

2019-2020 Annual Report VISION 2020





CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION SOCIÉTÉ
CANADIENNE
DE RHUMATOLOGIE

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This Annual Report contains updates between March 2019 to February 2020.

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CRA'S MISSION

Represent Canadian rheumatologists and promote the pursuit of excellence in arthritis and rheumatic disease care, education and research.

A message from the President and CEO



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am honoured to introduce this 2019-2020 Annual Report as the new President of the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA).

The CRA is in the midst of a ground-breaking evolution as we seek organizational changes to increase the longevity of our association in a financially sustainable manner, whilst meeting the needs of our growing membership for decades to come.

I am particularly grateful for the CRA's successes driven by our Board of Directors, Committees, staff, and volunteer members, and look forward to building upon the great work accomplished by my predecessor, Vandana Ahluwalia.

I am truly excited by the prospect of what we will accomplish together!

EVELYN SUTTON, MD, FRCPC, FACP



CEO'S MESSAGE

As we approach the heels of the CRA's 75th Anniversary in 2021, one can't help but reflect on how much our association has transformed these past few decades. Even this past year alone is full of historic firsts, including the launch of two highly praised new programs, a podcast, as well as leading-edge position statements to name a few.

This great work is the result of the evolutionary changes the CRA has been undertaking these past few years and was accomplished thanks to the amazing dedicated Board of Directors, President, staff, committed members, and partners that support us.

The CRA is better positioned for success than ever, and as we catapult into this next decade, together, we will transform it into an organization that will serve our members for a lifetime.

AHMAD ZBIB, MD CPHIMS-CA

2020 Leadership and Committees

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT

Dr. Evelyn Sutton

VICE-PRESIDENT

Dr. Nigil Haroon

PAST-PRESIDENT

Dr. Vandana Ahluwalia

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Dr. John Wade

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dr. Ahmad Zbib

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Vandana Ahluwalia

Dr. Louis Bessette

Dr. Nigil Haroon

Dr. Ronald Laxer

Dr. Deborah Levy

Dr. Evelyn Sutton

Dr. Michelle Teo

Dr. Stephanie Tom

Dr. John Wade

OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES

CHAIR, ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING PROGRAM

Dr. Vinod Chandran

Chair, Abstract Review

Dr. Marinka Twilt

CHAIR, COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Dax Rumsey

CHAIR, EDUCATION

Dr. Raheem B. Kherani

Sub-Committee Chairs

CPD (Continuing Professional Development)

Dr. Gregory Choy

Postgraduate

Dr. Marie Clements-Baker

Undergraduate

Drs. Lori Albert and Robert Ferrari

CanREAL (Canadian Rheumatology Education and Learning)

Dr. Mercedes Chan

Chair, NWRITE (National Written

Rheumatology In-Training Examination)

Dr. Raheem Kherani

Program Committee Chairs

CRA Review Course

Drs. Shahin Jamal and Trudy Taylor

FLIRT (Future Leaders in RheumaTology)

Dr. Janet Pope

NRRW (National Rheumatology Residents

Drs. Elizabeth Hazel and Dharini Mahendira

Residents' Pre-Course

Drs. Jason Kur and Dharini Mahendira

CHAIR, GUIDELINES

Dr. Glen Hazlewood

CHAIR, HUMAN RESOURCES

Drs. Claire Barber and Jessica Widdifield

CHAIR, PAEDIATRICS

Dr. Ronald Laxer

Sub-Committee Chairs

Advocacy

Vacant

Drs. Mercedes Chan and Evelyn Rozenblyum

Human Resources

Dr. Michelle Batthish

Community Paediatrics

Dr. Tommy Gerschman

CHAIR, QUALITY CARE

Dr. Amanda Steiman

Sub-Committee Chairs

Chair, Choosing Wisely

Dr. Shirley Lake

Chair, Equity

Dr. Cheryl Barnabe

Chair, Access

Dr. Amanda Steiman

Chair, Quality

Dr. Claire Barber

CHAIR, RESEARCH

Dr. Janet Pope

Chair, CIORA Grant Review

Dr. Marie Hudson

CHAIR, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Dr. Carter Thorne

CHAIR, THERAPEUTICS

Dr. Rosie Scuccimarri

LIAISONS

CRAJ EDITOR-IN CHIEF

Dr. Philip Baer

JOURNAL OF RHEUMATOLOGY

Dr. Jamie Henderson

THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

(MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR)

Dr. Evelyn Sutton

PRESIDENT, ARTHRITIS HEALTH PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION (AHPA)

Anne Macleod

Road to the CRA's 75TH Anniversary

CRA was established; first known as the Canadian Rheumatic Disease Association. Interest in rheumatic disease was minimal and early membership numbers were sparse. Nationally and internationally respected organization - 500+ members across the country (and growing!) **CRA's 75th Anniversary**

Our Promise to Members



Constantly strive to understand and serve our members' needs and wants based on their career stage in the most responsive, respectful, efficient and personable manner.

Membership **Benefits**



The CRA offers outstanding membership benefits including knowledge sharing, education, networking, advocacy and research support.



Members also receive complimentary subscriptions to The Journal of Rheumatology and The Journal of the Canadian

Strategic Priorities

The CRA exists so that Canadian rheumatologists achieve excellence in clinical care, education and research.



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.



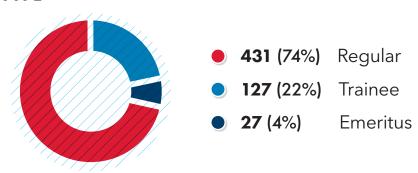
ORGANIZATIONAL VIABILITY

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

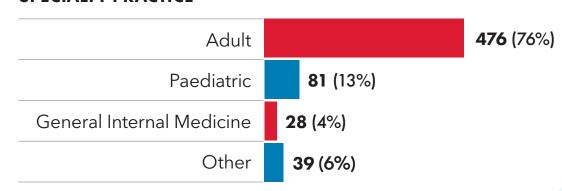
Membership Overview



MEMBERSHIP TYPE

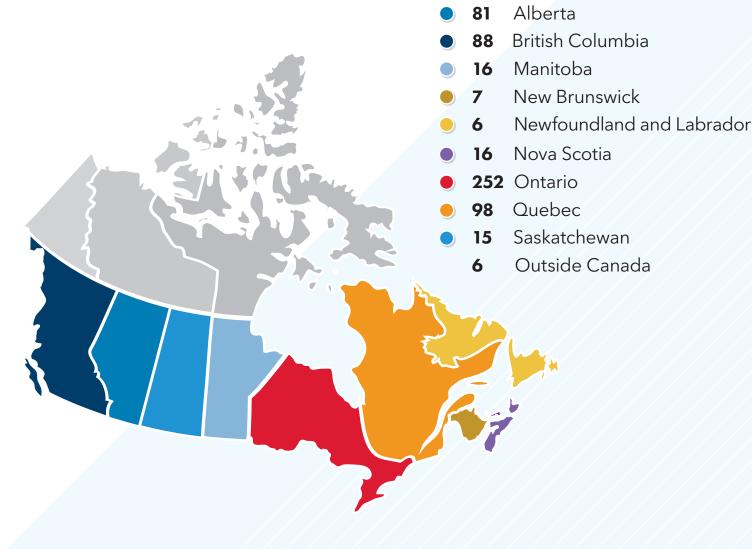


SPECIALTY PRACTICE



^{*}These categories are not mutually exclusive

GEOGRAPHY



MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT



Our members are highly engaged:





69% of our members participated in at least 1 CRA networking event or is involved in a CRA committee



3 in 10 of our members are involved in CRA committees

Operational Committees

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING PROGRAM (ASM) COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR TOM APPLETON **INCOMING AS OF MARCH 29, 2020: VINOD CHANDRAN**

COORDINATOR CLAIRE MCGOWAN







Save The Date: 2021 ASM

February 26-29 Québec City Convention Centre, Quebec City, Quebec

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

ASM theme: 2020 Vision: A New Decade in Rheumatology

- 2020 Program features: 4 keynote lectures, 28 workshops (plus 2 encore workshops), 14 podium presentations, 264 poster presentations, Meet-the-Expert session, RheumJeopardy, Great Debate, Controversies in Rheumatology and 3 symposia
- Residents' and AHPA Pre-Courses hosted prior to ASM PLUS two new parallel programs: CRA Review Course and Canadian Arthritis Research Conference
- Successfully launched a Request for Proposal (RFP) Program for 2020 ASM workshops

New Sessions include encore workshops, "re-engineered" Meet-the-Expert, and re-introduction of Controversies in Rheumatology session

PRIORITIES

- Develop a comprehensive breadth of content for the Annual Scientific Meeting to ensure that members' Continuing Professional Development (CPD) needs are met and that networking opportunities are fostered within the membership and the wider rheumatology community.
- Continue to "crowd-source" content through a member needs assessments and RFP program for 2021 workshops
- Define the scope and purpose of all ASM sessions
- Evaluate the placement of key ASM affiliated content (Review Course, CARC, Resident Pre-Course and supported projects (e.g. IHI)) around the ASM and over the calendar year
- Welcome Dr. Vinod Chandran as the new ASM Program Committee Chair

MEETING AT A GLANCE

682 **REGISTRANTS**



KEYNOTE LECTURES



WORKSHOPS (plus 2 encore workshops)

SYMPOSIA

PODIUM PRESENTATIONS

CONTROVERSIES IN RHEUMATOLOGY

NOTABLE SESSIONS



MEET-THE-EXPERT

GREAT DEBATE

RHEUMJEOPARDY



VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR AND TRIVIA

IMPACT MEASURES

PRESENTATIONS







POSTER

>97% 94% SATISFIED

WOULD **RECOMMEND TO** A COLLEAGUE

>61% WILL BE CHANGING PRACTICE DUE TO

CONFERENCE

TOP REASONS FOR ATTENDING:

85% PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

77% NETWORKING

48% RHEUMATOLOGY RESEARCH UPDATE



RESIDENTS' COURS PRÉALABLE PRE-COURSE DES RÉSIDENTS

VICTORIA, BC • FEBRUARY 26 FÉVRIER 2020

Residents' Pre-Course

OVERVIEW



REGISTRANTS



PRESENTATIONS



SATISFACTION MEASURES

>87% SATISFIED

>88% WOULD RECOMMEND **TO A COLLEAGUE**

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING PROGRAM (ASM) COMMITTEE





VICTORIA, BC • FEBRUARY 26 FÉVRIER 2020

Review Course

The inaugural CRA Review Course is a high-yield educational program designed to provide attendees an evidence-based, clinical update on important conditions seen by rheumatologists. This full-day event ran ahead of the Annual Scientific Meeting

····· OVERVIEW ·····







SATISFACTION MEASURES





97% **SATISFIED** 100%

WOULD RECOMMEND TO A COLLEAGUE

OUTSTANDING FEEDBACK INCLUDES:

High yield topics, well presented lectures. Great clinically focused review

High quality scientific program, focused on the Canadian way to practice rheumatology

Made the meeting much more valuable. Short high impact teaching!

Well targeted to the clinician audience, I would come to CRA just for this course in the future

The best review course I have been to!







Canadian Arthritis Research Conference

The Canadian Arthritis Research Conference was designed to bring together allies in the arthritis ecosystem to explore perspectives, advance knowledge and enhance Canadian leadership in the world of arthritis and rheumatic diseases. This 2-day conference ran ahead of the ASM and was presented in partnership with the Arthritis Society and Canadian Institutes of Research - Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis

····· OVERVIEW ·····

2020 Theme: Taking Collaborative Action



REGISTRANTS





SATISFACTION MEASURES





>66% **SATISFIED**

>87% WOULD RECOMMEND TO A COLLEAGUE

*low evaluation response rate

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COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR DAX G. RUMSEY

COORDINATOR **KEVIN BAIJNAUTH**





MANDATE

Facilitate optimal and fluid communications between the CRA and its members, amongst members, and between the CRA and various stakeholders, including industry, allied health professionals, patients and families, and the general public.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Just launched!

"Around the Rheum" podcast is live. Check us out.

• Improved social media presence (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn)

PRIORITIES

- Establish "Around the Rheum" as a stable podcast with regular episodes
- Release first Accounting Column
- Increase social media following by 50%
- Resurrect "Who's In the Rheum?" column
- Launch "CRA Board of Directors' Column"

Check out AROUND THE RHEUM today!







EDUCATION COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR RAHEEM KHERANI

COORDINATOR CLAIRE MCGOWAN



MANDATE

Provide member education through a variety of CRA programs and initiatives designed for members and rheumatology trainees as well as facilitate rheumatology education for medical undergraduates / postgraduates and paediatric / internal medicine trainees.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Renewal of CRA status as a Royal College accredited CPD provider
- Collaborate with the ASM, Residents' Pre-Course, Review Course, Future Leaders in RheumaTology Training (FLIRT) and National Rheumatology Residents' Weekend (NRRW) Program Committees to facilitate program planning
- Developed, disseminated and review of annual National Written Rheumatology In-Training Examinations (NWRITE) for adult rheumatology trainees

PRIORITIES

- Provide accreditation of Section 1 and Section 3 activities and assist CRA members and committees in the development of CRA accredited activities
- Generate national consensus opinion of learning outcomes for an undergraduate rheumatology curricula
- Development of postgraduate resident training resources

PROGRAMS

- National Rheumatology Residents' Weekend (NRRW) hosted in Toronto January 10-12, 2020
- Future Leaders in RheumaTology Training (FLIRT) meetings hosted in Toronto in May and October, 2019

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR CLAIRE BARBER, JESSICA WIDDIFIELD

COORDINATOR SHARON BRINKOS





2019 CRA Summer Student Program



Student Participants (2001 - 2019)



of participants historically chose rheumatology as a sub-specialty



clinical and research based summer studentships (2019)

Clinical studentships were sponsored by Pfizer Canada; research studentships were funded as part of the Government of Canada's Summer Jobs program.

MANDATE

Ensure that the CRA workforce issues are identified nationally, provincially & regionally, & that appropriate strategies are identified/developed to strengthen workforce capacity across Canada.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Completed all phases of the CRA Resident Survey (survey development, distribution, data collection, analysis, manuscript preparation & submission).
- Completed the preparatory work (survey development) in preparation for the Canadian Rheumatology Workforce and Wellness Survey 2020 launch in Spring 2020.
- Drafted a Workforce Report on the numbers and characteristics of adult and paediatric rheumatologists, trainees and fellows, & applicants to rheumatology postgraduate medical training programs in Canada. This data is supplemented with findings from a scoping review of Canadian research on the rheumatology workforce, & an environmental scan of evidence-based recommendations on the role of rheumatologists in clinical practice guidelines.

PRIORITIES

- Complete the remaining phases of the 2020 CRA Workforce & Wellness Survey (survey deployment, data collection, analysis, manuscript preparation & submission)
- Finalize the CRA Workforce Report for distribution.
- Establish consensus & disseminate resources for education & advocacy to ensure consistent messaging about workforce issues facing rheumatology across Canada.
- Explore interprofessional collaboration opportunities as well as develop synergies with other CRA committees & related rheumatology & medical organizations.
- Collaborate with ongoing programs addressing workforce needs.
- Support CRA members in advocating for HR resources in their regions

GUIDELINES COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR GLEN HAZLEWOOD

COORDINATOR SUE RANTA



MANDATE

Supervises the creation and dissemination of evidencebased guidelines on therapy in various rheumatic conditions, suitable to the Canadian practice landscape, based on the needs of the membership.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

- Finalized standardized Conflict of Interest document applicable to the development of all CRA Guidelines.
- Supported the development of the Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and Spondyloarthritis (SpA) guidelines.
- Strengthened collaboration with Australia Rheumatology Association in establishing a living systematic review and network meta-analysis.
- Introduced a novel crowd-sourcing approach to support guideline development and engage rheumatology trainees

PRIORITIES

- Support development of JIA Uveitis Guidelines
- Support development of PsA Guidelines
- Publish the Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) Guidelines
- Develop Decision Aids to be published in conjunction with RA Guidelines.
- Publish equity recommendations in a companion document with RA Guidelines.









PAEDIATRICS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR RON LAXER

COORDINATOR SUE RANTA



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.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

- Established collaborative relationship with Cassie + Friends (a childhood arthritis patient organization), with CRA member representation on their Strategic Planning Committee and Medical Advisory Committee.
- Paediatric Human Resources Survey disseminated and analysis underway.
- Provided feedback for Health Canada consultation on proposed regulations for edible cannabis, extracts and topicals.
- Introduced 'Paediatric Update' newsletter to CRA paediatric members to facilitate national collaboration and increased communication.
- Session held on enhancing MSK physical examination skills at the annual Canadian Pediatrics Society Meeting.

PRIORITIES

- Develop and publish CRA Uveitis Guidelines, with participation of ophthalmologists, patients and parents.
- Identify new Paediatric Rheumatology Choosing Wisely Statements.
- Report on Practice Patterns Survey findings.
- Initiate videoconference series on autoinflammatory diseases.

QUALITY CARE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR CHERYL BARNABE INCOMING AS OF MARCH 29, 2020: **AMANDA STEIMAN**

COORDINATOR **SUE RANTA**



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.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

- Hosted Indigenous Health Initiative Workshop Phases One and Two and presented abstract at National CPD Accreditation Conference and UBC Centre for Health Education Scholarship Day
- Hosted six 'Indigenous Health in Rheumatology Rounds' video conferences for interested CRA members
- Published Non-Insured Health Benefits Updates on CRA website (Taltz, Actemra, Renflexis, Erelzi, Tofacitnib)
- Supported Choosing Wisely initiatives including dissemination of two Joint Count surveys in CRAJ (methotrexate ordering and access to tests) and published new Choosing Wisely statement on Opioids.

PRIORITIES

- Collaborate with Paediatrics and Guidelines Committees to develop best practice guidelines to ensure access and quality care for persons with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis transitioning to adult rheumatology care
- Complete the incorporation of equity issues into CRA RA Guidelines.
- Continue to increase rheumatologists' knowledge and practice skills in Indigenous Health topics.
- Publish equity recommendations in a companion document with RA Guidelines.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR CARTER THORNE

COORDINATOR SUE RANTA





To work with the CEO and other Operational Committee Chairs to develop and maintain relationships with key stakeholders across Canada to further the CRA's mission priorities and in turn raise the profile of the CRA nationally. Specific focus on the identification of drug shortages and mitigation strategies, and development of CRA's position on national pharmacare.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Stakeholder Engagement Survey deployed to CRA members to identify member priorities and connections.
- Representation at various stakeholder meetings including with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Drugs and Devices; at the RCPSC Professional Practice Summit; at CADTH/pCPA Consultation on Biosimilars; and many others.

PRIORITIES

- Continue to identify drug shortages of significance to care of patients with rheumatic disease and consider and propose mitigation strategies.
- Assemble a cross-Canada task force to develop CRA's official position on National Pharmacare.
- Represent CRA at stakeholder gatherings.

THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR

MARY-ANN FITZCHARLES INCOMING AS OF MARCH 29, 2020: **ROSIE SCUCCIMARRI**

COORDINATOR SUE RANTA



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.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

- Finalized and disseminated Biosimilars Position Statement.
- Established collaboration with Australian Rheumatology Association on development of Stem Cell Therapy Position Statement.
- Communicated drug shortages/disruptions (injectable Methotrexate, Chloroquine) to members; and collaborated with Paediatrics Committee to advocate for availability of citrate-free Humira.



- Finalize and disseminate Position Statement on Stem Cell Therapy.
- Finalize and disseminate cannabidiol addendum to CRA Position Statement on Medical Cannabis.
- Develop Patient Information Handout on medical cannabis.
- Introduce 'Third Tier Rapid Response' as an immediate response mechanism for urgent issues identified by CRA members.



RESEARCH COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR JANET POPE

COORDINATOR VIRGINIA HOPKINS





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.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

- Launch 13th CIORA Grant Competition
- Research Committee members presented COIRA presentation at various regional meetings across Canada to help engage community rheumatologists.
- Submitted articles highlighting research projects to CRAJ for Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter issues.

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





\$485,000 **TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED**

(\$573,000 in 2018)



\$2,191,924
REQUESTED BY DECEADOUS

(\$2,867,611 in 2018)



LETTERS OF INTENT

(37 in 2018)



GRANTS SUBMITTED

(31 in 2018)



(3 one-year grants and 3 two-year grants)

APPLICATIONS FUNDED

(6 in 2018)



\$493,518 **TOTAL FUNDING GRANTED**

(\$670,000 in 2018)

DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS -----



WHICH INCLUDED:

POSTER

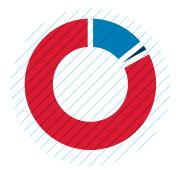
PRESENTATIONS

PODIUM PRESENTATIONS

PUBLICATIONS

Expenditure Summary

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN 2019



- 81.4% Core Mission
- Administration
- Governance

CORE MISSION BREAKDOWN 2019



- **Programs and Services**
- Research
- Membership Engagement
- Stakeholder Engagement

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 **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



