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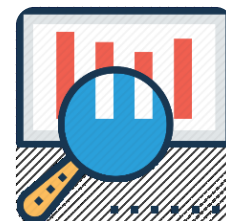
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[ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA](#)

ONGOING PROJECTS

Developing a Patient-Centered Framework for Measuring, Monitoring and Optimizing Rheumatoid Arthritis Care

As part of the Balanced Scorecard (BSC) project, Dr. Claire Barber at the University of Calgary and Dr. Diane Lacaille at the University of British Columbia, have been leading a National CIHR-funded study to define quality RA care and build a framework for measuring it. In June, the research team has successfully completed the public comment phase of the study. The research team is currently analyzing the results of the survey and evaluating the ways it may impact the development of the scorecard. *Stay tuned for more updates on this important project!*



The CRA-AAC-CIHR-CATCH Collaborative Project to Build an Economic Business Case for AAC IA Models of Care

The 4-way collaboration project, a study on building an economic business case for the AAC Inflammatory Arthritis Models of Care (IA MOCs), is following its logical steps. As part of the Cost-Consequences Analysis stage, the research team had completed analysis of qualitative data for all 10 participating CATCH sites and started analyzing and comparing these data across the sites. 10 out of 16 CATCH sites representing four provinces, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. The results of the qualitative analysis will be shared with the project partners and their stakeholders. *The working team is excited about this project's interim success and will continue updating you on its progress!*

AAC 2019 Research Awards Program: Update

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC) is in the process of reviewing the applications for the 4th round of its annual Research Awards program with **forty-three (43) applications** received by May 31st, for the **six award categories**, including: 1) Master Student, 2) PhD Student, 3) Post-doctoral fellow, 4) Early Career Researcher in Basic/Clinical Science, 5) Early Career Researcher in Health Science/Population Health and 6) Patient for Active Engagement in Arthritis Research.

The review of the applications is in progress. We would like to thank **21 reviewers** from the arthritis community-14 researchers and 7 patient representatives-who will be providing their breadth of knowledge and expertise in arthritis research to evaluate these applications. Reviewers' expertise will help us select a winner from each of the award categories and acknowledge their great work in arthritis research. The awards will be presented to the winning applicants during the **Special Awards Ceremony on Friday, November 29th in Toronto.**

Thank you all for your great support in making this AAC program a successful effort once again!



Arthritis Alliance of Canada Final Annual Meeting Friday, November 29th, 2019, 12:30-5:00 pm EST



The Arthritis Alliance of Canada's (AAC) Final Annual Meeting will be taking place on Friday, November 29th at the Delta Hotels Toronto. The meeting will celebrate the 16-year success of Alliance's members and stakeholders in making significant contribution into improving the lives of Canadians with arthritis through implementation of numerous nation-wide programs and projects in models of care, arthritis research, as well as advocacy and awareness initiatives.

The meeting program will be a half-day event, that will highlight achievements and recognize recipients of the AAC six Research Awards and The Qualman-Davies Consumer (Patient) Community Leadership Award. A formal registration process to attend the AAC Final Annual Meeting will start mid-September. ***We look forward to your participation and engagement in Toronto!***

MEMBER'S CORNER

ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CANADA

ARC's 20th Anniversary and New location



Arthritis Research Canada celebrated its 20th anniversary on June 29th, opened a fourth centre (located at McGill University), and welcomed six new research scientists. June was an exciting month – not just for us, but for Canadians living with arthritis too.

Drs. ***Deborah Da Costa***, ***Michal Abrahamowicz***, ***Susan Bartlett*** and ***Marie Hudson*** joined the new location and bring with them a collective and extensive knowledge of arthritis research. Dr. Da Costa's area of study focuses on the connection between mental health and chronic illness. Dr. Abrahamowicz' research involves the development of new, flexible statistical methods for survival analyses. Dr. Bartlett has done extensive research on behavioural factors (like exercise, diet and medication adherence) and their impact on health outcomes in patients with inflammatory arthritis. And Dr. Hudson's expertise is systemic autoimmune rheumatic diseases.



Dr. Deborah Da Costa



Dr. Laëtitia Michou

Three new scientists also joined the British Columbia, Alberta and Quebec centres. [Dr. Jackie Whittaker](#) is an expert on sports injury and osteoarthritis prevention and is based in BC. [Dr. Laëtitia Michou](#) works from the centre in Quebec, focusing on the human genetics of bone and joint diseases. And [Dr. Susanne Benseler](#), a leading paediatric rheumatologist and Arthritis Research Canada’s first scientist with a focus on childhood arthritis, joined the Alberta centre.

These new scientists are collaborators, teachers and mentors. They see the importance of involving patients in developing, conducting and reporting research results. And they bring new areas of research expertise to Arthritis Research Canada/Arthrite-recherche Canada. Their work will directly benefit Canadians living with arthritis and we are honoured to welcome them to the team.

ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS

The Qualman-Davies Arthritis Consumer Community Leadership Award

The *Qualman-Davies Arthritis Consumer Community Leadership Award* was created in 2014 to recognize the pioneering arthritis advocacy efforts of Ann Qualman and Jim Davies who were two of the first people striving to bring awareness to arthritis across Canada.



The award is given to anyone with arthritis who displays, or has displayed, selfless actions through volunteer work in their community. If you would like to nominate someone, please fill out the [nomination form](#) for them to be considered. The application deadline is September 27, 2019. Please submit completed nominations to feedback@jointhealth.org. The award will be bestowed in person at the Arthritis Alliance of Canada Annual Meeting’s Luncheon and Special Award Ceremony taking place on Friday, November 29, 2019 in Toronto, Ontario.

JointHealth™ Education

ACE has launched two courses as part of its JointHealth™ Education program: JHEd: Psoriatic Arthritis and JHEd: Ankylosing Spondylitis. These new courses join the current roster of patient-friendly, online courses, including JHEd: Rheumatoid Arthritis, JHEd: Advanced Therapies for Inflammatory Arthritis, and JHEd: Biosimilars Education Video Series. ACE launched JointHealth™ Education in 2016 and has graduated over a thousand arthritis patients and equipped them with the skills necessary to succeed as equal partners in their own care. If any of these courses are of interest to you, whether you are a patient yourself, care-taker, friend or family member of a patient, we encourage you to register: <http://bitly.com/ACE-JHEd>.

Arthritis Broadcast Network

Arthritis Broadcast Network (ABN) have created a special segment on total knee replacement surgery. The first video [“Total knee replacement – Preparing for surgery”](#) is now available on the ABN YouTube channel.

ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

ARTHRITIS TALKS: Registration open for Arthritis and Work, Saturday Sept. 21

The Arthritis Society is holding the second in its series of Arthritis Talks educational symposia on Saturday, September 21. The theme is Arthritis at Work and will include a presentation by Dave Turner, a specialist in employment law. Participants will learn about working with arthritis, including workplace accommodations, strategies to manage their pain at work, and what to consider if they are thinking about medicinal cannabis as a treatment option. You can attend in-person at Kamloops and Victoria, BC, at viewing events in Cranbrook BC and Edmonton AB, or online via live interactive webinar anywhere in Canada. For details or to sign up to participate in-person or via webinar, visit arthritis.ca/arthritisatwork.



CIORA – Another Call for Grants in 2020

CIORA is issuing another call for grants in 2020! Please see below for details and important deadlines:



- CIORA Online Grant Application System opens **January 27, 2020**.
- Letter of Intent must be submitted by **February 21, 2020**.
- CIORA Online Grant Application submission deadline is **March 27, 2020 at 17:00 (Pacific Time)**
- Grant notifications will be sent out in **June 2020**.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ADMINISTRATIVE DATA NETWORK

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. Évelyne Vinet**. To improve strategies for health professionals counselling pregnant women with rheumatic disease, her team conducted a focus group study assessing the clinical and psychosocial needs, barriers, and facilitators to pregnancy counselling in women with RA and SLE. Abstracts for this study were presented at the 2018 ACR and at 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. Dr. Vinet was the recipient of the Laurentian Rheumatology Conference 50th Anniversary Award (\$1,000) where she also presented Lupus: a case of female discrimination. Her abstract on serious infection in offspring exposed to tofacitinib and non-TNFi biologics was featured in the EULAR Clinical Highlight Sessions. For more information pertaining to our RI MUHC activities, fundraising efforts and our Lupus Clinic, please contact lifang.wang@rimuhc.ca

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 our annual CANRAD Network Meeting during the 2019 CRA Annual Scientific Meeting & AHPA Annual Meeting in Montreal, QC. We discussed the validation of administrative data algorithms to study chronic conditions as well as pediatric outcomes in chronic illness. We are organizing a CANRAD webinar for the fall. For more information pertaining to our meetings, upcoming webinars or all other information concerning the CANRAD Network, please contact lifang.wang@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 using other clinical and administrative databases. Our team has collaborated with DSECT's webinar series; we encourage you to participate in the very informative sessions. We were recently funded to build a biologic registry to provide real-world information comparing the safety and effectiveness of biosimilar drugs versus their originator biologic drugs. Our five-year study includes adults (aged 18 years and older) with inflammatory rheumatic disease or inflammatory bowel disease who are initiating therapy with a biosimilar or the originator biologic drug. The primary outcome is simply maintenance of treatment, but we will also collect information on start/stop/changes in systemic steroids and immunosuppressive drugs, disease control, and adverse effects, particularly infection. For information on our queries, on our upcoming webinars or for more information on our team, please contact lifang.wang@rimuhc.ca or visit our website <http://canaim.ca/>.

Congratulations to Researchers at McCaig!



There has been a lot to celebrate at the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health over the past few months.

Dr. Claire Barber and *Dr. Glen Hazlewood* received funding in the recent Canadian Initiative for Outcomes in Rheumatology Care (CIORA) grant competition for their project titled "Optimizing early treatment strategies in early RA through shared decision-making."

Dr. Cheryl Barnabe received a five-year Tier II Canada Research Chair (CRC) from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) titled Rheumatoid Arthritis and Autoimmune Diseases. Also, *Dr. Roman Krawetz's* CIHR CRC II in Bone and Joint Stem Cell Biology was renewed.

And on April 25th, The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA) presented their most prestigious honour, the Centennial Leadership Summit Award, to *Dr. Nigel Shrive*. The award celebrates distinguished career that includes research of skeletal and cardiovascular systems.



Calendar of Events

International Federation on Ageing, 14 th Global Conference	August 8-10, 2019	Toronto, ON
Association of Women in Rheumatology National Conference	August 15, 2019	Hilton Head, South Carolina, USA
International Conference on Arthritis: Global Challenges and Future Perspectives	August 19 – 29, 2019	Vancouver, BC
Lupus Academy 8 th Annual Meeting	September 6 -8, 2019	Warsaw, Poland
46 th Annual Meeting and Refresher Course, The International Skeletal Society	September 7 – 13, 2019	Vancouver, BC
Discrete Choice Experiment Short Course	September 8-11, 2019	Banff, Alberta
The 2 nd Cardio-Rheumatology Symposium	September 13, 2019	Toronto, ON
14 th World Congress on Inflammation	September 15 -19, 2019	Sydney, Australia
12 th Annual Perspectives in Rheumatic Diseases, Global Academy of Medical Education	September 20 – 21, 2019	Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
World Congress on Rheumatology and Orthopedics, Scientific Federation	September 24-25, 2019	Madrid, Spain
3 rd World Congress of Sports Physical Therapy	October 4 -5, 2019	Vancouver, BC
13 th Annual Conference Pain Society of Alberta	October 17 – 20, 2019	Lake Louise, Alberta
17 th International Congress of Immunology (IUIS)	October 18 -22, 2019	Beijing, China

12 th World Congress on Rheumatology, Orthopedics & Sports Medicine	October 21 -22, 2019	Hong Kong
The International Hand and Wrist Congress (IHCW)	November 14 – 16, 2019	Dubai, UAE
Arthritis Alliance of Canada 7th Annual Meeting	November 29, 2019	Toronto, Ontario
2019 American College of Rheumatology (ACR) & Association of Rheumatology Professionals (ARP) Annual Meeting	November 8-13, 2019	Atlanta, Georgia, USA

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 or visit our website: www.arthritisalliance.ca.