Seasonal Greetings!

Dear Readers,

We wish you and your families a warm and joyous Holiday Season, full of bright moments and beautiful events!

We would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support, dedication and engagement in the passing year.

Many happy returns in the New Year 2016!

We look forward to another year of partnership and collaboration with you!

December 2015

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA
NEWSLETTER

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AbbVie CORPORATION
AbbVie launches two educational microsites for Canadians living with inflammatory arthritis

AbbVie has recently launched two new disease awareness microsites to help educate and empower Canadians living with different kinds of inflammatory arthritis. **BreakTheDoubleWhammy.ca** encourages Canadians to connect the dots between psoriasis and joint pain, often a “double whammy” for people to live with two chronic diseases. Approximately 30% of people with psoriasis also develop psoriatic arthritis, a progressive disease that can cause long-term damage to the joints.

**StandUpToBackPain.ca** empowers Canadians to learn the differences between the two types of back pain— inflammatory and mechanical—in order to help people identify inflammatory arthritis, which can cause damage to the spine.

ARThRITIS CONSUMER EXPERTS

ACE’s groundbreaking publication, the annual **JointHealth™ Arthritis Medications Report Card**, is now online and hitting mailboxes in early January. In many ways, progress has been made in several provinces, arthritis patients’ right to choose with their healthcare team the therapy best suited to their unique health needs is threatened. The Report Card summarizes and ranks medication treatment advances for each province in Canada. It helps Canadians with arthritis and their rheumatology healthcare team identify how their province measures up to other provinces in terms of providing reimbursement access to medications approved for common autoimmune forms of arthritis.

ACE encourages you to share the findings in the Report Card with your healthcare team and community. You may also email feedback@jointhealth.org to request additional copies.

ARThRITIS RESEARCH CANADA PATIENT ADVISORY BOARD


We are pleased to feature an interview with Dr. Claire Barber about cardiovascular disease risk for people living with inflammatory arthritis and a discussion of cardiovascular best practices with a call to action.

THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

NATIONAL

Medical Cannabis Research Roundtable

The Arthritis Society hosted more than 25 organizations in Vancouver on December 3-4 in a medical cannabis roundtable. The goal was to identify the top priorities for research into the use of medical cannabis to treat arthritis and other conditions that are characterized by chronic pain. Participants included patient groups, health charities, clinicians and researchers, the medical cannabis industry and government. A report of the outcome of discussions will be made available early in 2016.

**2016-17 Research Funding Competition Announcement**

The Arthritis Society has launched new research funding opportunities for the 2016-17 competition. Letters of Intent (LOIs) for the **Strategic Operating** and **Young Investigator Operating Grant** Competitions are due at 3:00 pm (EST) on January 15th, 2016. For more information on our current funding opportunities, please visit our website at: [http://arthritis.ca/research/the-arthritis-society-s-research-program/how-to-apply](http://arthritis.ca/research/the-arthritis-society-s-research-program/how-to-apply). To apply, please visit our research portal at: [https://arthritisresearch.smartsimple.ca/s_Login.jsp](https://arthritisresearch.smartsimple.ca/s_Login.jsp).
CRA 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting Registration Now Open!
Optimizing Quality in Rheumatology Care

Join your colleagues and internationally renowned invited guests to review the latest in translational research, case management and therapeutics.

February 17-20, 2016 in Lake Louise, Alberta
To register, click here

Drug Update: Triamcinolone Hexacetonide (TH)

In response to the compromised availability of TH/Aristospan, the CRA Therapeutics Committee has actively solicited a collaborative relationship with a Canadian provider and is pleased to announce that SAP has resumed for TH under the brand, Lederlon. This product is now available for distribution in Canada. For more information, click here.

MCCAIG INSTITUTE FOR BONE AND JOINT HEALTH (MIBJH)
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

The final numbers are in and the Encore event in October featuring performances by Holly Cole and the Alberta Ballet, raised over $900,000 for the McCaig Institute and the Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute. Within the McCaig Institute, these funds will be used to support the Centre for Mobility and Joint Health, an innovative new clinical research facility focusing on early stage diagnosis and treatment tailored to the individual. The McCaig Winter 2015/16 Newsletter has been published. To view online, please visit http://tinyurl.com/jch39ct.

On behalf of the faculty, staff and trainees of the McCaig Institute, we wish everyone a joyous holiday season!
WESTERN’S BONE AND JOINT INSTITUTE

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada is pleased to welcome new Members, Western Bone and Joint Institute. Western’s Bone and Joint Institute was established by Western University, the Bone & Joint Institute (BJI) supports the newly created Cluster of Research Excellence in Musculoskeletal Health. Initially funded through the Interdisciplinary Development Initiative in Bone & Joint Health, the BJI is London’s hub for research and education initiatives related to bone, joint and musculoskeletal health.

The BJI’s research scope aligns with the Canadian Institutes of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis focus of its three strategic research priorities: 1) Physical Activity, Mobility and Health; 2) Tissue Injury, Repair and Replacement; 3) Pain, Disability and Chronic Disease. The vibrant group of the BJI’s researchers works collaboratively toward a vision of Lifelong Mobility for all.

CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ADMINISTRATIVE DATA (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 our Winter Webinar on December 14th, 2015 where we listened to a presentation entitled "Methodological approach to evaluate the long-term impact of early intensive treatment of rheumatoid arthritis on time to joint replacement surgery" by Dr. Cristiano Moura (McGill University) and Dr. Jessica Widdifield (McGill University). For more information pertaining to the CANRAD Network or information about our past webinar(s), please contact Autumn Neville at autumn.neville@clinepi.mcgill.ca or visit our website http://www.canradnetwork.ca/.

The CANadian Network for Advanced Interdisciplinary Methods for comparative effectiveness research (CAN-AIM) team was funded by CIHR to develop novel methods using prospective longitudinal cohorts and to respond to key knowledge gaps regarding drug safety and effectiveness by answering queries which arise from Health Canada and other regulatory parties. Our demonstration project looked at the comparative effectiveness of anti-tumour necrosis factor (TNF) agents versus traditional disease-modifying agents (DMARDs) in reducing orthopaedic surgery in rheumatoid arthritis (RA). For information on our preliminary results or for more information on our team, please contact Autumn Neville at autumn.neville@clinepi.mcgill.ca or visit our website http://canaim.ca/.

Calendar of Events

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Canadian Rheumatology Association Annual Scientific Meeting</td>
<td>February 17-20, 2016</td>
<td>Lake Louise, AB</td>
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<td>AHPA Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>Inflammatory Bowel Diseases, 11th Congress of the European Crohn's</td>
<td>March 16-19, 2016</td>
<td>Amsterdam/Netherlands</td>
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<td>and Colitis Organisation</td>
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<td>Global Summit on the Physical Activity of Children: Active Living</td>
<td>January 31-February 3, 2016</td>
<td>Hilton Clearwater Beach, Florida</td>
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<td>Research Conference</td>
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<td>Power of Movement</td>
<td>March 6, 2016</td>
<td>Nation wide</td>
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<td>Registered Nurses Association - Annual Nurse Executive Leadership</td>
<td>May 31-June 3, 2016</td>
<td>Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON</td>
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<td>Academy</td>
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<td>American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons Annual Meeting</td>
<td>March 1-5, 2016</td>
<td>Orlando, Florida</td>
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<td>Orthopaedic Research Society Annual Meeting</td>
<td>March 5-8, 2016</td>
<td>Orlando, Florida</td>
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<td>Ontario Physiotherapy Association - InterACTION</td>
<td>April 8-9, 2016, 2015</td>
<td>Toronto, ON</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ontario Gerontological Association 35th Annual Conference on Aging</td>
<td>May 4-5, 2016</td>
<td>Toronto, ON</td>
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<td>Canadian Conference on Medical Education 2014</td>
<td>April 16-19, 2016</td>
<td>Montreal, QC</td>
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<td>10th Annual Summer Obesity Boot Camp</td>
<td>April 2016</td>
<td>Kananaskis, AB</td>
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<td>Annual World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology</td>
<td>April 17-20, 2016</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
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<td>Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America AGM</td>
<td>April 27-30, 2016</td>
<td>Indianapolis, IN</td>
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<td>OARSI World Congress</td>
<td>March 31-April 3, 2016</td>
<td>Amsterdam, Netherlands</td>
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<td>Primary Care Today Conference</td>
<td>May 4-7, 2016</td>
<td>Toronto, ON</td>
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<td>Canadian Pain Society’s Annual Scientific Meeting</td>
<td>May 24-28, 2016</td>
<td>Vancouver, BC</td>
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<td>Ontario Rheumatology Association 15th Annual General Meeting</td>
<td>May 27-29, 2016</td>
<td>Muskoka, ON</td>
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<td>Canadian Orthopaedic Nurse Association Conference</td>
<td>May 29-June 1, 2016</td>
<td>Edmonton, AB</td>
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<td>Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists Annual Conference</td>
<td>April 19-22, 2016</td>
<td>Banff, AB</td>
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<td>22nd Canadian Connective Tissue Conference</td>
<td>June 1-3, 2016</td>
<td>Hamilton, ON</td>
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<td>Canadian Pharmacists Association Conference</td>
<td>June 24-27, 2016</td>
<td>Calgary, AB</td>
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<td>EULAR - European League Against Rheumatism International Conference</td>
<td>June 8-11, 2016</td>
<td>London, UK</td>
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<td>Canadian College of Health Leaders: National Health Leadership Conference</td>
<td>June 6-7, 2016</td>
<td>Ottawa, ON</td>
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<td>Biotechnology Industry Organization International Convention</td>
<td>June 6-9, 2016</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canadian Physiotherapy Association National Congress</td>
<td>May 26-28, 2016</td>
<td>Victoria, BC</td>
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<td>Canadian Paediatric Society Annual Conference</td>
<td>June 22-25, 2016</td>
<td>Charlottetown, PEI</td>
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<td>Council of the Federations (COF) - 2016 Council of the Federation Summer Meeting</td>
<td>July 20-22, 2016</td>
<td>Whitehorse, Yukon</td>
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<td>Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses - Dynamics of Critical Care Conference</td>
<td>September 25-27, 2016</td>
<td>Charlottetown, PEI</td>
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<td>Cochrane Collaboration Colloquium</td>
<td>October 23-27, 2015</td>
<td>Seoul, South Korea</td>
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<td>Vasculitis Symposium</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canadian Vasculitis (CandVasc) Annual Scientific Meeting</td>
<td>October 2016</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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**Arthritis Alliance of Canada Members**

**Member Organizations**
- Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute
- Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre
- Arthritis Community Research & Evaluation Unit
- Arthritis Consumer Experts
- Arthritis Health Professions Association
- Arthritis Research Centre of Canada
- Arthritis Research Foundation
- The Arthritis Society
- Bone and Joint Canada
- Canadian Alliance of Pediatric Rheumatology Investigators
- Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance
- Canadian Academy of Sports and Exercise Medicine
- Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
- Canadian Chiropractic Association
- Canadian Obesity Network
- Canadian Orthopaedic Association
- Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation
- Canadian Physiotherapy Association
- Canadian Rheumatology Association
- Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology
- Canadian Spondylitis Association
- Cochrane Collaboration
- Consumer Advisory Board of the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada
- Institute for Work and Health
- McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health
- Patient Partners
- Western’s Bone & Joint Institute

**Member Companies**
- AbbVie Corporation
- Amgen Canada Inc.
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Celgene Inc.
- Hoffmann-La Roche Limited
- Janssen Inc.
- Pfizer Canada Inc.
- UCB Canada Inc.

**ABOUT THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA**

With more than 36 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 or visit our website: www.arthritisalliance.ca