

# ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

March 2017

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## ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA Arthritis Alliance of Canada Research Awards Program

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada Research Awards Review sub-committee has reviewed all applications submitted to the AAC Research Awards program over seven award categories.

The scores are being finalized and the Award winners will be notified early April. Winners will be announced at the April 13th AAC in-person Members Meeting in Toronto, as well as in the April newsletter.



*Thank you again to all who contributed to making this program a success!*

## ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA 2017 ANNUAL MEETING – SAVE THE DATE

This year, the Arthritis Alliance of Canada Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Marriott Vancouver Pinnacle Downtown Hotel.

*We look forward to your participation and engagement in  
Vancouver!*

**Save the date!**

Annual Meeting  
**ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA**

**Friday, October 27, 2017**  
Marriott Vancouver Pinnacle Downtown  
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

In partnership with  
**The Arthritis Society**

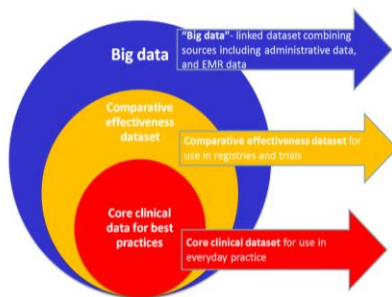
The Arthritis Society | La Société de l'arthrite

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

## INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS (IA) MODELS OF CARE DEVELOPMENTS

### Development of a Canadian Rheumatoid Arthritis Core Clinical Dataset (CAN-RACCD)

In daily clinical practice there is variability in the data collected by rheumatologists in the provision of care to patients. Such variability creates potential challenges for monitoring and improving the quality of care delivery. Arthritis stakeholders including rheumatologists, researchers, allied health professionals and patients living with arthritis have recently developed a core clinical dataset for rheumatoid arthritis. The set comprises 9 categories of data elements and represent a national consensus on the minimum data to collect routinely in the care of RA patients to support high quality care and quality improvement monitoring.



The dataset should be considered when planning upgrades to clinic processes or electronic medical records. This work was recently presented at the Canadian Rheumatology Association Annual Scientific Meeting in Ottawa and a manuscript is under development. Further ongoing work is planned to develop methods to ensure the core dataset can be extracted from rheumatology electronic medical

records (EMRs) across Canada to promote quality of care initiatives.

**Barber C, Ahluwalia V, Zimmer M, Mosher D, Marshall D, Choquette D, Lacaille D, Bombardier C, Dao E, Khodyakov D, Barnabe C, RACCD Working Group. Development of a National Rheumatoid Arthritis Core Clinical Dataset (RACCD) in Canada to Support High Quality Care for RA Patients. 2017 Proceedings of the Canadian Rheumatology Association Annual Scientific Meeting (Podium presentation).**

## MEMBER'S CORNER

### THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

#### NATIONAL

#### Childhood Arthritis Initiatives

March is Childhood Arthritis Awareness Month. Here's what we've been up to in support of the 24,000 children in Canada with arthritis:

- ***Teens Taking Charge***

In an effort to help teens with JIA better manage their arthritis, a team of researchers led by Dr. Jennifer Stinson at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) have developed an online program called 'Teens Taking Charge: Managing JIA Online Program', which is now publicly available on [aboutkidshealth.ca](http://aboutkidshealth.ca). The Arthritis Society and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) fund this bilingual, interactive internet-based program.



- ***Understanding Childhood Arthritis: A Facebook Live Special Event***

This month, The Arthritis Society hosted its second Facebook Live event, featuring a presentation on childhood arthritis by Rheumatologist Dr. Deborah Levy of SickKids Hospital and Arthritis Society Ambassador, 7 year-old Jessica Vecchio. Dr. Levy spoke to a room of 30+ in-house participants, as well as over 100 who joined online via The Society's [Facebook page](#).

#### Updates from Alberta

Alberta & NWT Division will offer an inaugural summer camp for children with JIA July 10 to 14, 2017 at Camp Kindle in Water Valley, North West of Calgary. Camp Childhood Arthritis will offer swimming, sports, crafts and plenty of challenges. The medically equipped camp facility is owned and operated by Kids Cancer Care Foundation. Registration is open until May 31, 2017 at [arthritis.ca/campchildhoodarthritis](http://arthritis.ca/campchildhoodarthritis). Please note the Alberta & NWT Division office has moved to #150, 110 Quarry Park Blvd S.E. in Calgary, sharing space with the MS Society of Canada, Calgary and Area Chapter.

#### Biosimilar Focus Group Project Report

The Arthritis Society led a group of six patient groups representing different inflammatory diseases in conducting a series of focus groups to collect the perspectives and needs of Canadians who take biologics for inflammatory diseases. The goal was to

understand their experience and perception of biologics; their awareness and understanding of biosimilars; and implications and issues related to a change in medication, including switching from a biologic to a biosimilar. A research poster reflecting preliminary findings was featured at the CRA's annual scientific meeting in Ottawa last month; this month the full report is being made public. Read the full report [here](#).

## ALBERTA BONE AND JOINT HEALTH INSTITUTE (ABJHI)

### Alberta's Success in Transforming Bone and Joint Health Care

Bone and joint health care is being transformed with unprecedented success in Alberta. Behind the success are inventive approaches to prevention, innovative models of evidence-based care, a growing trove of health care data used as tools of transformation, and expanding research to uncover jewels of insight for bettering patient outcomes. At the centre of this work are ABJHI, the Bone and Joint Health Strategic Clinical Network, researchers, and health care professionals on the front lines. Read about the transformation in [The Story You Don't Hear](#).

**The Story You Don't Hear**

Alberta's Success in Transforming Bone and Joint Health Care

The 10,000 Albertans who will have a hip or knee replaced this year are going to be up and mobile sooner after surgery, have less pain and better outcomes, be home from hospital sooner, and be more satisfied than those who had the same surgery five years ago. These improvements aren't increasing costs; they're reducing them. Behind the success:

- An evidence-based care path endorsed by clinicians and Alberta Health Services;
- Health care service performance measured, tracked and reported to spur continuous quality improvement; and
- Change being led on the front lines by physicians, nurses and managers in hospitals and clinics across Alberta.

The improvement has been instigated and managed by Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute (ABJHI) under the auspices of the Bone and Joint Health Strategic Clinical Network (BJH SCN).

Follow ABJHI online ([www.abjhiabonandjoint.com](http://www.abjhiabonandjoint.com)) and on Twitter (@ABJHI\_2014)

### ABJHI Positioned for Expanded Service Role with Change in Organizational Structure

The management team at Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute (ABJHI) has transitioned to a dyad leadership with the appointment of Christopher Smith as the [Director of Operations \(Technical\)](#) and Liz Evens as the [Director of Operations \(Administrative\)](#). “Christopher has played a vital role in the success of ABJHI over the years, but as ABJHI’s role broadens and the demands on our data infrastructure correspondingly grow, he will need support so that we can continue to provide our partners with the high level of service that they deserve,” Dr. Martin Ferguson-Pell, ABJHI’s Executive Director, said. “Christopher will continue to lead and expand the data analytics and data infrastructure within ABJHI, and Liz will provide leadership in operations through our project management and administrative teams.” The change positions ABJHI to expand its expertise into new and exciting areas of bone and joint health, such as conservative management of osteoarthritis.



Liz Evens

Christopher Smith

“We recognize that one major driver for our success to date has been the synergy of integrating sophisticated data analytics with experienced change management expertise,” Dr. Ferguson-Pell said. “To successfully expand into the future, we are putting a more structured focus on the technical and operational components within our organization that support the strategic vision of ABJHI and our stakeholders, and this change reflects our commitment to continued excellence in these critical areas.”

## ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS (ACE)

### Patient experiences of RA models of care: an international survey



Arthritis Consumer Experts has led the development of a Global RA Network of patient organizations and the launch of a patient survey on rheumatoid arthritis (RA) models of care in more than 20 countries. As part of its leadership, ACE has been able to share the best practices from the Arthritis Alliance of Canada’s ground-breaking work in IA models of care.

The goal of the survey is to better understand, from patient experience, how current “models of care” for RA compare between countries. Based on the survey results, the Global RA Network will provide people living with RA evidence-based education, information and advocacy leadership to overcome barriers to an optimal model of care in countries from Europe and the Americas.

We encourage you to share the survey questionnaire with people living with RA so they can provide perspectives on the diagnosis, treatment and care they receive for their disease. Your participation will help people living with RA in Canada know more about the health care they should be receiving and parallel the work rheumatology is doing to bring about standardized models of care to improve treatment outcomes and quality of life. Please click here to take the survey: <http://bit.ly/GlobalRASurvey>.



## ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CANADA

### New Research into Drugs and Pregnancy: Dr. Mary De Vera and Team Awarded CIHR Grant to Investigate Risks of Infections in Mothers and Babies



Autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, and vasculitis are more common in women than men, especially young women. However, with insufficient research into drugs and pregnancy, little is known about the effects of medication use on pregnant women and their babies. One class of drugs used in treatment of autoimmune diseases are immunosuppressant drugs, which are known to cause infections.

Recognizing infections as a major concern, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) has awarded Dr. Mary De Vera, Research Scientist of Pharmacoepidemiology at Arthritis Research Canada and team (co-investigators Nicole Tsao, Larry Lynd and Gillian Hanley) with a one year grant to investigate whether perinatal use of immunosuppressant therapies increases the risk of infections. Congratulations Dr. De Vera and team on receiving this grant, we look forward to sharing the results at [www.arthritisresearch.ca](http://www.arthritisresearch.ca).

## CANADIAN ARTHRITIS PATIENT ALLIANCE (CAPA)

The CAPA [Winter Newsletter](#) was released in February and includes a report of what we've been up to over the last few months. Key highlights of the newsletter include:

- The participation of the CAPA Board at the CRA meeting including the two poster presentations (one on the [Methotrexate survey results](#) and second on the [Pregnancy and Parenting with Arthritis resource](#));
- The publication of a resource on [Pregnancy and Parenting with Arthritis](#);
- Preliminary results of the Methotrexate survey, and
- The next instalment in our series: [A Day in the Life of a Patient Advocate](#).

Stay informed about these and other CAPA initiatives by becoming a member on the CAPA [website](#)!



## CANADIAN CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION (CCA)

### Chiropractic Response to the Opioid Crisis

The Canadian Chiropractic Association (CCA) has been advocating on behalf of Canadian chiropractors and their patients for greater access to conservative care options as first-line treatment of MSK conditions. The recent opioid crisis has highlighted this need for a better approach to pain management in Canada. Available evidence points to back pain and other musculoskeletal conditions as one of the leading reason for use of prescribed opioids. By providing prompt access to clinical alternatives, like chiropractic care, evidence suggests that we can reduce reliance on opioids to treat acute and chronic MSK-related pain. Yet, access to community-based providers can be challenging.

As part of the Minister of Health's [Joint Statement of Action](#), the CCA is working to develop evidence-based professional practice recommendations and resources to facilitate triage and referral of Canadians suffering from acute and chronic MSK conditions. As part of the process, the CCA will also be reaching-out to other professions, patients and stakeholders to review and provide insight on the recommendations and resources. In addition, the CCA is initiating parallel efforts bringing together interested parties to develop upstream policy recommendations to better address non-cancer pain. For more information about the CCA's efforts, please visit our website [www.chiropractic.ca/about-cca/advocacy/chiropractic-response-to-opioid-crisis/](http://www.chiropractic.ca/about-cca/advocacy/chiropractic-response-to-opioid-crisis/).

## MCCAIG INSTITUTE FOR BONE AND JOINT HEALTH

Congratulations to McCaig Institute member **Dr. David Hanley**, who recently won the Dr. Paul D. Miller ISCD Service Award. This award is presented annually to International Society of Clinical Densitometry members for distinguished service and dedication to the association, and will be presented at the Clinical Osteoporosis 2017 Symposium in April.

Another honour was bestowed upon David last year when Osteoporosis Calgary recognized him for his leadership in osteoporosis care by naming their Centre after him. The Dr. David Hanley Osteoporosis Centre Calgary provides patient-oriented, expert osteoporosis care through education and research to Southern Alberta. In other news, the McCaig Institute's Spring 2017 newsletter is now out. You can read it at: <http://bit.ly/2mPeBaX!>

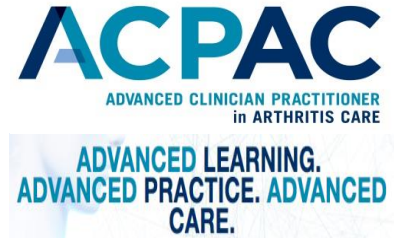
# Community Updates

## ADVANCED CLINICIAN PRACTITIONER IN ARTHRITIS CARE 2017–18 PROGRAM, Continuing Professional Development, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto

### APPLY NOW!

ACPAC is a hybrid academic and clinical training program designed to prepare experienced physical therapists, occupational therapists, and nurses for extended practice roles in the diagnosis and management of patients with arthritis. The program promotes the development of innovative models of care and will help you to improve patient outcomes. 100% of our graduates have been satisfied with the program and found the content extremely relevant to their practice. Scholarships and research fellowships up to \$11,000 CAD are available for this year's program.

For more information, contact Julia Ferrari, [j.ferrari@utoronto.ca](mailto:j.ferrari@utoronto.ca). To apply, visit our new website at [www.acpacprogram.ca](http://www.acpacprogram.ca).



**The application deadline is Friday May 19, 2017.**

### 2017–18 Program Weeks

**Week 1** - October 23–28, 2017 (Includes 13th Annual Arthritis Day, Saturday October 28, 2017)

**Week 2** - December 11–15, 2017

**Week 3** - February 5–9, 2018

**Week 4** - April 9–13, 2018

**Week 5** - June 4–8, 2018

**Program Directors:** Dr. Rachel Shupak (MD, FRCP(c)) and Dr. Katie Lundon (BSc (P.T.), MSc, PhD)

**Location:** Downtown Toronto

## CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ADMINISTRATIVE DATA NETWORK (CANRAD)



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 successful CANRAD Network Meeting during 2017 CRA Annual Scientific Meeting & AHPA Annual Meeting in Ottawa, ON and we will be organizing another CANRAD Network Webinar this spring! For more information pertaining to our webinars or all other information concerning the CANRAD Network, please contact Autumn Neville

at [autumn.neville@rimuhc.ca](mailto: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. Our team has collaborated with DSECT's webinar series; we encourage you to attend the very informative sessions. We held a successful CAN-AIM DSEN meeting in February with team members to review on-going projects and discuss new, emerging queries that may be of interest. Discussions led to exciting new ways in which our team can expand. 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](mailto:autumn.neville@rimuhc.ca) or visit our website <http://canaim.ca/>.





## Calendar of Events

|   |                              |                                    |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ontario Physiotherapy Association - InterACTION   | March 31-April 1, 2017       | Toronto, ON                        |
| The Joint Affair gala in Honour of Dr. Anthony S. Russell by The Arthritis Society                                    | March 27, 2017               | Edmonton, Alberta                  |
| Healthy Canada Conference 2017  | April 26-27, 2017            | Toronto, Ontario                   |
| OARSI World Congress  | April 27- 30, 2017           | Las Vegas, Nevada                  |
| Annual Congress of the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine: 11 <sup>th</sup> World Congress | April 30-May 4, 2017         | Buenos Aires, Argentina            |
| PANLAR ACCAR 2017   | May 3-5, 2017                | San José, Costa Rica               |
| Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America AGM  | May 3-6, 2017                | Barcelona, Spain                   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Global Spine Congress  | May 3-6, 2017                | Milan, Italy                       |
| Lupus Academy Annual Meeting  | May 5-7, 2017                | Portugal                           |
| Laurentian Conference of Rheumatology   | May 11-13, 2017              | Estérel, Québec                    |
| Immunology 2017, AAI Annual Meeting   | May 12-16, 2017              | Washington, DC                     |
| ARTHritis Soirée 2017   | May 18, 2017                 | Vancouver, British Columbia        |
| Pediatric Rheumatology Symposium  | May 18-20, 2017              | Houston, Texas                     |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> Annual Current Concepts in Joint Replacements  | May 21-24, 2017              | Las Vegas, Nevada                  |
| WAR 2017  | May 26-28, 2017              | Kelowna, British Columbia          |
| ORA Annual Meeting 2017   | May 26-28, 2017              | Minett, Ontario                    |
| The Arthritis Society Walk to Fight Arthritis   | June 4, 2017                 | Toronto, Ontario                   |
| EULAR Congress 2017 Annual European Congress of Rheumatology  | June 14-17, 2017             | Madrid, Spain                      |
| ACR/EULAR Exchange Program 2017   | June 14-17, 2017             | Madrid, Spain                      |
| Canadian Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting   | June 15-18, 2017             | Ottawa, Ontario                    |
| SOAR 2017   | June 23-25, 2017             | Fox Harb'r, Nova Scotia            |
| 5th World Congress on Controversies, Debates & Consensus in Bone, Muscle & Joint Diseases (BMJD)                      | August 31- September 3, 2017 | Gold Coast, Australia              |
| AMRQ Annual Conference 2017   | October 19-21, 2017          | Estérel Resort, Québec             |
| <b>Arthritis Alliance of Canada 2017 Annual Meeting</b>   | <b>October 27, 2017</b>      | <b>Vancouver, British Columbia</b> |
| ACR/ARHP Annual Meeting 2017  | November 3 - 8, 2017         | San Diego, California              |
| CRA Canada Night in San Diego   | November 6, 2017             | San Diego, California              |

### 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)