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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 a cheerful holiday season! May the holiday season bring happiness and joy to you and your loved ones and may the warmth and peace of the holiday season be yours today and through the New Year! We would like to thank each and every one of you for your support this year and your commitment to the AAC family. Thank you all for helping us improve the lives of people living with arthritis and make a difference in the arthritis community as we cannot do it alone without your support!!!*

The holiday season is the time to spend with our loved ones, reflect on the year’s activities and look towards the New Year. For AAC, this year has been a very busy year with lots of successes, challenges and excitements.

This year, AAC has been carrying out and continuing several **exciting research projects**, including:

- The “**Cost-Consequences Analysis of IA Models of Care**” project: a collaboration project between AAC, CRA, CIHR and CATCH Cohort aiming at validating cost effectiveness and capturing the value of Inflammatory Arthritis Models of Care in Canada.
- The “**Development of a Patient-Centred Balanced Scorecard Approach to RA Care**”

New  
**2019**  
Year



- The development of the “**AAC Osteoarthritis (OA) Information Tool for Patients**” to help patients and those at risk of OA have better conversations with their doctors and other healthcare professionals by informing them about the care they can expect to receive.

**We published:**

- A special issue in [the Spring 2018 edition of The Canadian Rheumatology Association Journal \(CRAJ\)](#), highlighting our research in the innovative and implementable Models of Care (MoC).

**We were acknowledged in:**

- **The Journal of Rheumatology** November issue (Volume 45: No. 11), in the article, “[Feasibility of Measurement and Adherence to System Performance Measures for Rheumatoid Arthritis in 5 Models of Care.](#)” authored by Barber, et al. discussing the development of 6 system-level performance measures to assess whether an MOC is effective in improving access to care and early treatment of inflammatory arthritis.

**We also:**

- conducted a **member/stakeholder survey** to help inform member’s perspectives on future direction and focus of AAC. A total of 35 responses were received, 83% came from AAC member organizations and 17% from individual respondents.

**In addition:**

- Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Research Award Program was a huge success this year. We received 52 applications! The recipients of the 8 award categories were announced at the AAC 2018 Annual Meeting Special Awards Ceremony. You can find the list of all awardees [here](#).

**Finally:**

- We concluded our year with a successful Annual Meeting held at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, where members gathered together to celebrate AAC’s successes and to plan for the organization’s future.

**Our sincere thanks for your support throughout the year!**

AAC Team



**2018 Annual Meeting in Toronto:  
“CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESSES AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE”**



On November 21-22, 2018, in partnership with the Arthritis Society, the Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC) hosted its Annual Meeting program “*Celebrating Our Successes and Planning for the Future*”, at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel in downtown Toronto, Ontario.

On Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, the AAC commenced the Annual Meeting program with a nice Gala event. Ms. Janet Yale, Chair of the AAC welcomed all meeting participants, an internationally-renowned Professor Anthony Woolf emphasized the importance of collaborative work in his speech on “*Making a difference for people with arthritis – the power of collaborative working*”.

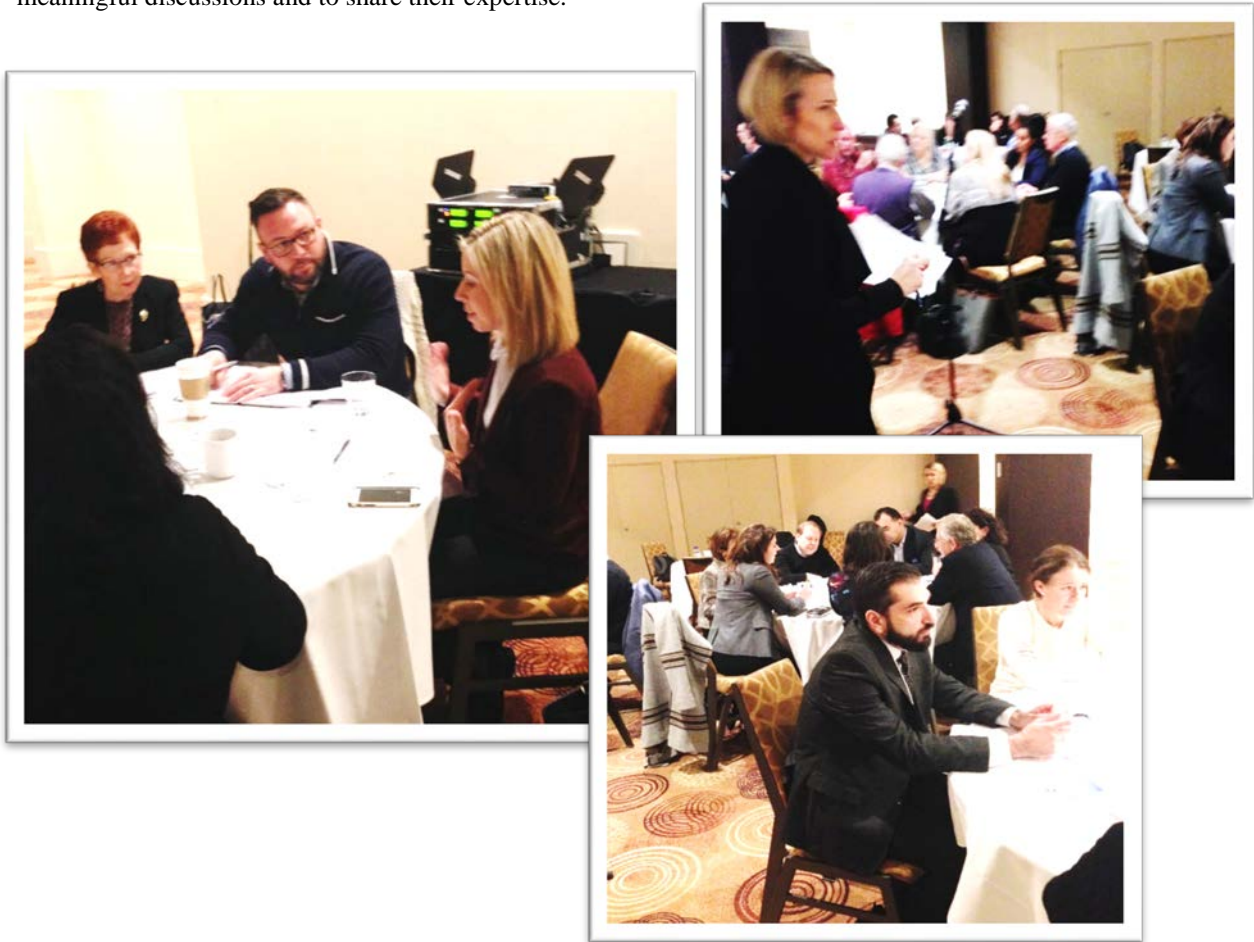
A highlight of the Gala Dinner was the Special Awards Ceremony, hosted by Dr. Deborah Marshall, to recognize recipients of the AAC 2018 Research Awards, the Qualman-Davies Consumer Community Leadership Award, and the Arthritis Society Trainee Awards.



The day of November 22nd began with the AAC Annual General meeting, followed by a short networking break. Throughout the rest of the day, participants engaged in the facilitated sessions on “Strategic Options” and “Future

Focus and Next Steps,” led by external consultant Ms. Robin Cory. Members had a thought-provoking discussion regarding the future of AAC.

During the two-day program and poster viewing sessions, participants had a great opportunity to network, engage in meaningful discussions and to share their expertise.



## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



## Arthritis Alliance of Canada 2018 Research Awards Program

On Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, the Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC) recognized [recipients of the AAC 2018 Research Awards program](#) at the AAC Annual Meeting Gala Dinner, at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, Ontario.

This year's award categories reflected the following AAC research priorities:

- 1) Promoting increased funding for arthritis research;
- 2) Building capacity in arthritis research and innovation (e.g. increase in the number of trainees, involvement of patients in arthritis research, partnerships and linkages);
- 3) Facilitating and supporting initiatives that harmonize and strengthen research infrastructure and enhance networking to foster collaborations (e.g. optimizing research use of databases, creating new platforms and research infrastructure) and partnership;
- 4) Promoting knowledge translation and exchange (KTE) as effective KTE is critical to ensure that research;
- 5) findings are implemented and lead to improved health outcomes (e.g. involve stakeholders in a) KT co-creation, b) co-interpretation, c) support with dissemination and evaluation where appropriate).
- 6) Supporting and facilitating patient participation/engagement in arthritis research.



**Eight awards** were given out to recognize contributions to arthritis research in Canada to:

1. **PhD Student Award**, sponsored by Arthritis Consumer Experts, presented to **Dr. Elena Lopatina** (University of Calgary, Calgary, AB)
2. **Early Career Researcher in Basic/Clinical Science Award**, sponsored by CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis, presented to **Dr. Matthew Teeter** (London Health Sciences Centre, London, ON)
3. **Early Career Researcher in Health Science/Population Health Award**, sponsored by Arthritis Research Canada, presented to **Dr. Claire Barber** (University of Calgary, Calgary, AB)
4. **Post-Doctoral Fellow Award**: sponsored by CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis, presented to **Dr. Shabana Amanda Ali** (Krembil Research Institute, Arthritis Program, Toronto ON)
5. **Master Student Award**: sponsored by McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health, presented to **Mr. Scott Brunet** (University of Calgary, Calgary, AB)
6. **Patient for Active Engagement in Arthritis Research Award**, sponsored by the Arthritis Society, presented to **Ms. Cheryl Koehn** (Arthritis Consumer Experts, Vancouver).
7. **Knowledge Translation (KT) Practice Award**, sponsored by Amgen Canada, presented to **Dr. Sasha Bernatsky** (McGill University Health Center, Montreal, QC)
8. **Knowledge Translation (KT) Research Award**: sponsored by Bone and Joint Institute of the University of Western Ontario, presented to **Dr. Nick Bansback** (University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC)



Huge congratulations to all award winners! Their continuous dedication in arthritis research helps improve the lives of millions of Canadians affected by arthritis.

## Arthritis Alliance of Canada Consumer – Patient Organizations and Groups

At the Arthritis Alliance of Canada 2018 Annual Meeting Gala Dinner, Ms. Cheryl Koehn presented the Qualman-Davies Arthritis Community Leadership Awards to two recipients, *Mr. John Coderre* and *Mr. Michael Mallinson*.



QD

**John Coderre**

Qualman-Davies  
Arthritis Consumer Community  
Leadership Award Winner, 2018

John has been an active member of Patient Partners in Arthritis for nearly eighteen years, demonstrating muscular-skeletal examination techniques to medical students and other health professionals. From 2008-2013, he was on the Consumer Advisory Council of the Canadian Arthritis Network. During that time, he was a member of the Scientific and Medical Advisory Committee. He is also the Vice-Chair of the Research & Business Advisory Committee of the Bone and Joint Institute for Research and Innovation in Musculoskeletal Health at Western University.

Michael joined the Ontario Spondylitis Association after being diagnosed with Ankylosing Spondylitis in 1991. In 2007, Michael was elected president of the Canadian Spondylitis Association. Michael has been a member of the Patient Advisory Board of the Ontario Best Practice Research Initiative and a consumer representative on the board of the Arthritis Alliance of Canada. Other than arthritis research, Michael has also been actively engaged with fundraising for the Salvation Army and Covenant House in Toronto.



QD

**Michael Mallinson**

Qualman-Davies  
Arthritis Consumer Community  
Leadership Award Winner, 2018

## AAC as a host partner organization for the CIHR Health System Impact Fellowship

**Arthritis Alliance of Canada is among 38 health system host partner organizations across Canada who support the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Health System Impact Fellowship this year.**

Arthritis Alliance of Canada will serve as a host partner organization for one of the recipients of the first doctoral CIHR Health System Impact Fellowship, Dr. Lopatina. The CIHR Health System Impact Fellowship aims to prepare the next generation of health services and policy researchers with skills and competencies to address real-world challenges within health systems with greater impact.

Dr. Lopatina's Fellowship is funded by CIHR's Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (CIHR-IMHA) and the Arthritis Alliance of Canada. During the Fellowship, Dr. Lopatina will be working under the supervision of Dr. Dianne Mosher, Dr. Deborah Marshall, and Dr. Claire Barber on the project entitled "Building an economic business case for innovative models of care for patients with Inflammatory Arthritis in Canada".

## MEMBER'S CORNER

### ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CANADA



ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CANADA  
Leading research. Finding answers. Saving lives.

It's been a busy couple of months at Arthritis Research Canada. Our researchers presented 76 papers at the American College of Rheumatology's National Meeting. That's two per cent of all papers from around the world!

We are also excited to announce that arthritis Research Canada's Drs. Diane Lacaille, Mary De Vera, and Jasmin Ma, and PhD candidate and research trainee Graham Macdonald, all received Arthritis Society grants – totaling more than \$650,000. We are extremely proud of our researchers who continue to advance live-saving arthritis research.

### ARC Welcomes First Honourary Patron

Arthritis Research Canada also welcomed its first honorary patron, Beverley McLachlin, O.C., P.C. She served 28 years on the Supreme Court, including 17 years as Chief Justice, and has had a resounding impact on rights and freedoms in Canada. We are truly blessed to have such an accomplished person as our first honorary patron.

## Holiday Giving Campaign

Arthritis Research Canada also launched [our holiday giving campaign](#) in November and we encourage everyone to share [Maya Joshi's story](#). She was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis at the age of 17. Thanks to Arthritis Research Canada, Maya found ways to manage her arthritis and pain, so she can continue to live her life to the fullest.

### ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS

#### ACE Holiday Campaign #MyArthritisWishList

ACE thanks all of our Arthritis Alliance of Canada colleagues and partners for their ongoing engagement and support.

For this year's holiday campaign, Arthritis Consumer Experts (ACE) is asking you to share your arthritis wish list using our campaign hashtag #MyArthritisWishList. ACE will do the same, and hope that through continued community sharing, research and medical advances are possible.

**To participate in the #MyArthritisWishList campaign, please:**

- **Send us an email and tell us your arthritis wishes**
- **Share your wish on our [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) and include the hashtag #MyArthritisWishList**
- **Share, like, and comment on #MyArthritisWishList posts**

We will provide a #MyArthritisWishList summary on January 8, 2019 and promise to use it as ACE's guiding light for our advocacy, research and information programming over the next year. On behalf of everyone at ACE, we wish you joy and peace this holiday season!

### ARTHRITIS SOCIETY: NATIONAL OFFICE

#### New Collaboration between Arthritis Society and BestLifeRewarded Innovations

The Arthritis Society is proud to announce [a new collaboration](#) with BestLifeRewarded Innovations to deliver support and improved quality of life for people living with arthritis. BestLifeRewarded is a program that combines rewards, evidence-informed behaviour change models and personalized action plans designed to get and keep people healthy.



“People need to understand that they may have arthritis even if they don't realize it yet, and that their future health depends upon taking action now,” says Arthritis Society president Janet Yale. “Our innovative patient resources have been developed with the input of experts in the field to help Canadians better understand this disease, and to empower them to live better and protect their joints both before and after a visit with their doctor. We are excited to collaborate with BestLifeRewarded to make these resources available to their vast network of employers and employees across Canada.”

Starting in early 2019, BLRI and the Arthritis Society will roll out a number of new support materials across the BLRI network of corporate wellness programming.

#### Research Grants and Awards Announcement

At the Arthritis Society, we are proud to fund cutting-edge research across the country that has the most promise to impact the lives of Canadians with arthritis. Each year, talented scientists submit their research proposals into our grant and award competitions:

We are pleased to announce the following **new Arthritis Society grants and awards**:

- Dr. Ali Abdul Sater, York University: Stars Career Development Award
- Dr. Linda Hiraki, The Hospital for Sick Children: Stars Career Development Award
- Dr. Sarah Manske, University of Calgary: Stars Career Development Award
- Dr. Susanne Benseler, University of Calgary: Strategic Operating Grant
- Dr. Eric Bohm, University of Manitoba: Strategic Operating Grant
- Dr. Mary De Vera, University of British Columbia: Strategic Operating Grant
- Dr. Jaime Guzman, University of British Columbia: Strategic Operating Grant
- Dr. Diane Lacaille, University of British Columbia: Strategic Operating Grant

A full listing of the results are available on our [website](#). In addition, this morning we published a [media release](#) to share this news with the public. Congratulations to all recipients! If you have any questions or would like more details, we welcome you to reach out to [research@arthritis.ca](mailto:research@arthritis.ca).

### Arthritis Society Trainee Workshop

In November, we hosted our annual Arthritis Society Trainee Workshop in Toronto, sponsored in part by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (CIHR-IMHA). This workshop gave all Arthritis Society-funded trainees (i.e. PhD students and postdoctoral fellows) an opportunity to learn skills to set them up for success in arthritis research. This year's theme was "A glimpse of arthritis research in Canada for future investigators: from the lab bench to beyond." Participants learned about how to launch successful research careers, how to engage patients in knowledge translation, and how to craft a winning elevator pitch, before participating in an engaging poster competition.

## CANADIAN SPONDYLITIS ASSOCIATION

### Information Session on Ankylosing Spondylitis

The Canadian Spondylitis Association held an information session on Ankylosing Spondylitis November 13<sup>th</sup> to a full house of over 150 people. Rheumatologists, Dr. Inman and Dr. Haroon, presented on the disease, current treatment options and what's on the horizon. We also included Dr. Susan Barlett who spoke about mental health and chronic illness. Dr. John Flannery shared very interesting insights on managing pain and Laura Passalent talked about the importance of exercise as a treatment for helping manage AS. The forum was recorded and can be viewed on-line at [www.spondylitis.ca](http://www.spondylitis.ca). Expanding our forums to include these two common complications is a focus the CSA has to educate our community on the common complications and impact on their disease.

### Participation in University of Toronto IPE Certification Program

Participating in the University of Toronto IPE Certification program, the CSA tasked a group of medical students from various disciplines to research and present back how we can educate and access the indigenous populations in Canada which will help inform our strategy.

## COMMUNITY UPDATES

## CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ADMINISTRATIVE DATA NETWORK

### The 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 held a CANRAD Network Meeting during the 2018 CRA Annual Scientific Meeting & AHPA Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC and we look forward to hosting our 2019 CANRAD Meeting during the CRA meeting in Montreal! For more information pertaining to our webinars or all other information concerning the CANRAD Network, please contact at [autumn.neville@rimuhc.ca](mailto:autumn.neville@rimuhc.ca) or visit our website <http://www.canradnetwork.ca/>.



### McGill University Health Centre



Interesting research projects are underway at the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI MUHC), 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. The first abstract for this study was presented at the 2018 ACR, and an abstract was submitted to the 2019 CRA. 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. A Canadian Initiative for Outcomes Research in Arthritis (CIORA) funded randomized controlled trial is underway assessing an educational tool for improving preeclampsia knowledge in pregnant women with SLE. Our Lupus Clinic celebrated 40 years of research this fall! For more information pertaining to our RI MUHC activities, fundraising efforts and our Lupus Clinic, please contact [autumn.neville@rimuhc.ca](mailto:autumn.neville@rimuhc.ca).

### Canadian Network for Advanced Interdisciplinary Methods (CAN-AIM)

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 at [autumn.neville@rimuhc.ca](mailto:autumn.neville@rimuhc.ca) or visit our website <http://canaim.ca/>.



## Calendar of Events

11th Annual Winter Hip & Knee Course 2019, International Congress for Joint Reconstruction	January 17-20, 2019	Vail, Colorado, USA
Musculoskeletal Ultrasound & Cadaver Workshop for Rheumatologists (Intermediate Level)	February 1-3, 2019	Florida, USA
12 <sup>th</sup> Annual Rheumatology Winter Clinical (RWCS) Symposium, The Premier International Academic Rheumatology Meeting	February 13-16, 2019	Maui, Hawaii, USA
<b>CRA Annual Scientific Meeting and AHPA Annual Meeting</b>	<b>February 27- March 2, 2019</b>	<b>Montreal, Quebec</b>
Bone Research Society (BRS) Clinical Training Course: Osteoporosis and Other Metabolic Bone Disease	March 18-20, 2019	Oxford, UK
Canadian Rheumatology Ultrasound Society Basic Course	March 23-24, 2019	Toronto, ON
World Congress on Osteoporosis, Osteoarthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases (WCO IOF-ESCEO)	April 4-7, 2019	Paris, France
Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance (CARRA) Annual Scientific Meeting	April 10-14, 2019	Louisville, Kentucky
Osteoarthritis Research Society International (OARSI) World Congress	May 2-5, 2019	Toronto, Ontario
50 <sup>th</sup> Edition of the Laurentian Conference of Rheumatology	May 9-11, 2019	Esterel, Quebec
5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Mayo Clinic Rheumatology Review for Primary Care	May 23-25, 2019	Amelia Island, Florida, USA
2019 EULAR – The European Congress of Rheumatology	June 12-15, 2019	Madrid, Spain
International Workshop on Osteoarthritis Imaging (IWOAI)	June 26-29, 2019	Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

#### ABOUT THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

With more than 35 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](mailto:lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca) or visit our website: [www.arthritisalliance.ca](http://www.arthritisalliance.ca).