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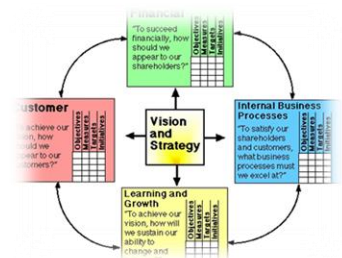
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ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS (IA) MODELS OF CARE DEVELOPMENTS “Development of a patient-centered balanced scorecard approach to RA Care ”

The AAC attended the 2018 Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) Annual Scientific Meeting & AHPA Annual Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. In conjunction with the CRA Meeting, on Thursday February 22nd, AAC hosted an IA Models of Care Workshop on “*Development of a patient-centered balanced scorecard approach to improve quality of care in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients in Canada*”, led by Drs. Claire Barber and Vandana Ahluwalia.

Drs. Barber and Ahluwalia reviewed the AAC’s work to date on the development of a quality framework for evaluating models of care for inflammatory arthritis. This work includes the [System-Level Performance Measures for Inflammatory Arthritis](#) and the [Core dataset for Rheumatoid Arthritis](#). The Balanced Scorecard concept was introduced to the audience while highlighting Canadian examples of balanced scorecards in healthcare. A balanced scorecard is a tool for quality improvement that ties measurement objectives along multiple domains to a central



vision for quality improvement. While developed in the business world, balanced scorecards have been increasingly used in healthcare. The workshop reviewed and discussed ongoing work to develop a balanced scorecard for rheumatoid arthritis.

OSTEOARTHRITIS (OA) MODELS OF CARE **National Update on AAC-CFPC Collaboration on “OA Tool for Use in Family Practice”**

On Wednesday, February 21st, as part of the National Update at the CRA Annual Scientific Meeting, Dr. Gillian Hawker, Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, provided an overview of a close to two-year partnership project between the Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC) and The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) that resulted in the development of the OA Tool for Family Practice. The Tool is intended to assist family physicians and healthcare providers in providing useful tips for diagnosis and management of OA; it is being widely disseminated and has got great resonance within the AAC, CFPC membership and stakeholder communities. To view more details about the OA Tool, please visit this section of the [AAC website](#).

Arthritis Alliance of Canada Research Awards Program

The AAC Research Committee is happy to announce that **Early Career Researcher Award** will include two sub-categories: 1) Basic science and 2) Clinical/applied science.

Please be reminded of the **2018 Research Awards Program application** deadlines:

Call for Applications:	Tuesday, May 15, 2018
Applications Due:	Tuesday, June 26, 2018
Applications Review Process:	July-September 2018
Announcement of Award Recipients:	AAC 2018 Annual Meeting in November

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



MEMBER’S CORNER

ALBERTA BONE AND JOINT HEALTH INSTITUTE

Canadian Musculoskeletal Conference 2018

Dr. Elly Park Awarded ABJHI Postdoctoral Fellowship to Develop Best Practices for Managing OA in Patients with Obesity

Elly Park has been awarded a two-year postdoctoral position with Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute to develop best practices for managing osteoarthritis in individuals with obesity. Dr. Park will develop innovative practices based on personalized medicine, a growing field in which treatment is tailored to the patient’s unique physical characteristics, personal health goals and desired quality of life. “Our work with Alberta’s Bone and Joint Health Strategic Clinical Network has revealed growing interest in developing evidence-based methods of delivering care more effectively to OA patients who have obesity,” Martin Ferguson-Pell, ABJHI Executive Director, said. “Through Dr. Park’s work, ABJHI will support The Bone and Joint Health Strategic Clinical Network’s (BJH SCN’s) growing focus on improving public health care for this important and increasing patient group.”

Dr. Park said: “This research has the potential to both improve outcomes for patients and reduce health care costs by enabling clinicians to identify and deliver treatment that is customized to the unique needs, characteristics and wishes of each individual patient.”



Dr. Elly Park

Arthritis Broadcast Network



We did it! The Arthritis Broadcast Network (ABN) #CRArthritis Facebook and Twitter Live at the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) Annual Scientific Meeting and Arthritis Health Professions Association (AHPA) Annual Meeting hosted a total of 39 interviews. Thanks to fans like you, the campaign reached over 45,065 people during the four day conference period. Interview topics covered included psoriatic arthritis, juvenile arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, rheumatoid arthritis, giantcell arteritis, lupus, travel, research, patient organizations, personalized and precision medicine, models of care, exercise, disease management, nutrition, education and pregnancy, 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 2018"](#). Please continue to share, like, and comment on the interviews to continue the conversation online.

On behalf of Arthritis Consumer Experts, the Canadian Spondylitis Association, and the Arthritis Patient Advisory Board of Arthritis Research Canada, thank you to the CRA and AHPA for their generous support in helping us bring their research and clinical stories to life. See you next year!

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 RESEARCH CANADA



Research Grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Arthritis Research Canada research scientists continue to receive grants from Canada’s premier research funding agency. Most recently, Dr. Glen Hazlewood, ARC Calgary research scientist, received two grants as Principal Investigator. Working with several Co-Investigators - including ARC scientists Dr. Ann Clarke, Dr. Paul Fortin, and Dr. Linda Li - the first grant was given for a project titled “Hydroxychloroquine in Systemic Lupus.”

The proposed study will attempt to identify whose disease will get worse if the dose of Hydroxychloroquine is reduced or discontinued completely. It will also attempt to determine how to identify which patients will get eye toxicity. The second grant, with Co-Investigators Dr. Nick Bansback, Dr. Claire Barber, and Dr. Deborah Marshall, is given for a project titled “A Pragmatic Registry-Based Randomized Trial of Drug Tapering in Rheumatoid Arthritis.”

Congratulations to Dr. Glen Hazlewood for receiving the two grants to conduct this important research!

THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY: NATIONAL OFFICE

Arthritis Society launches employer toolkit for medical cannabis coverage

As a forward-thinking advocate for the needs of Canadians living with arthritis and related chronic pain conditions, the Arthritis Society announced that it is leading the way by introducing a program and toolkit to help employers cover the costs of cannabis for medical purposes for employees through their company-sponsored employee benefit plans.



The innovative new program will provide a cost-effective, sustainable and progressive way of ensuring that scientifically validated use of prescribed medical cannabis can be supported through a company’s benefit plan in the same way as other prescription drugs. The Arthritis Society and its partners will study the impacts of the new program, and will invite other organizations who adopt similar programs to share their results in an aggregate report to identify key learnings and further refine the approach. This effort supports the Arthritis Society’s ongoing commitment to promoting arthritis-friendly workplaces.

For information about including medical cannabis in an employee drug benefit plan, contact Cheryl McClellan at 416-979-7228. For more information on the Arthritis Society’s work in support of research and education about medical cannabis, please visit www.arthritis.ca/medicalcannabis.

Arthritis Connects Symposium in Prince George

The third Symposium of our engaging series is taking place March 4th at the Prince George Civic Centre, and will also be live-streamed and available as an online webinar, and everyone is welcome. We are pleased to offer this event in the north region of British Columbia, as we extend our reach into underserved communities through the use of technology.

Topics will include symptoms, treatment options, and the availability of healthcare providers for different types of arthritis among children and adults. Speakers will include a pediatric rheumatologist and allied healthcare providers. The webinar will be interactive, so that everyone can participate and contribute to the question and answer portion. For more information, email registration@bc.arthritis.ca or call .866.414.7766.

CANADIAN CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION

Reducing Barriers to the Disability Tax Credit for Chiropractic Patients with Severe Osteoarthritis

For Canadians with Osteoarthritis (OA), chiropractic care is commonly used to help relieve pain, and improve function. OA can progress to the point where the severe restrictions on function or mobility meet the current eligibility criteria for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC). The Canadian Chiropractic Association (CCA) has had a number of meetings in Ottawa to address the current barrier faced by patients to have their chiropractor complete the assessment as part of applying for the DTC, and instead requiring that patient to be referred to another practitioner who may not know that patient's pain history as well as their chiropractor, who they visit frequently. These meetings were an opportunity to build an understanding that chiropractors are already trusted by every provincial government to do similar assessments under many provincial programs.

We thank The Arthritis Society for their support in these efforts to improve access to the Disability Tax Credit for chiropractic patients with severe OA.

CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION

2018 Award Recipients

At the recent Canadian Rheumatology Association's Annual Scientific Meeting in Vancouver, the following individuals were recognized for excellence in the field of Rheumatology:

Dr. Alan Rosenberg

Distinguished Rheumatologist Award

Dr. John Hanly

Distinguished Investigator Award

Dr. Anna Oswald

Teacher-Educator Award

Dr. Evelyne Vinet

Young Investigator Award

Dr. Natasha Gakhal and Dr. Shirley Lake

Practice Reflection Gold Award

Congratulations to all award recipients!



WESTERN'S BONE AND JOINT HEALTH INSTITUTE

3rd Biennial Canadian Bone & Joint Conference - May 11-12, 2018

The Biennial Canadian Bone and Joint Conference will be hosted by Western University's Bone and Joint Institute in partnership with the Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network on the picturesque Western University Campus in London Ontario. With plenary sessions by *Dr. Frank Barry*, *Dr. Farshid Guilak*, *Dr. Karim Kahn*, and many more, conference themes include:

- Basic Biological & Biomedical Advances in MSK Health
- Innovations in Physical Sciences & Engineering Research
- Improving MSK Health through Clinical, Community & Health Services Research
- MSK Research to Enhance Lifelong Mobility
- Novel Wearable Technology Solutions for MSK Rehabilitation

Call for Abstracts is OPEN – Submissions due March 17, 2018

Trainee Travel Award Competition

Registration is OPEN – details at: <http://boneandjoint.uwo.ca/events/cbjc/>

Community Updates

THE ADVANCED CLINICIAN PRACTITIONER IN ARTHRITIS CARE PROGRAM (ACPAC)

Stand Up and Be Counted Two (2) Survey!

ATTENTION: All Allied Health Professionals Involved in the Delivery of Advanced/Specialist Arthritis Care Across Canada: [Stand Up and Be Counted Too! Survey](#).

We are approaching you to consider participating in an important study which aims to characterize the practising allied health professional workforce involved in the delivery of specialized arthritis/musculoskeletal care in Canada. This effort complements the recently published work of Dr. Claire Barber MD (Rheumatologist) and her colleagues in a study which characterized the practising Rheumatologist workforce entitled “*Stand Up and Be Counted: Measuring and Mapping the Rheumatology Workforce in Canada*” in [The Journal of Rheumatology, December, 2016 DOI](#).

It is an objective of the present study to capture the broader base of non-physician health professional specialists’ importance to the circle of arthritis care service delivery across Canada. The ultimate goal will be to identify certain characteristics of *all* practitioners invested in advanced, extended or specialist roles in the arthritis care field so that the full spectrum of arthritis care services is better appreciated, and ultimately better networked, in Canada. This information is critical for stakeholders including patients, ministries of health, health professional regulatory bodies, and advocacy groups.

We encourage you to participate in this [survey](#) which should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. *Please feel free to forward this survey to anyone for whom this may be of relevance.* The deadline for participation in this survey is **Wednesday, March 7, 2018**. We thank you in advance for helping us measure and explore the characteristics of the allied health professional workforce involved in arthritis care across Canada. In case you have questions or need clarification, please contact [Katie Lundon](#), Lead, Stand Up and Be Counted Too (2).

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 held 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 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/>.



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

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
Canadian Chiropractic Association National Convention and Tradeshow	April 27-29, 2018	Calgary, Alberta
British Society for Rheumatology Annual Conference 2018	May 1-3, 2018	Liverpool, United Kingdom
3rd Biennial Canadian Bone & Joint Conference	May 11-12, 2018	London, Ontario
International Congress on Autoimmunity	May 16-20, 2018	Lisbon, Portugal
ARthritis Soirée 2018	May 17, 2018	Vancouver, British Columbia
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
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
CRA Canada Night in Chicago	October 22, 2018	Chicago, Illinois
Canadian Obesity Network 7th Conference on Recent Advances in the Prevention and Treatment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity	October 24-26, 2018	Calgary, Alberta
Canadian Physiotherapy Association Congress, Palais des congrés de Montréal	November 1-3, 2018	Montreal, Quebec
World Congress on Controversies, Debates and Consensus in Bone, Muscle and Joint Diseases (BMJD)	November 8-10, 2018	Bangkok, Thailand
Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC) 2018 Annual Meeting	November 22, 2018	Greater Toronto Area, Ontario

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