

PRESIDENTS

1947	George E. Hodge*	1970	E. John Smith
1948	Howard McCart*	1971	Paul Fugere
1949	E.G. Washington*	1972	Nat J. Blair
1950	H.W. Schwartz*	1973	Douglas P. Bryce
1951	W.J. McNally*	1974	Terry J. Molony
1952	Jules Brahy*	1975	James D. Baxter
1953	D.E.S. Wishart*	1976	G.A. Badger
1954	Robert Black*	1977	W.H. Novick
1955	G.E. Tremble*	1978	Y.P. Morrissette
1956	D.S. Gorrell*	1979	Hugh Barber
1957	G.M.T. Hazen*	1980	Eric Stark
1958	R.T. Hayes	1981	R.E. Greenway
1959	G.A. Henry	1982	N. Gagnon
1960	G.H. Francis	1983	J.D. Campbell
1961	Fernand Montreuil*	1984	G. Novotny
1962	Walter Alexander*	1985	T.D.R. Briant
1963	Percy E. Ireland*	1986	D.W. McCullough
1964	W. Ross Wright*	1987	J.F.J. Poliquin*
1965	Ernest E. Scharfe*	1988	Pat Doyle
1966	Kenneth A.C. Clarke	1989	Peter W. Alberti
1967	Francois Letarte	1990	Melvin Schloss
1968	Kenneth McAskile*		* Deceased
1969	Jack A. Rubin		

The Canadian Rheumatism Association

In 1936 when Canada was emerging from the depression and war clouds were gathering in Europe an organisation named the Canadian Rheumatic Disease Association (CRDA) was founded.

Interest in rheumatic disease was barely visible at that time. The connective tissue diseases were just being defined. The new sulfonamide drugs gave promise of the antibiotics to come, and with them the opportunity to concentrate on chronic and disabling conditions.

Walter Barnhart and Ross Millar of Ottawa carried out the spade work leading to the organizing meeting in May, 1936. The new association was to be affiliated with the International League Against Rheumatism (ILAR) as well as the Canadian Medical Association.

Others in this historic association included Antoine Blais, René Dandurand and Douglas Taylor of Montreal, Leopold Mantha of Ottawa, Almon Fletcher and Wallace Graham of Toronto, Dean Robinson of Banff and J.D. Adamson of Winnipeg. Almon Fletcher was elected president, J.C. Meakins of Montreal honorary president, and Walter Barnhart secretary.

Although available information about the activities of the CRDA is sparse, the membership was to include not only doctors but also interested lay people, with representation from each province. One objective was to act as a central advisory body in a national campaign against rheumatic disease and another to cooperate in the collection of provincial and national statistics pertaining to rheumatic disease.

The war intervened and, while the secretariat remained active, national energies were focused elsewhere. It was not until June, 1946, that momentum was restored, the CRDA was renamed the Canadian Rheumatism Association (CRA) and was given a new constitution at a

meeting in the newly reopened Banff Springs Hotel. Wallace Graham of Toronto was elected president, and W.S. Barnhart of Ottawa secretary-treasurer, thus assuring continuity. R. Dandurand of Montreal and Dean Robinson of Banff were elected vice presidents.

The CRA was launched at a time of limited national interest in rheumatic diseases. Lay pressure was mounting for attention to the disease but there were minimal facilities, little scientifically based knowledge, few experienced physicians, and the few interested allied health professionals had ill-defined roles.

There had, however, been stirrings of interest in the medical world since the International League Against Rheumatism had been established in 1927 in Europe, the American Rheumatism Association in 1934 and the CRDA in 1936. The war had quickened the interest of some physicians who had had experience treating soldiers with rheumatic complaints. A major factor at the time in stimulating scientific interest was the demonstration of the profound anti-inflammatory effect of cortisone in rheumatoid arthritis through the research of P. Hench and E.C. Kendall.

Wallace Graham (president of the CRA in 1946 and again in 1952) travelled across the country speaking to medical and lay audiences, met with interested confrères and promoted a climate conducive to the formation of the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society (CARS), which he served as its first president. Before his untimely death in 1962 he served as vice president of the International League Against Rheumatism and president of the Pan American League Against Rheumatism.

Early membership of the new CRA was thin indeed. A few physicians and surgeons attended the annual meetings and scientific sessions which were often held in conjunction with the Canadian Medical Association. At first the council of the CRA was strengthened by appointing one member from each medical school and one from each province without a medical school. This proved somewhat cumbersome and by 1966 the provision for a council was dropped.

The CRA's objective was "to stimulate interest throughout Canada in the medical, social and economic problems related to the

Causes, Treatment and Control of the Rheumatic Diseases." Qualification for active membership was defined (1967) as "physicians or surgeons who are members in good standing of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of a Province of Canada, or an appropriate body outside of Canada, whose practice or achievements demonstrate their interest in rheumatic diseases". The passing of the years and the growth of rheumatology as a specialty have led to the present roll of some 270 members.

1946-1989

Association with The Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society.

The political pressures in the late 1940s to "do something" about arthritis were largely ineffective until the medical profession got behind the movement. Not much happened until the crucial support of the Department of National Health and Welfare and the Honorable Paul Martin, Minister of Health, had been secured.

In June 1947, the CRA, a professional body composed wholly of doctors and affiliated with the CMA, called upon the Department of National Health and Welfare to hold a conference to examine the problem of rheumatic disease and the means through which to attack it. In response, a national conference was held in Ottawa in October, 1947, and the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society (CARS) was incorporated under letters patent on 15 March 1948.

The CRA and CARS held a close relationship over the years. CARS, a voluntary health agency, with both lay and medical representation, raised funds to support research, education and treatment. CRA members gave advice and support through the medical advisory committees at both national and provincial levels.

Joint Endeavours of the CRA.

The close working relationship of the two organizations enabled them to co-sponsor conferences such as the 9th International Congress of Rheumatic Disease (Toronto, 1957) and the Pan American Congress of Rheumatic Disease (1974) as well as several Canadian research



Figure 1 Norrie Swanson, Phil Hench (honorary member, CRA), Wallace Graham. IX International Congress on Rheumatic Diseases, Toronto, 1957.



Figure 2 1. H.S. Robinson 2. M. Ogryzlo 3. B. Fahrni 4. H. Selye 5. P.B. Stewart 6. D. Graham 7.—8.—9. S. Rusen 10. J. Martin 11. G. Kelly 12. C.E. Robinson 13.—14. R.C. Boyce 15.—16. C. Slade 17. C.V. Brown 18.— IX International Congress on Rheumatic Diseases, Toronto, 1957.

conferences. Donald Graham (immediate past president of CRA) and Mr. Edward Dunlop, (managing director of CARS), became, respectively, the chairman and the executive director of the 9th International Congress.

Another matter of great interest, supported by both bodies, was the need for a greater academic presence in medical schools.

A booklet, *Arthritis—Plan for Attack*, was published jointly by the Arthritis Society and the CRA in 1949. It gave credit to Lord Horder's report in Britain. The plan advocated treatment, education and research objectives, particularly in medical schools. It was as late as 1961 that Arthur Bagnall reported the results of a survey of existing teaching facilities in medical schools in Canada. He revealed an alarming neglect in the teaching of diagnosis and treatment of the rheumatic diseases. The CRA instructed its president to draw this to the attention of deans and professors of medicine at all sixteen medical schools, recommending suitable measures to correct this situation. This added urgency to the need for a constant CRA presence in university circles.

There was, therefore, solid backing for the launching of rheumatic disease units (RDUs) supporting research, education and treatment at all medical schools in Canada—a major objective of CARS and Edward Dunlop.

The objective was reached when the last of these units was established in 1975 in Université Laval, accomplishing the long term goal. Through these units, resident and fellowship training led to an increasing commitment in the field of rheumatic disease. Each of the units was supported by treatment beds. Research in a unit was encouraged by funding which was dependent on a favourable assessment from a professional peer review committee of CARS.

Public educational information kits were developed and made widely available. Bursaries (CARS) and educational support were offered to enlarge the allied health professions—in particular physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

While the CARS (renamed The Arthritis Society in 1977) is independent from the CRA, the two bodies have a close relationship. A

proposal to integrate CRA with CARS in 1957 was eventually believed to be undesirable and was not pursued.

At the 1986 meeting of the CRA it was noted that the Canadian Paediatric Rheumatology Association had been formed. It was hoped that the new association would retain a close scientific liaison with the CRA and continue to participate in the annual meetings.

The new subspecialty, rheumatology, and the rheumatologist.

In March, 1962, a brief was presented to the Hall Royal Commission on Health Services. Prepared by Hugh Smythe and Edward Dunlop, it included, among other suggestions, recommendations concerning the structure and function of the proposed RDUs and the Canada-wide strategic plan.

The idea of rheumatology as a subspecialty in medicine was first explored in June, 1969, by a committee chaired by P. Gofton. Rheumatology had already been established as a subspecialty in Quebec. By this time the Royal College had approved the principle of a subspecialty in rheumatology. CRA designated certain members to meet with the college to work out ways of converting the principle into reality. The CRA was subsequently informed that a Royal College committee under the chairmanship of Metro Ogryzlo was working out regulations for training and examinations in rheumatology as well as accreditation of hospitals for training. Since 1972 examination in rheumatology has been offered by the Royal College subject to previous certification in internal medicine or paediatrics. Duncan Gordon was the first chief examiner for the new subspecialty. By 1974, eight certificates in rheumatology had been awarded.

The CRA met in conjunction with the Royal College for the first time in 1973. Several members were named to the Royal College committee on rheumatology at College request in 1976. Debate as to training requirements for rheumatology was still under way in 1978 when a preference for certification in internal medicine as a background for rheumatology training was expressed by the membership.

The Journal of Rheumatology

In 1974 the *Journal of Rheumatology*, a Canadian-based international publication, was founded by Metro Ogryzlo who became editor. In spite of some early doubts the CRA adopted the journal as its official organ with the proviso that the decision to subscribe to it be left to individual members. The journal has maintained its international stature under the current Editor, Duncan A. Gordon.

Manpower

In 1974 a CRA subcommittee chaired by Manfred Harth looked into manpower requirements. Its 1975 report estimated there were 90 full-time rheumatologists in Canada—that is, internists spending more than 50% of practice time in rheumatic diseases. This matter, as well as the distribution pattern, has been of continuing interest and as late as 1986 the College requested further studies.

Scientific Programs & Awards

The CRA has always encouraged scientific displays, research conferences and annual scientific programs, usually at the time of the annual meetings. It established (1973) the Dunlop Annual Lectureship (later Dunlop-Dottridge) and in 1977 the Ogryzlo International Fellowship. The International Fellowship complemented the fellowship program of CARS and the RDUs. In 1980 the Phillip Rosen Award was established as an annual prize for a deserving resident. Starting in 1990, the CRA will recognize outstanding contributions in the field of Canadian rheumatology through two new awards, the CRA Distinguished Rheumatologist Award and the CRA Young Investigator Award.

International and National Affiliations

The CRA has retained its affiliation with the Canadian Medical Association and has a continued association with the Canadian Society of Clinical Investigation. Some CRA members also hold membership in The American Rheumatism Association (now the American College of Rheumatology).

The CRA developed during a period of international interest in rheumatic disease. The International League Against Rheumatism (ILAR), established in 1927, was followed by the formation of the Pan American, Pan European and Pan Asiatic Leagues, each of which has a highly successful meeting in a four year cycle. The CRA has supported these meetings and has been represented in both PANLAR and ILAR. Indeed, Duncan A. Gordon assumed the presidency of PANLAR in 1990. It is expected that Canada will host the Pan American League in 1998 and the International League in 2001.

H.S. Robinson

SOURCES

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CANADIAN RHEUMATIC DISEASE ASSOCIATION

	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
1936	J.A. Meakins, Honorary	
1936-38	A. Almon Fletcher	W.S. Barnhart
1938-39	G. Douglas Taylor	W.S. Barnhart
1939-40	A. Almon Fletcher	W.S. Barnhart
1940-46	J.D. Adamson	W.S. Barnhart

CANADIAN RHEUMATISM ASSOCIATION

Société Canadienne de Rhumatologie

1946-47	Wallace J. Graham	W.S. Barnhart
1947-48	Wallace J. Graham	Don C. Graham
1948-49	H.P. Wright	Don C. Graham
1949-50	Arthur W. Bagnall	Don C. Graham
1950-51	H.P. Wright	Don C. Graham
1951-52	Arthur W. Bagnall	Tal Hunt
1952-53	Wallace J. Graham	Tal Hunt
1953-54	Louis G. Johnson	J. Bruce Frain
1954-55	Donald C. Graham	J. Bruce Frain
1955-56	H. Garfield Kelly	J. Bruce Frain
1956-57	A. Almon Fletcher	de Guise Vaillancourt
1957-58	F.W.B. Hurlburt	de Guise Vaillancourt
1958-59	John F.L. Woodbury	de Guise Vaillancourt
1959-61	J. Bruce Frain	de Guise Vaillancourt
1961-63	Metro O. Ogryzlo	Phillip S. Rosen
1963-65	Jacques Durivage	Phillip S. Rosen
1965-67	J. Philip Gofton	Phillip S. Rosen
1967-69	de Guise Vaillancourt	Phillip S. Rosen
1970-71	Donald Mitchell	Alain Prat
1972-73	Roger Demers	Alain Prat
1974-75	Phillip S. Rosen	Joseph B. Houpt
1976-77	Douglas Kinsella	John S. Percy
1978-80	Alain Prat	Manfred Harth
1980-82	Joseph B. Houpt	Andre Lussier
1982-84	Manfred Harth	Andre Lussier
1984-86	Anthony Russell	Adel G. Fam
1986-88	Andre Lussier	Barry Koehler
1988-90	Adel Fam	Barry Koehler