treatment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity	October 24-26, 2018,	Calgary, Alberta
World Congress on Controversies, Debates and Consensus in Bone, Muscle and Joint Diseases (BMJD)	November 8-10, 2018	Bangkok, Thailand

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: Lina Gazizova at lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca or visit our website: www.arthritisalliance.ca