



CANADIAN
RHEUMATOLOGY
ASSOCIATION

SOCIÉTÉ
CANADIENNE
DE RHUMATOLOGIE

DELIVERING EXCELLENCE IN RHEUMATIC DISEASE CARE

2017-2018

Annual
Report

The mission of the Canadian Rheumatology Association is to represent Canadian rheumatologists and promote the pursuit of excellence in arthritis and rheumatic disease care, education and research.

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Message from the President & CEO



I am honored to welcome you to this new publication from the Canadian Rheumatology Association, our first-ever Annual Report.

The CRA continues to make an extremely significant impact on our community through its commitment to creating strong educational programs and opportunities for valuable research in the field of rheumatology. Our Annual Scientific Meeting brings together the best minds in rheumatology and continues to grow in its reach and breadth of offerings year upon year. All this success has been driven collectively by our dedicated Board of Directors, Operational Committees (chairs and members) and hardworking and forward-thinking staff. I look forward to continuing this important work alongside them to stay true to our mission: to represent Canadian rheumatologists and promote the pursuit of excellence in arthritis and rheumatic disease care, education and research.

As always, our members remain our number one priority, and the community is now over 600 members strong. We shall continue to strive to bring fresh ideas, innovative programs and unique networking opportunities to them. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize many of our dedicated member volunteers, who give of their time and talent in support of the CRA's endeavours. I would like to also acknowledge our sponsors and thank them for their ongoing support and generosity. We could not have achieved what we have thus far without the commitment of our many friends and partners!

Enjoy reading this report; a reflection of our achievements this past year as well as a look forward to what we will accomplish together in the future.

Vandana Ahluwalia

MD FRCPC

President, Canadian Rheumatology Association

Being new to the CRA, putting this report together was educational, fun and quite inspiring. As I am sure you will see as you flip (or scroll) through this report, our organization is vibrant, progressive and committed to excellence in rheumatic disease care. That's what you get with a dedicated Board of Directors; committed members on our operational and program committees; and staff fully subscribed to providing the best services and support to our membership, so they can provide optimal quality of care to their patients.

We recognize that there are many factors that will impact our ability to deliver our mission. In general, the profession of medicine is evolving, and rheumatology is not immune to those changes. Also, we understand that a growing population will only compound the impact of a shortage of rheumatologists. Furthermore, we appreciate that our existing programs will need to accommodate the evolving needs of our emerging leaders and new members. That's why we will continue building on over 7 decades of learning to take on the challenges and opportunities lying ahead of us by leveraging our collective vision, passion and commitment while benefiting from technological breakthroughs and strategic partnerships.

This organization has a notable history, an impressive present and with your dedication, contributions and support, a great future. They say that the best way to predict the future is to create it; which is why I am truly excited about working with our members, partners, supporters and key stakeholders to give the CRA, its members and the people we ultimately serve (Canadians with rheumatic diseases) a future of which to be proud.



Ahmad Zbib

MD CPHIMS-CA

Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Rheumatology Association

Leadership & Committees

Executive Leadership

PRESIDENT

Dr. Vandana Ahluwalia

VICE-PRESIDENT

Dr. Evelyn Sutton

PAST-PRESIDENT

Dr. Joanne Homik

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Dr. John Wade

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dr. Ahmad Zbib

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Vandana Ahluwalia

Dr. Joanne Homik

Dr. Ron Laxer

Dr. Deborah Levy

Dr. Evelyn Sutton

Dr. Trudy Taylor

Dr. Michelle Teo

Dr. Stephanie Tom

Dr. John Wade

Operational Committees

CHAIR, ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING PROGRAM

Dr. Tom Appleton

Chair, Abstract Review

Dr. Vinod Chandran

CHAIR, COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Dax Rumsey

CHAIR, EDUCATION

Dr. Raheem Kherani

SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CPD (Continuing Professional Development)

Drs. Gregory Choy and Christopher Penney

Postgraduate

Drs. Marie Clements-Baker and Michelle Jung

Undergraduate

Drs. Lori Albert and Robert Ferrari

CanREAL (Canadian Rheumatology Education and Learning)

Dr. Susan Humphrey-Murto

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

FLIRT (Future Leaders in Rheumatology Training)

Dr. Janet Pope

NRRW (National Rheumatology Residents Weekend)

Drs. Elizabeth Hazel and Dharini Mahendira

Residents' Pre-Course

Drs. Shahin Jamal and Dharini Mahendira

CHAIR, GUIDELINES

Dr. Glen Hazlewood

CHAIR, HUMAN RESOURCES

Vacant

CHAIR, QUALITY CARE

Dr. Cheryl Barnabe

Sub-Committee Chair, Choosing Wisely

Dr. Shirley Lake

CHAIR, PAEDIATRICS

Dr. Ronald Laxer

SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advocacy

Drs. Kerstin Gerhold and Tommy Gerschman

Education

Dr. Mercedes Chan

Human Resources

Dr. Michelle Batthish

CHAIR, THERAPEUTICS

Dr. Mary-Ann Fitzcharles

CHAIR, RESEARCH

Dr. Janet Pope

Chair, CIORA Grant Review

Dr. Marie Hudson

Liaisons

CRAJ EDITOR-IN CHIEF

Dr. Philip Baer

LIAISON, JOURNAL OF RHEUMATOLOGY

Dr. Jamie Henderson

LIAISON, THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY (MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR)

Dr. Evelyn Sutton

LIAISON, ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

Dr. Vandana Ahluwalia

PRESIDENT, ARTHRITIS HEALTH PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION (AHPA)

Sue MacQueen

Membership Overview

The CRA offers outstanding value to its members including knowledge sharing, education, networking, advocacy and research support. The CRA's membership has enjoyed positive growth year-over-year. We currently have over 600 members across all member categories.

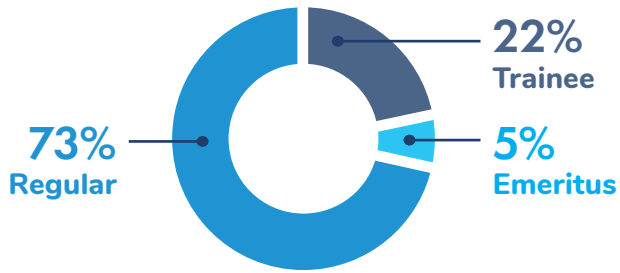
CRA member benefits are numerous and wide-reaching. They include complimentary subscriptions to *The Journal of Rheumatology (JRheum)* and *The Journal of the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRAJ)*. We offer several membership engagement events including networking receptions and an awards dinner at the Annual Scientific Meeting, an Annual General Meeting, Canada Night at the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) meeting, and regional rheumatology receptions. In addition to this, membership dues are waived for trainees and emeritus members, and rheumatologists who are in their first year of practice and those on parental or sick leave receive a 50% discount.

The CRA is pleased to announce a newly dedicated internal resource that is exclusively focused on member support, understanding and growth.

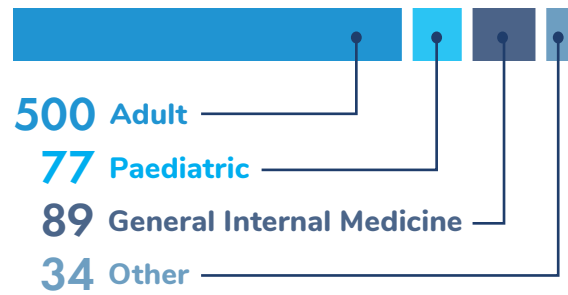
2017 Membership Facts



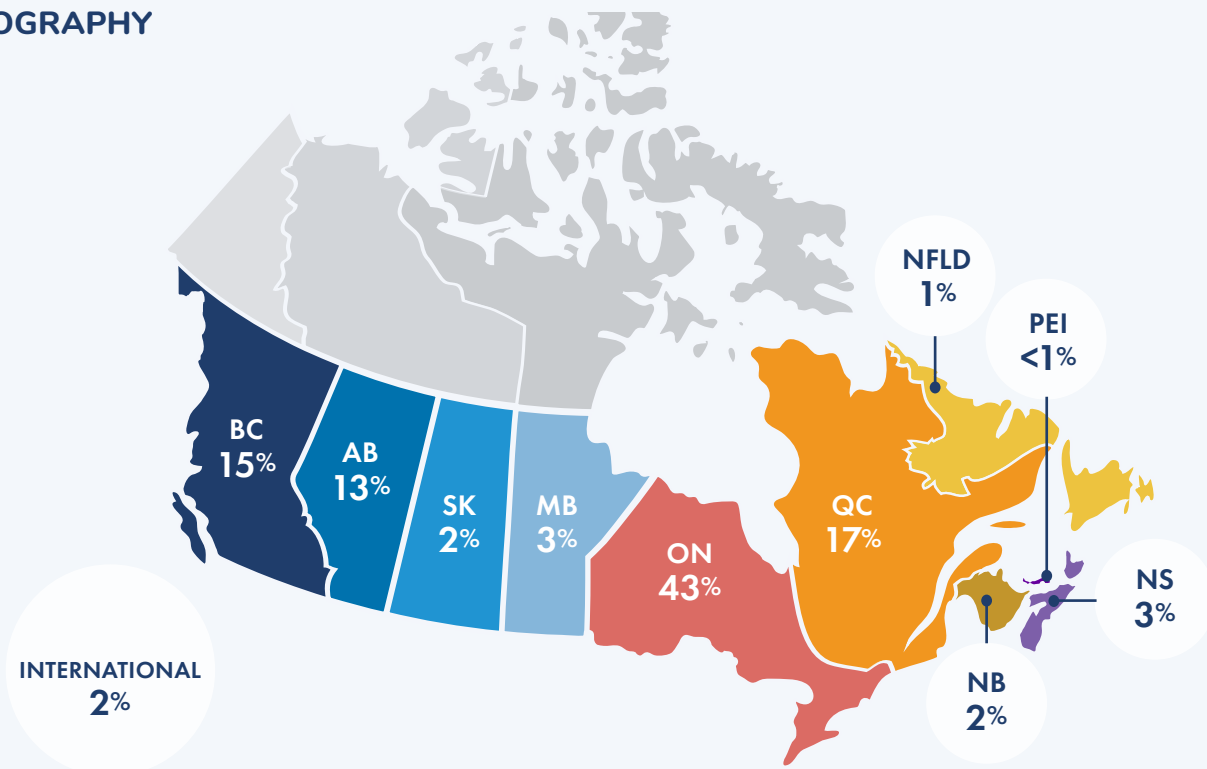
MEMBERSHIP TYPE



SPECIALTY



GEOGRAPHY



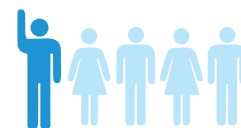
MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

 Our members are highly engaged:

In
2017

38% of our members participated in **1** CRA networking event

19% participated in **2** events



1 in 5 of our members are involved in CRA committees

Mission & Strategic Priorities

The mission of the Canadian Rheumatology Association is to represent Canadian rheumatologists and promote the pursuit of excellence in arthritis and rheumatic disease care, education and research.

CRA STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Optimal Care

Members are supported in their efforts to provide optimal care



Workforce Planning & Management*

Members are aware of rheumatology workforce issues related to practice management, career development, employment opportunities and training new rheumatologists



Connection

Members are provided with opportunities to feel connected



Research

Members are supported in their research



Stakeholder Relations*

External organizations are engaged to enhance the CRA's reputation, build relationships with stakeholders and promote optimal care



Organizational Viability*

Long-term viability and success of the association is ensured through good governance practices and appropriate risk mitigation

The CRA's Strategic Priorities influence all aspects of planning and decision making to ensure that members have the service and support necessary to provide their patients the best quality of care. All Operational Committees' annual activities are organized around the Strategic Priorities to ensure goals and deliverables are aligned with the priorities of the association.

* High priority areas for 2018

Operational Committees

Annual Scientific Meeting Program (ASM) Committee

Mandate

Determine and plan all scientific elements of the CRA Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) to ensure unparalleled education and networking opportunities are presented to all attendees.



Achievements

- 2018 ASM hosted in Vancouver, BC, February 21-24, 2018

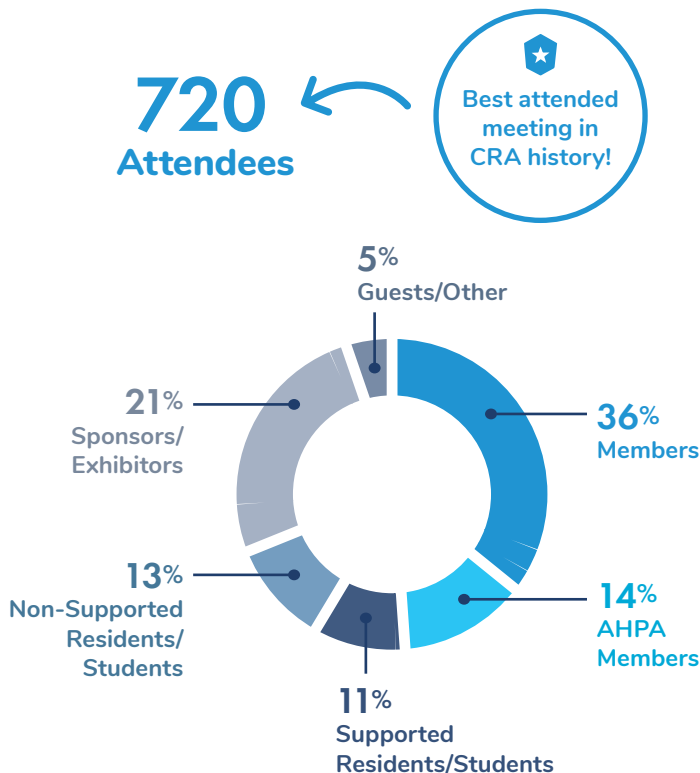
Theme: Precision & Personalized Medicine in Rheumatology

The scientific program featured keynote lectures, debates, interactive sessions and 30 workshops delivered by Canadian and international experts

Priorities

- Develop the scientific program for the annual conference to ensure that members' Continuing Professional Development (CPD) needs are met
- Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of the membership
- Provide direction to, and review and adjudicate industry symposia
- Review and adjudicate abstract submissions to determine poster/podium presenters and award nominees (Abstract Review Committee)

2018 ASM ATTENDANCE



MEETING AT A GLANCE



Did you know?

2019 ASM
February 27 - March 2, Montreal
Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth

Communications Committee

Mandate

Create a consistent membership communication strategy aligned with the CRA's mission, values, and operational committee goals.



Achievements

- Developed new content review procedures for disseminating information to members
- Completed a comprehensive review of the CRA's website with the goal of enhancing external communications and the membership experience

Did you know?



June 2018

Launch of new website and membership database

- Completed external review and assessment of CRA communications to members
- Created and launched new feature in CRA e-Newsletter, Who's in the Rheum?, article that highlights CRA members with the goal of increasing member community awareness and engagement

Priorities

- Hone strategies and communications to best engage CRA members (e.g. Who's in the Rheum?)
- Promote the CIORA grant competition to community rheumatologists
- Develop communications for members as necessary (e.g. additional website content and resources)
- Complete CRA history website project

Education Committee

Mandate

Provide member education through a variety of CRA programs and initiatives.



Achievements

- Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM)
- Residents' Pre-Course, a full-day educational program for residents hosted immediately prior to the ASM
- Future Leaders in Rheumatology Training (FLIRT) mentorship program for early career rheumatologists
- National Rheumatology Residents' Weekend (NRRW), an educational and networking event for all rheumatology residents and program directors from training centres across the country
- Created the 2018 NWRITE (National Written Rheumatology In-Training Examination) and disseminated to all adult rheumatology programs in Canada

Priorities

- Recent establishment of work-based sub-committees will allow the CPD (Continuing Professional Development), Postgraduate, Undergraduate and CanREAL (Canadian Rheumatology Education and Learning) sub-committees to identify and develop activities relevant to the membership's educational requirements
- Collaborate with the ASM Program Committee to ensure all competencies and unperceived needs are addressed, innovation promoted, and accredited content reviewed for the 2019 ASM
- Promote, adjudicate and organize FLIRT meetings for new 2018-2019 cohort
- Compile results, analysis and reporting for the 2018 NWRITE, and begin planning for the 2019 NWRITE
- Continue to inform the membership on ways to obtain Section 2 and Section 3 Maintenance of Certification (MOC) credits

RESIDENTS' PRE-COURSE

120

supported, non-supported and medical students in attendance

FLIRT

20

future leaders mentored

NRRW

>100

residents and faculty in attendance

Guidelines Committee

Mandate

Prioritize, fund and support the development of evidence-based guidelines for various rheumatic diseases, and disseminate them to the membership and medical community at large.



Achievements

- Established a streamlined guideline development process including a Guidelines Handbook, funding mechanism and Centralized Methods Team (Cochrane and GRADE experts supported by the CRA)
- Developed guidelines for Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) (2017)

Priorities

- Support active groups in the completion of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and development of Spondyloarthritis (SpA) guidelines
- Explore needs, prioritize and develop individualized support plans for future guidelines/guidance documents (Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA), Takayasu Arteritis (TA), ANCA Vasculitis, Marijuana and/or Osteoporosis) as required
- Finalize standardized Conflict of Interest document applicable to the development of all future CRA guidelines

Human Resources Committee

Mandate

Ensure CRA workforce issues are identified nationally, provincially and regionally, and that appropriate strategies are developed to respond to shortages in manpower due to anticipated growth in demand.



Achievements

- Launched the Stand Up and Be Counted (SUBC) national rheumatologist workforce survey (2015), the first survey of its kind, which provided invaluable data regarding the Canadian rheumatology workforce and highlighted current shortages and projected deficiencies associated with impending retirements
- Development of Training Rheumatologists of Tomorrow (TROT) program, designed to highlight rheumatology sub-speciality to students early in their medical careers
- Successful 2017 Summer Studentship program and candidate selection for 2018 program

Priorities

- Develop strategies to assist with manpower maldistribution and shortages in underserved areas
- Continue to support programs designed to increase exposure to rheumatology early in medical training

CRA SUMMER STUDENTSHIP PROGRAM



>400

student participants
2001-2017



16%

chose rheumatology
sub-speciality



34

clinical and research-based
summer studentships (2017)

Pfizer Canada and Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc. were proud sponsors of the 2017 CRA Summer Studentship program (past sponsors include AbbVie Corporation, Merck Canada Inc., Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc., Pfizer Canada and Hoffmann-La Roche Limited)

Paediatrics Committee

Mandate

Promote education and awareness of childhood rheumatic diseases and serve to strengthen the voice of paediatric rheumatology across Canada through advocacy, education, and human resources.



Achievements

- Resulting from advocacy efforts with Health Canada and other stakeholders, triamcinolone hexacetonide will launch in Canada (late Q2), with no further need for a Special Access Program (SAP)
- Maintenance of significant paediatric representation on all CRA Operational Committees

Priorities

- Launch a Practice Patterns survey to examine capacity and models of care to assist with members' access to resources
- Maintain regular linkages with various stakeholder organizations (e.g. Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS); Education sub-committee exploring the development of a Special Interest Group in Paediatric Rheumatology)

Quality Care Committee

Mandate

Support member activities in the domains of Equity, Access, Quality Patient Management, and Resource Stewardship, and work with key stakeholders to achieve optimal patient care.



Achievements

- Developed an indigenous health competency program for CRA members
- Launched new Quality Care Initiatives in Rheumatology Award at 2018 ASM
- Development of a Canadian Core Clinical Dataset to support high-quality care for Canadian patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis, a joint project with the Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC)

Priorities

- Continued collaboration with the AAC to support Models of Care initiatives, including funding support for a Cost-Consequences Study: Arthritis Alliance of Canada Cost-Consequences Analysis of Models of Care (MOCs) for Inflammatory Arthritis (IA) Patients
- Expand indigenous health competency initiative to include a multi-phased "Train the Trainer" program and further residency education training
- Support investigation of Allied Health resource distribution through Stand Up and Be Counted 2 survey
- Maintain strong linkages with Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) and continue active participation in the Choosing Wisely initiative

Therapeutics Committee

Mandate

Identify and address all therapeutic issues that are relevant to the CRA membership as well as develop position statements and respond to drug shortages/withdrawals as required.



Achievements

- Developed position statements on Opioid Therapy for Patients with Rheumatic Diseases and Biosimilars and Innovator Molecules
- Finalized standard operating procedures for drug shortages/withdrawals and position statements

Priorities

- Continue to maintain essential relationships with Health Canada and other key stakeholders
- Position statement on medical cannabis currently under consideration
- Biosimilar position statement to be reviewed
- Continue to support work towards harmonization of access to biologics for rheumatoid arthritis by private insurers

Research Committee

Mandate

Committed to securing adequate sponsorship funding, formulating new funding strategies and ensuring members are supported in their research by making recommendations on other research-related activities/issues to the CRA.



Achievements

- Supported CRA members in their research by providing grant-writing tools, linking members with mentors, and promoting a workshop entitled Everything you wanted to know about CIORA Grants (but were afraid to ask): Tips for the Community and Academic Rheumatologist
- Created a new sub-pillar in the area of Health Economics/Sustainability of Health Care/Quality Improvement
- Funded a 3rd CRA (CIORA)-AS Clinician Investigator Award in 2018
- Launched 11th CIORA Grant Competition




Priorities

- Evaluate the impact of CIORA funding
- Solicit sponsorship funding
- Help community rheumatologists write research grants
- Communicate with other research granting agencies
- Support other research opportunities for members

Canadian Initiative for Outcomes in Rheumatology cAre (CIORA)

CIORA's grant program supports sustainable projects related to rheumatic diseases that promote the following pillars:



-  **Awareness/Advocacy/Education**
 - Health Economics/Sustainability of Health Care/Quality Improvement
-  **Early Access for Rheumatic Disease Patients**
-  **Multi-Disciplinary Care Teams**

2017 CIORA METRICS



\$597,798

Total funding received
(decrease from \$755,000 in 2016)



\$3,141,176

Requested by researchers



43

Letters of Intent
(increase from 40 in 2016)



34

Grants submitted
(increase from 29 in 2016)



8

Applications funded, all with CRA member as PI (same as 2016)



\$749,715

Total funding granted
(increase from \$656,915 in 2016)

Dissemination of results include:



7 Publications



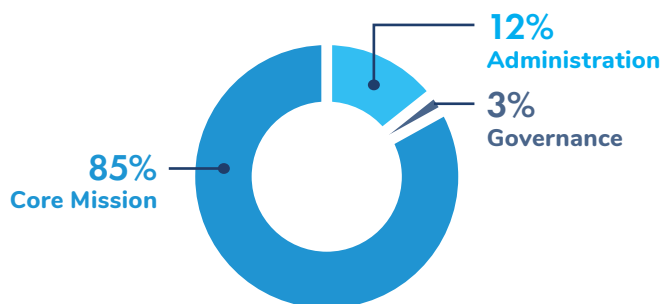
25 Poster presentations



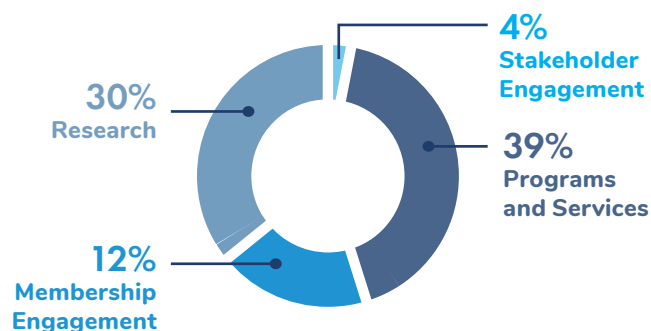
4 Podium presentations

Expenditure Summary

Expenditure Breakdown 2017



Core Mission Breakdown 2017



Publications



The Journal of the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRAJ)

The mission of *The Journal of the Canadian Rheumatology Association* is to encourage discourse among the Canadian rheumatology community for the exchange of opinions and information. The CRAJ is published under the direction of an editorial board 4 times annually in both English and French languages.



2760

Total print circulation

17%
French

83%
English



The Journal of Rheumatology

The Journal of Rheumatology is an international serial which features peer-reviewed research articles on clinical subjects from scientists working in rheumatology and related fields, with the support of an esteemed Editorial Committee and Editorial Board. *The Journal of Rheumatology* is owned by the Canadian Rheumatology Association and is published monthly. *JRheum* also publishes *Clinical Highlights for the Rheumatologist (CHR)*, a bi-monthly publication mailed to US rheumatologists.



> 3600

Global Subscribers*



4200

CHR Distribution**

*Combined online and print circulation (institutional and individual subscribers)

**Controlled circulation

All CRA members in good standing are provided complimentary subscriptions to both *The Journal of Rheumatology* and *The Journal of the Canadian Rheumatology Association*.

Sponsor Support

Diamond



Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze



CIORA Sponsors



The Canadian Rheumatology Association recognizes the Arthritis Society for its continued support at the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM).

In addition to this, we would like to acknowledge the following ASM exhibitors: AbbVie Corporation, Amgen Canada Inc., Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene Inc., Esaote, GSK, Hoffmann-La Roche Limited, Janssen Canada, Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals, Medexus Inc., Merck Canada Inc., MotherToBaby, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc., Peak Medical Group, Pfizer Canada Inc., Sandoz Canada Inc., Sanofi-Genzyme Canada and UCB Canada Inc. and abstract award sponsors: Arthritis Society (Phil Rosen Memorial), Arthritis Research Canada (Best Abstract on Research by an Undergraduate Student), Cassie and Friends (Best Abstract on Paediatric Research by Young Faculty) and Lupus Society of Alberta (Ian Watson Award).



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