Arthritis Alliance of Canada
2nd Annual Conference and Research Symposium

Arthritis Unmasked: Genetics, Treatments and Partnerships

presented in partnership with Gairdner Foundation and CIHR’s Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis

PROGRAM
October 30th - November 1st, 2014
Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre Hotel
Dear Delegate,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the Arthritis Alliance of Canada’s 2nd Annual Conference and Research Symposium, “Arthritis Unmasked: Genetics, Treatments and Partnerships”.

We look forward to engaging with all of you throughout the program and working together on future initiatives to improve the lives of Canadians living with arthritis.

Planning a conference involves a great deal of work and we would like to thank the Gairdner Foundation, CIHR’s Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis and the workshop planning committee for their assistance in developing the program.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, a special vote of thanks goes out to each one of you for attending and helping to make our conference a great success.

Sincerely,

Janet Yale
Chair, Arthritis Alliance of Canada

Board of Directors, Arthritis Alliance of Canada:

Ms. Janet Yale, Chair
Dr. Claire Bombardier, Research Representative
Ms. Cheryl Koehn, Patient Representative
Ms. Terri Lupton, Member’s Representative
Dr. Dianne Mosher, Advisor and Past Chair
Dr. Emil Schemitsch, Canadian Orthopaedic Association Representative
Dr. Michel Zummer, Canadian Rheumatology Association Representative

Dear Delegate,

The Gairdner Foundation is pleased to partner with the Arthritis Alliance of Canada on the 2nd Annual Conference and Research Symposium as part of our 2014 Gairdner Symposia schedule.

We pride ourselves on the ability to bring the best and brightest leaders from around the world to Canada and this year is no exception.

This symposium was sparked when Sir Marc Feldmann and Sir Ravinder Maini were selected as two of the 2014 Canada Gairdner International Awardees. They are being honoured for the discovery of anti-TNF therapy for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and other inflammatory diseases. Their work is inspiring and has greatly benefited many arthritis patients around the world. When designing this program the question was asked of what’s next in inflammatory diseases and our speakers were chosen to help showcase the future direction for these diseases.

I hope that you enjoy hearing from them at the symposium along with the many high calibre speakers involved. Finally, thank you to the entire planning committee and for each of you for attending.

Sincerely,

John H. Dirks
President and Scientific Director
Gairdner Foundation
Dr. John H. Dirks is the President and Scientific Director, Gardiner Foundation. Dr. Dirks has held various leadership positions at McGill University, University of British Columbia and the University of Toronto. He trained in nephrology research at the NIH and held an ARC Canada Grant for his work in renal pathology. In 2012 he was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame and also received an Honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of Toronto.

Janet Yale currently serves as President and CEO of The Arthritis Society. A lawyer and economist by training, Janet worked early in her career as Director General at the CRTC and as general counsel to the Consumers Association of Canada. Janet holds an LLB from the University of Toronto and a MA (Econ) from McGill University. Janet is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, a winner of the Woman Leader of the Year by the Federated Press and the Businesswoman of the Year by the Women’s Business Network.

Ms. Cheryl Koehn is an arthritic advocate, community leader, published author and rheumatoid arthritis survivor for 26 years. She is the founder and president of Arthritis Consumer Experts. She has served as Co-Chair of the Summit on Standards for Arthritis Prevention, Care and Co-Founder of the Best Medicines Coalition and as Vice Chair of the Better Pharmacare Coalition. Ms. Koehn is presently the consumer representative Board Member of the Arthritis Alliance of Canada.

Dr. Lawrence Steinman is Professor of Neurology, Neurological Sciences and Pediatrics at Stanford University. Dr. Steinman graduated from Dartmouth College, Magna Cum Laude in Physics. MD from Harvard Medical School, post-doctoral fellow in chemical immunology at Weizmann Institute of Science. His research focuses on what provokes relapses and remissions in multiple sclerosis, in neuromyelitis optica and the quest for antigen specific therapy. He has received the John M. Dystel Prize in 2004, the Javits Neuroscience Investigator Award from the NINDS twice, and the Charcot Prize in MS research.

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Dr. Claire Bombardier holds a Canada Research Chair in Knowledge Transfer for Musculoskeletal Care and is the Rheumatology Division Director for the University of Toronto. She is a senior scientist at the Toronto General Research Institute in Canada and at the Institute for Work and Health. In September 2003, she won the University of Toronto, Dales Award in Medical Research, which was established in 1991 to recognize sustained excellence in medical research.

Sir Marc Feldmann studied PhD in immunology at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne. He worked at Mitchellson’s ICRF Tumour Immunology Unit at University College London and in 1983 he published a hypothesis that upregulated cytokines and antigen presentation were key steps in a chronic autoimmune disease. The testable hypothesis led to collaborating with Sir Ravinder Maini on the exploratory work that was critical cytokines in the most accessible human autoimmune disease, rheumatoid arthritis. This success and that of other anti-TNF antibodies has made anti-TNF the best-selling drug class from 2012. Sir Feldmann is the first European Inventor of the Year in the Lifetime Achievement category awarded in Biomedicine (2006).

Dr. Gail Aderem is the President and Director of Seattle Biomed. She obtained her Ph.D. at the University of Cape Town and did her post-doctoral work at Stanford University with Robert Sorkin on the structure of RNA polymerase II. Aderem and his team have contributed the 3D structures of >2,000 different proteins into the Protein Data Bank – accounting for 15% of all the available structural information for human proteins.

Dr. Sir Marc Feldmann, Dr. Sir Ravinder Maini, Dr. Dan Kastner, Dr. Dr. Sir Marc Feldmann, Dr. Sir Ravinder Maini, Dr. Dan Kastner, and Dr. Lawrence Steinman are all recipients of the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) Awards. Dr. Sir Marc Feldmann and Dr. Sir Ravinder Maini are also recipients of theCIHR Tumour Immunology Unit at University College London and in 1983 he published a hypothesis that upregulated cytokines and antigen presentation were key steps in a chronic autoimmune disease. The testable hypothesis led to collaborating with Sir Ravinder Maini on the exploratory work that was critical cytokines in the most accessible human autoimmune disease, rheumatoid arthritis. This success and that of other anti-TNF antibodies has made anti-TNF the best-selling drug class from 2012. Sir Feldmann is the first European Inventor of the Year in the Lifetime Achievement category awarded in Biomedicine (2006).

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