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[ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA](#)

ONGOING PROJECTS

Developing a Balanced Scorecard for Patients with Inflammatory Arthritis



The project to develop a balanced scorecard (BSC) is well underway. A BSC is a tool that outlines a vision for quality improvement and strategic goals along multiple domains, representing different stakeholder perspectives, and uses performance measures to monitor progress toward quality improvement targets.

In Phase 1 of the BSC project, focus groups and interviews with stakeholders enabled development of a vision and 6 strategic objectives for RA care. Subsequently in Phase 2, a 3-round modified-Delphi process involving 17 panelists was held to finalize the list of performance measures to populate the scorecard.

Ultimately, 21 measures addressing elements of RA care aligned with the vision and strategic priorities were identified by the Delphi panel to populate the scorecard. Unfortunately, no measures were endorsed by the Delphi

panelists for 2 of the strategic priorities, primarily due to concerns about the feasibility of data availability, namely: i) multidisciplinary care, and ii) patient experience.

The next phase of the project involves collecting comments from the public. *Please stay tuned for more updates on this great project!*

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

On March 2nd, at the Canadian Rheumatology Association 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting, the AAC held a workshop to highlight the purpose and objectives of 4-way partnership project, a study on building an economic business case for the AAC IA Models of Care. The workshop participants discussed the strength and impact that the collaborative research can make in the process of conducting the cost-consequence analysis of Inflammatory Arthritis models of care and how it can identify opportunities to improve access to care, and ultimately patient outcomes.



Participants were engaged in thought-provoking discussions about improving access to care for patients with Inflammatory Arthritis and increasing the uptake of MOCs. In addition, as an outcome of the workshop, the working committee was able to recruit one additional CATCH site to participate in the study.

AAC 2019 Annual Meeting – SAVE THE DATE

We are happy to announce that this year, the Arthritis Alliance of Canada will be hosting its 7th Annual Meeting on Friday, November 29th, 2019 at the Delta Hotels Toronto. This year’s meeting program will be a half-day event and run from 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm, concluded by a cocktail reception immediately after the meeting. *Stay tuned for more details on the program and the registration process to start mid-September.*



We look forward to your participation and engagement in Toronto!

AAC Research Awards 2019: Timelines

Dear readers! We are delighted to announce the timelines of the 2019 AAC Research Awards cycle below:

Call for Applications:	Monday, April 1 st , 2019
Application Deadline:	Monday, May 20 th , 2019
Applications Review Process:	June - September 2019
Announcement of Award Recipients:	November 29 th , 2019



Stay tuned for an official “Call for Applications” launch in April!

MEMBER'S CORNER

ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CANADA

New Grant from CIHR



Arthritis Research Canada's exciting start to the year continues into February and March with another \$1 million plus in grant funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). This is excellent news for our research teams and for the millions of Canadians living with arthritis.

These grants will be used to research a new way to measure disease activity in people with systemic lupus erythematosus, to determine whether those with osteoarthritis can keep running as they age, and to develop a mobile educational app that will contain the most recent information on diagnosis, clinical photos, and treatment on topics such as systemic lupus erythematosus, systemic sclerosis (scleroderma), psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

We are proud of our researchers and the amazing work they do for people with arthritis!

2019 ARThritis Soirée

The 2019 ARThritis Soirée will be held on **May 22 at The Roof, Hotel Vancouver at 7pm PDT**. Mike Reno, lead singer of Loverboy, along with an all-star band, will give an up close and personal performance that will include some of Loverboy's greatest hits. A fabulous evening, co-hosted by Fred Lee and Sonia Deol, will present a choice of gourmet hors d'oeuvres, BC wines, champagne, the legendary oyster and caviar bars compliments, an exclusive raffle, and live and silent auctions.



For more information about the event, please visit arthritissoiree.ca and join us in supporting life-changing arthritis research!

ARTHRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS

The Arthritis Broadcast Network at the CRA Annual Scientific Meeting

JointHealth™

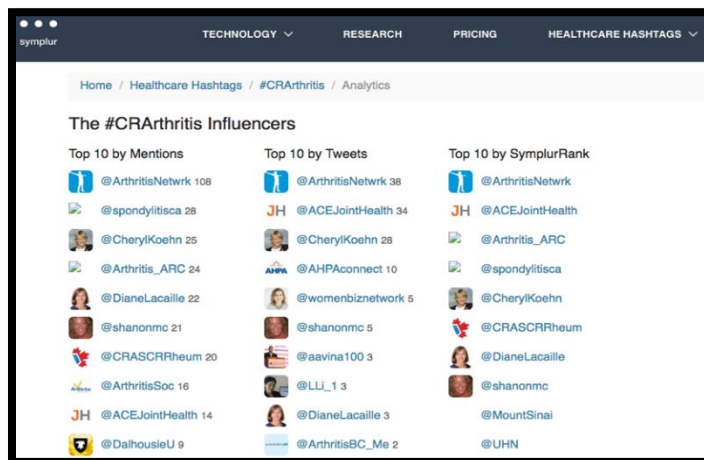


We did it! The Arthritis Broadcast Network (ABN) #CRArthritis Facebook and Twitter Live event at the Canadian Rheumatology Association Annual Scientific Meeting and Arthritis Health Professions Association Annual Meeting conducted a total of 36 interviews at the meeting, 4 of which were conducted in French. Thanks to experts like you, the #CRArthritis event had over 635,000 impressions on Twitter and reached 11,658 people on Facebook to date.

Interview topics included psoriatic arthritis, juvenile arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile dermatomyositis, health economics, lupus, research, patient engagement in research and health care, of rheumatology care, care, models of care, exercise, self-care, education, among other important topics.

A reminder that the interviews remain on the [ABN Facebook Page](#) and are available on the ABN YouTube channel under "[#CRArthritis Facebook and Twitter Live 2019](#)". Please continue to share, like, and comment on the interviews to continue the conversation online.

On behalf of Arthritis Consumer Experts and its #CRArthritis collaborators, the Canadian Spondylitis Association, and the Arthritis Patient Advisory Board of Arthritis Research Canada, thank you again for your participation in this year's event. See you next year!



The #CRArthritis Influencers – Courtesy of [Simplur's Healthcare Hashtag Project](#)

About ABN

Arthritis Broadcast Network is a multi-media platform for the arthritis community to share news, information and stories about living with arthritis. To submit an article, please email chan@jointhealth.org.

ARTHRITIS HEALTH PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to Our Awardees

At the 2019 AHPA Annual General Meeting in Montreal during the CRA/AHPA Annual Scientific Meeting, several awards were presented. Award winners included:



- Christopher Hawke: Clinical Innovation Award for *“Extended Scope Physiotherapist-led shoulder and elbow clinic”*.
- Laura Passalent: Carolyn Thomas Award for Best Scientific Abstract, *“Bridging the Gap between Symptom Onset and Diagnosis in Axial Spondyloarthritis”*
- Sabrina Cavallo: Barbara Hanes Memorial Award for Best Abstract by an Occupational Therapist, *“Identifying Factors Associated with Participation in School and Work-Related Activities among Young People and Adults with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA)”*
- Jenny Leese: Best Trainee Abstract Award for *“Using Physical Activity Wearables in Self-Management from the Perspectives of Persons Living with Arthritis: A Qualitative Evidence Synthesis”*
- Marie Westby: Arthritis Society Research Grant for her submission *“Assessing usability, feasibility and reliability of the clinician quality indicator questionnaires for hip and knee replacement rehabilitation: A pilot study”*.

Congratulations to all the award recipients!

ARTHRITIS SOCIETY: NATIONAL OFFICE

Updated Research Webpages



The Arthritis Society is pleased to announce that the Research section of the Arthritis Society website has been updated and expanded.

You will find a new structure on our [landing page](#), with links to important content related to:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research programs ▪ Competition results ▪ Patient engagement ▪ Research strategy and partnerships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Administration and reporting ▪ Research policies ▪ Resources |
|--|--|

We hope that these updates will allow easier access to the information you need. If you have any questions about our research programs or the website, please contact us at research@arthritis.ca.

Notice of Upcoming Competitions

The 2019 competitions are now available on our [Current Funding Opportunities](#) page:

- Strategic Operating Grants (Theme I) - *includes Letter of Intent application*
- Stars Career Development Awards - *includes Abstract Registration stage*
- Training Graduate PhD Studentship Awards
- Training Graduate Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards
- Arthritis Centre Grants (focused on capacity building/research training)



It is important to note some of the deadline dates are in early April this year. These earlier dates will ensure appropriate timelines for the peer review process.

McCAIG INSTITUTE FOR BONE AND JOINT HEALTH

2019 Cy Frank Legacy Lecture



We are pleased to announce our 2019 Cy Frank Legacy Lecturer will be Dr. Stefan Lohmander, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Clinical Sciences, Lund University, Sweden. Dr. Lohmander will be giving four presentations across Canada: Sept. 16th in Calgary, September 17th in Edmonton, September 19th in London, Ontario, and September 20th in Ottawa. More information can be found at mccaig.ucalgary.ca.

BONE AND JOINT CANADA

National Meeting on the Management of OA

On May 1st, 2019, Bone and Joint Canada will be hosting a National Meeting on the Management of OA, in Toronto. The mandate of this meeting is to bring together clinical leaders, administrators and decision makers to share experiences and discuss developing a system to support best practice of OA care from early disease management in primary care to surgery (hip and knee replacement).



Since this meeting is taking place a day ahead of the OARSI 2019 World Congress in Toronto, it will allow us to reach out to researchers from around the world to help us to learn about their strategies in the best system-based approach to the management of OA.

The meeting will cover the following objectives:

- Review the international recommendations on OA care
- Identify the system required for an effective OA program for patients with mild to severe disease
- Review the activities across Canada to improve the management of OA from physical activity to pre- surgery
- Discuss the implementation opportunities at a local, regional/provincial and national level
- Identify the potential partnerships to lead and implement the strategies including wellness and chronic disease organizations
- Review a measurement framework that measures the patients' experience across the continuum of care

The afternoon of the meeting will be developed to facilitate discussion on how a national coordinated approach to the management of OA will allow us to improve our local care across the country. This meeting is **by invitation only**. If you have any questions, please contact Rhona McGlasson rhonaamcglasson@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Dr. Dianne Mosher's new role to lead SPaCE



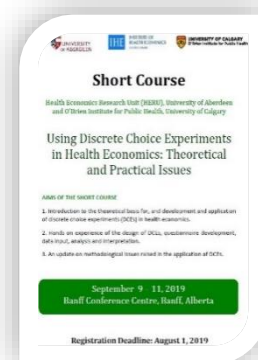
The Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Dianne Mosher, MD, as Associate Dean, Strategic Partnership and Community Engagement (SPaCE), effective Feb 1st, 2019. Dr. Dianne Mosher will lead the SPaCE team to strengthen local community engagement projects as well as indigenous health and global health education. SPaCE will also continue building on the Cumming School of Medicine's international research development partnerships. *Sincere congratulations to Dr. Mosher on her new role!*

The Discrete Experiment Short Course

Dr. Deborah Marshall from University of Calgary, and Professor Mandy Ryan from the University of Aberdeen, will be presenting the Discrete Choice Experiment Short Course to be held at the Banff Centre for Learning, September 8-11, 2019. The registration deadline is August 1, 2019. Details can be found here: <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/392142>.

Congratulations to Dr. Deborah Marshall

Dr. Deborah Marshall has been awarded the CADTH 2019 Dr. Jill M Sanders Award of Excellence in Health Technology Assessment. Established in 2010 and awarded annually, this award recognizes individuals whose outstanding achievements have significantly advanced the fields of health technology assessment, evidence-based drug reviews, or optimal technology utilization in Canada.



Dr. Claire Barber's New Research Project

Dr. Claire Barber's new research project, "*Development of a Patient-Centered Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) Quality of Care Survey and Testing Continuous Reporting of Established RA Quality Measures,*" is funded by the Cumming School of Medicine, Department of Medicine Clinical Analytics Award.

This recently funded project builds on key findings emerging from the RA Balanced Scorecard Study that is being led by Drs. Claire Barber and Diane Lacaille. The project aims to develop an RA Quality of Care Survey (RQCS) for patients to complete. This will be a data source for patient-valued elements of high quality of care not captured easily in existing data sources, filling the gaps identified through the ongoing Balanced Scorecard Study. As well, the RQCS will provide an opportunity to enhance data collection for validated existing quality of care measures that are assumed to be poorly documented in the medical record (i.e., smoking cessation counselling, exercise and lifestyle counselling).

Finally, the survey will provide an alternative method of monitoring quality of care for rheumatologists who do not participate in prospective data collection using the divisional Rheum4U electronic data platform (i.e., community rheumatologists who are divisional members). For more information, please contact the study coordinator, Victoria Bohm (victoria.bohm@ucalgary.ca).

ONTARIO RHEUMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION

18TH Annual Meeting on May 24, 2019

The ORA is pleased to be hosting its 18th Annual Meeting in a new venue; the Kingbridge Conference Centre in King City, located just north of Toronto. With a theme of "Looking to the Future in Rheumatology" featuring outstanding roster of renowned international and home-grown Canadian presenters (Art Kavanaugh, Iain



McInnes, Denis McGonagle, Raashid Luqmani and Edward Keystone to name a handful), the 2019 Annual meeting is poised to be the best yet!

The format of our meeting this year is also freshened with more robust plenary sessions, interactive workshops, our ever-popular Friday night poster session and even a fireside chat with Art Kavanaugh looking at the rheumatology road ahead.

We hope you can join us for this exciting event and an opportunity to connect with rheumatology colleagues and experts alike. Find out more [here](#).

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. 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 the abstract was also presented 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. Our Lupus Clinic celebrated 40 years of research this fall! Team members of the Montreal General Hospital Lupus Clinic will take part in the Scotia Bank Charity Challenge 5K run on April 27 to raise funds to support the Singer Family Fund for Lupus Research, funding that is instrumental to funding research activities at the clinic. For more information pertaining to our RI MUHC activities, fundraising efforts and our Lupus Clinic, please contact autumn.neville@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.

Our spring webinar will be held April 15, 2019, and we are happy to have the presentation *Prognostic risk score development and validation* by Dr. Cynthia Crowson. For more information pertaining to our meetings, upcoming webinars or all other information concerning the CANRAD Network, please contact 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 at autumn.neville@rimuhc.ca or visit our website <http://canaim.ca/>.



Calendar of Events

40 th Annual Scientific Meeting, Canadian Pain Society	April 2 - 5, 2019	Toronto, Ontario
World Congress on Osteoporosis, Osteoarthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases (WCO IOF-ESCEO)	April 4 - 7, 2019	Paris, France
Clinical Immunology Society (CIS), Immune Deficiency & Dysregulation North American Conference	April 4 - 7, 2019	Atlanta, Georgia, USA
13 th International Congress on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus	April 5-8, 2019	San Francisco, California, USA
Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance (CARRA) Annual Scientific Meeting	April 10 - 14, 2019	Louisville, Kentucky, USA
32 nd Annual Spring Meeting, Canadian Society for Immunology (CSI)	April 12-15, 2019	Banff, Alberta
Immunometabolism, Metaflammation and Metabolic Disorders	April 14 – 18, 2019	Vancouver, British Columbia
Childhood Arthritis & Beyond Meeting	April 23 – 26, 2019	Lake Louise, Alberta
14 th International Society on Scoliosis Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Treatment (SOSORT) Meeting	April 25 - 27, 2019	San Francisco, California, USA
Osteoarthritis Research Society International (OARSI 2019) World Congress	May 2 - 5, 2019	Toronto, Ontario
50 th Edition of the Laurentian Conference of Rheumatology	May 9 - 11, 2019	Esterel, Quebec, Canada
5 th Annual Mayo Clinic Rheumatology Review for Primary Care 2019	May 23-25, 2019	Amelia Island, Florida, USA
Scleroderma Society of Ontario Walk/Run	June 1 – 22, 2019	Hamilton, London, Ottawa and Toronto, Ontario
2019 EULAR – The European Congress of Rheumatology	June 12 - 15, 2019	Madrid, Spain
9 th International Conference on Children’s Bone Health	June 22 – 25, 2019	Salzburg, Austria
International Workshop on Osteoarthritis Imaging (IWOAI)	June 26 – 29, 2019	Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
Discrete Choice Experiment Short Course	September 8-11, 2019	Banff, Alberta
Arthritis Alliance of Canada 7th Annual Meeting	November 29, 2019	Toronto, Ontario

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.