2020-2021
Annual Report
Collaboration, Resilience and Advancement
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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.

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**A message from the President and CEO**

**EVELYN SUTTON, MD, FRCPC, FACP**  
*President*

It is my pleasure to introduce the Canadian Rheumatology Association’s 2020-2021 Annual Report. Although this has been a challenging period for the world as a whole, the Canadian rheumatologist community has truly come together in the face of this pandemic.

The hard work and achievements you will read about in this Annual Report are all thanks to the dedication of our Board of Directors, committees, volunteers, partners, supporters and staff.

---

**Ahmad Zbib, MD, CPHIMS-CA**  
*CEO*

This past year has been a pivotal one for the CRA, with many firsts including the planning for our first virtual meeting, launching our first educational webinar series, and publishing several position statements in a matter of days (which historically takes weeks or months).

This is not by coincidence; it is the result of gifted volunteers, dedicated staff and sound processes combined with passion and commitment to our mission. This past year we demonstrated that the CRA is a resilient and nimble organization, with a bright present and future ahead. I hope you enjoy reading through this report.
2021 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. Lillian Lim
Dr. Evelyn Sutton (Chair)
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 G. Rumsey

CHAIR, EDUCATION
Dr. Raheem B. Kherani

Sub-Committee Chairs
CPD (Continuing Professional Development)
Drs. Gregory Choy and Marie Paule-Marin
Postgraduate
Drs. Marie Clements-Baker and Dharini Mahendira
Undergraduate
Drs. Lori Albert and Robert Ferrari
CanREAL (Canadian Rheumatology Education and Learning)
Drs. Mercedes Chan and Marie Paule-Marin

Chair, NWRITE (National Written Rheumatology In-Training Examination)
Dr. Raheem Kherani

Program Committee Chairs
CRA Review Course
Drs. Shahin Jamal and Trudy Taylor
LEAP (CRA LEADership Program)
Dr. Janet Pope
NRRW [National Rheumatology Residents Weekend]
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, PEDIATRICS
Dr. Ronald Laxer

Sub-Committee Chairs
Advocacy
Vacant
Education
Drs. Mercedes Chan and Evelyn Rozenblyum
Human Resources
Dr. Michelle Batthish
Community Pediatrics
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 Scuccimarra

LIAISONS

CRAJ EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Dr. Philip Baer

JOURNAL OF RHEUMATOLOGY
Dr. Jamie Henderson

THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY
Dr. Evelyn Sutton

PRESIDENT, ARTHRITIS HEALTH PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION (AHPA)
Anne Macleod
It’s Our 75th Anniversary

The road to how we got here.

1946
CRA was established; first known as the Canadian Rheumatic Disease Association. Interest in rheumatic disease was minimal and early membership numbers were sparse.

1975
In 1975 a report estimated there were 90 full-time rheumatologists in Canada. That is, internists spending more than 50% of practice time in rheumatic diseases.

2021
Nationally and internationally respected organization - almost 600 members across the country (and growing!)

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 personal 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 Rheumatology Association.

Strategic Priorities

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

Position the CRA as the leading national provider of rheumatology resources and continuing professional education.

Identify and influence issues of national relevance that affect rheumatologists’ practices.

Build and nurture a vibrant national rheumatology community.

Champion the cause of rheumatology research in Canada.

Ensure continuing financial and operational sustainability of the CRA in a changing environment.
2020 Membership Overview

**Members**
- **Total Members**: 599
- **Female**: 335 (56%)
- **Male**: 264 (44%)

**Membership Type**
- **430 (72%)** Regular
- **143 (24%)** Trainee
- **26 (4%)** Emeritus
- **84 (14%)** Pediatric
- **21 (4%)** General Internal Medicine
- **15 (2%)** Other

**Specialty Practice**
- **Ontario**: 246
- **Quebec**: 100
- **British Columbia**: 94
- **Alberta**: 88
- **Nova Scotia**: 16
- **Manitoba**: 18
- **Saskatchewan**: 18
- **New Brunswick**: 6
- **Newfoundland and Labrador**: 5
- **Outside Canada**: 8

**Geography**

**Membership Engagement**

- 65% 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

*These categories are not mutually exclusive*
Special Projects

COVID-19 Podcast Episodes
Over the past year, the CRA’s Around the Rheum podcast explored Canadian perspectives of COVID-19 and how it has affected different groups.

Episodes and Topics included:
- PIMS and the Pediatric COVID-19 Experience
- Rheum on the Wards - Two Rheumatologists’ Experiences Working on the COVID-19 Wards in Montreal, QC.
- Changing Rheums - Rheumatology Training and COVID-19
- Head of the Rheum - A Chat with the CEO about the CRA’s role in the COVID-19 response
- Cassie & Friends: The Patient Experience During the Pandemic

CRA ACR and EULAR 2020 Updates
The ACR and EULAR 2020 virtual conferences provided healthcare professionals with a plethora of new data on rheumatic conditions. CRA speakers reflected back on all the studies presented and highlighted key studies they think can significantly change clinical practice from a uniquely Canadian lens.

Models of Care
An upcoming special project under development; stay tuned for more information!

Diversity & Inclusion Task Force
The Task Force will be responsible for working with the Board of Directors, CEO and other Operational Committee Chairs to ensure the CRA delivers an inclusive opportunity and experience for all future and current members, as well as stakeholders.

Chaired by Dr. Nicole Johnson, this Task Force is currently reviewing organizational processes, with the goal of making recommendations to help the CRA be as inclusive and equitable as possible.

June 5, 2020
CRA Issues Statement on Anti-Black Racism

July 3, 2020
Call for Diversity & Inclusion Task Force Members & Chair

August 6, 2020
Task Force Commences First Meeting & Appoints Dr. Nicole Johnson as Chair

September 2020 - present
Monthly meetings and strategizing
# 2021 Award Winners

**CRA Awards of Distinction**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award Given</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Sasha Bernatsky</td>
<td>Distinguished Investigator Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Rachel Shupak</td>
<td>Distinguished Rheumatologist Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Zahi Touma</td>
<td>Emerging Investigator Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Elaine Yacyshyn</td>
<td>Distinguished Teacher-Educator Award</td>
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**CRA Master Awards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award Given</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Ciarán M. Duffy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Mary-Ann Fitzcharles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. James M. Henderson</td>
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</table>

**Practice Reflection Award**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award Given</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Stephanie Gottheil</td>
<td>Practice Reflection Award – Gold</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Abstract Award Winners**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award Given</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Raffaella Carlomagno</td>
<td>Ian Watson Award for the Best Abstract on SLE Research by a Trainee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Kimberley Yuen</td>
<td>Phil Rosen Award for the Best Abstract on Clinical or Epidemiology Research by a Trainee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Ariane Barbacki</td>
<td>Best Abstract by a Rheumatology Resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Andrew Kwan</td>
<td>Best Abstract on Basic Science Research by a Trainee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Luiza Grazziotin</td>
<td>Best Abstract by a Post-Graduate Research Trainee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Nadia Luca</td>
<td>Best Abstract on Quality Care Initiatives in Rheumatology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Daniel Levin</td>
<td>Best Abstract by a Medical Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Anson Lee</td>
<td>Best Abstract by an Undergraduate Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Jennifer Lee</td>
<td>Best Abstract by a Rheumatology Post-Graduate Research Trainee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Lihi Eder</td>
<td>Best Abstract on Research by Young Faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Sandeep Dhillon</td>
<td>Best Abstract on Spondyloarthritis Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CIORA Grant Award Winners

In 2020 CIORA funded 5 two-year grants for a total of $509,203.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pillar</th>
<th>Awareness/Advocacy/Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator</td>
<td>Roberts, J.H. Ye, C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award</td>
<td>$77,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Improving the care of cancer patients receiving immunotherapy who develop rheumatic immune-related complications, and those with pre-existing rheumatic disease, through online education with health care providers: An Initiative of CanRIO (Canadian Research Group of Rheumatology in Immuno-Oncology)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pillar</th>
<th>Health Economics/ Sustainability of Health Care/Quality Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator</td>
<td>Bansback, N.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award</td>
<td>$96,984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Health Economic Evaluation of the Mandatory Switching Policy for Biosimilars in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pillar</th>
<th>Health Economics/ Sustainability of Health Care/Quality Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator</td>
<td>Kuriya, B. Eder, L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award</td>
<td>$104,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Measuring Quality of Heart Failure Care in Inflammatory Arthritis: Are We Making the Mark?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pillar</th>
<th>Health Economics/ Sustainability of Health Care/Quality Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator</td>
<td>Locaille, D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award</td>
<td>$114,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Safety and effectiveness of biosimilar anti-TNF agents in British Columbia – Exploiting a natural experiment from a change in health policy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pillar</th>
<th>Multi-Disciplinary Care Teams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator</td>
<td>Nowrouzi-Kia, B. Tauma, Z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award</td>
<td>$117,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Work disability and function in systematic lupus erythematosus: a national mixed-methods sequential explanatory study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2020 COVID-19 Response

Since the onset of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the CRA team has been monitoring this developing and rapidly evolving situation. Here is a list of initiatives and measures that we’ve undertaken in 2020 to help keep our members and community up to date.

Keeping You Informed

Position Statements
- The CRA’s Therapeutics Committee responded quickly with position statements relevant to Canadian rheumatologists.
- Position Statement on COVID-19 and Hydroxychloroquine Supply
- Position Statement on COVID-19 Vaccination

Stakeholder Engagement
Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) Shortage:
- The CRA remained active on this file, leading the way and connecting with key stakeholders to both inform decision-makers as well as report back to members. This includes active participation in meetings with Health Canada, other professional associations, patient groups and industry to both define the problem and identify solutions for the HCQ shortages.
- Furthermore, the CRA’s leadership including board members and committee chairs, proactively reached out to the Federal Minister of Health, penning a letter urging the Federal Government to increase Canada’s supply of HCQ to meet the higher demand for all patients who need it.

Webinars
- The COVID-19 Response Webinar Series was developed out of the immediate need to offer health care providers within the rheumatology community essential information and additional educational resources to assist with patient care.
- Webinars included:
  - “Insights from Italy: A Rheumatologist’s Perspective on COVID-19”
  - “Journey of the RA & Rheumatology Patient during COVID-19”
  - And more!

Resource Centre
- The CRA launched a COVID-19 resource centre at rheum.ca/COVID-19 with information and updates relevant to Canadian rheumatologists.

Staying Connected

Discussion Forum
- To encourage knowledge sharing amongst our community, the CRA launched a new discussion forum for members

Programming and Events

2020 Annual Scientific Meeting
- The CRA regularly communicated COVID-19 information to all attendees including best practices and implemented a flexible cancellation policy for those who had been feeling ill or did not want to travel.

Summer Studentship Program
- We made the difficult decision to cancel the Summer Studentship program in 2020.

Initiatives

COVID-19 Global Alliance Registry
- The CRA endorsed the COVID-19 Global Rheumatology Alliance Registry.
  - This registry was an international effort to collect information pertinent to COVID-19 infection in patients with rheumatologic disease.
  - Many sites across Canada were supported to participate in the global rheumatology alliance registry.

Other Initiatives Included:
- Transitioning Back to In-Person Patient Care Living Resource
- EULAR coverage from a Canadian perspective
- COVID-19 podcast series
- Complimentary yoga sessions

Weekly President’s Updates
- Beginning in March of 2020, the CRA began deploying weekly updates to all CRA members regarding COVID-19 related information that impacts Canadian rheumatologists.
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<th>Operational Committees</th>
<th>Committee Chair</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Page</th>
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<td>Annual Scientific Meeting</td>
<td>Dr. Vinoth Chandran</td>
<td>Claire McGowan</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program (ASM) Committee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Committee</td>
<td>Dr. Dax G. Rumsey</td>
<td>Kevin Bajnauth</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Committee</td>
<td>Dr. Raheem Kherani</td>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guideline Committee</td>
<td>Dr. Glen Hazlewood</td>
<td>Sue Ranta</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources Committee</td>
<td>Dr. Claire Barber, Dr. Jessica Widdifield</td>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatrics Committee</td>
<td>Dr. Ron Laxer</td>
<td>Sue Ranta</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality Care Committee</td>
<td>Dr. Amanda Steiman</td>
<td>Sue Ranta</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Committee</td>
<td>Dr. Janet Pope</td>
<td>Virginia Hopkins</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder Engagement</td>
<td>Dr. Carter Thorne</td>
<td>Sue Ranta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapeutics Committee</td>
<td>Dr. Rosie Scuccimari</td>
<td>Sue Ranta</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annual Scientific Meeting Program (ASM) Committee

Committee Chair
Dr. Vinod Chandran
Coordinator
Claire McGowan

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 in attendance.

Achievements

2021 ASM Theme
Collaboration, Resilience and Advancement

Successfully re-engineered conference to a content-rich, interactive virtual event.

Satellite meetings included the CRA Residents’ Pre-Course, CRA Review Course, AHPA Pre-Course, and the Canadian Arthritis Research Conference.

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 greater rheumatology community.

Continue to crowd-source content through a member needs assessment and Request for Proposal (RFP) program for 2022 workshops.

Meeting at a Glance

780 Registrants

- 4 keynote lectures
- 27 workshops
- 6 symposia
- 201 poster presentations

Satisfaction Scores:

- 91% satisfied with conference
- 97% would recommend conference to a colleague
- 65% will be changing practice due to conference

Top reasons for attending:

- 80% Professional Development
- 60% Rheumatology Research Updates
- 44% Poster Sessions

Comments

“Great speakers with excellent content relevant to Canadian rheumatologists.”

“Excellent update of latest scientific research; great virtual experience.”

“Variety of topics with high-level educational content.”

“A good balance between high-level scientific content and light-hearted, community-engaging activities.”
**Review Course**

**Residents’ Pre-Course**

**Overview**

- **Registrants**: 145
- **Presentations**: 8

**Impact measures**

- **Satisfaction Score**: 93%
- **Would recommend program to a colleague**: 98%

**Feedback**:

- Excellent talks on a broad range of important rheumatology topics at an appropriate level for trainees.
- Great learning and review for the Royal College exam.
- Important and topical subjects taught by experts in their field.
- Fantastic review, very relevant to daily practice as a rheumatology fellow.

---

**Feedback**:

- Practical and well-balanced with good clinical information for the practicing rheumatologist.
- Good insight into research being done, disease symptoms, medication management.
- Great content packed into short period of time.
- Amazing... great topics and excellent speakers with content relevant to clinical practice.
- Clinician centric approach to high yield topics.

---

**Satisfaction Score**

- **Satisfied with program**: 92%
- **Would recommend program to a colleague**: 95%

---

**Canadian Arthritis Research Conference**

**Overview**

- **Registrants**: 213
- **Presentations**: 25
- **Attendees**: 75

**Theme**

- Research with Impact – Nurture Leaders

**CARC program featured**

- 2 keynote lectures, RA and OA themed presentations offered in 2 streams, 41 poster presentations, and Original Research Presentation Day (*Original Research Day featured 25 presentations with 75 attendees*)

**Top reasons for attending**

- **71%** Professional Development
- **37%** Poster Sessions
- **35%** Networking Opportunities

**Original Research Presentation Day**

**Reasons for attending**

- **25** Presentations
- **75** Attendees

**Satisfaction Score**

- **Satisfied with program**: 74%
Communications Committee

**Committee Chair**
Dr. Dax G. Rumsey

**Coordinator**
Kevin Bajrnauth

**Mandate**
Facilitate optimal and fluid communications among the CRA, members and stakeholders.

**Achievements 2020**
- Podcast: 8 episodes released across 2020 to date with over 2,000 streams
- Accounting Column (Rheum for Growth) - two articles launched to date:
  1. “To Incorporate or Not to Incorporate?”
  2. “Opening a New Practice”
- Social Media: Small task force created to seek out articles and resources for members to post on the CRA’s Twitter account and in select President’s Updates
- Review: Provided feedback and review of investigator-led surveys and special projects [EULAR and ACR coverage]

**Priorities 2021**
- Who’s in the Rheum: Relaunch series of articles that will highlight CRA members.
- Podcast: Record and produce episodes for season 2 of Around the Rheum in 2021. New initiatives include a focus on different formats including a guest host (Dr. Janet Pope) and a French pilot episode.
- Continue to work on social media and accounting column initiatives, as well as reviewing surveys and/or special projects as needed.

Education Committee

**Committee Chair**
Dr. 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 2020**
- Developed national consensus opinion of learning outcomes for a National Undergraduate Rheumatology Curriculum (NURC).
- Developed, disseminated and reviewed annual National Written Rheumatology In-Training Examinations (NWRITE) for adult rheumatology trainees.
- Rebranded CRA leadership program to LEAP (LEADership Program) and received record number of applicants to the 2020 program.
- Continued collaboration with the ASM, Residents’ Pre-Course, Review Course, LEAP and NRRW Program Committees to facilitate program planning.

**Priorities 2021**
- Dissemination of national learning outcomes for undergraduate rheumatology education.
- Extend educational resources for Program Directors and rheumatology residents (including a national immunology curriculum).
- Continue to provide accreditation of Section 1 and Section 3 activities to physician organizations
- Promote best practices in CPD activities to inform CRA membership and operational committees.

**Programs**
- CRA LEADership Program (LEAP, formerly known as FLIRT) meetings hosted virtually in May and October, 2020.
**Guidelines Committee**

**Committee Chair**
Dr. Glen Hazlewood

**Coordinator**
Sue Ranta

**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.

**Priorities 2021**
- Utilize the guidelines development tool MAGICapp to streamline the development process.
- Finalize and publish RA, SpA, JIA Uveitis and Transition Care guidelines.

**Achievements 2020**
- Introduced concept of continually updated recommendations or ‘living guidelines’ for CRA guideline development.
- Developed an ‘equity framework’ to be incorporated into all CRA guidelines (collaboration with Quality Care Committee).
- Responded to urgent members needs with development of COVID-19 vaccination decision aid tool and work on GRADE COVID-19 Vaccine guidelines.

**Human Resources Committee**

**Committee Chair**
Drs. Claire Barber & Jessica Widdifield

**Coordinator**
Sharon Brinkos

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

**Priorities 2021**
- Analysis, manuscript preparation, and knowledge translation activities to report on the findings from 2020 CRA Workforce & Wellness Survey.
- 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.

**Achievements 2020**
- Successful launch of the 2020 CRA Workforce & Wellness Survey underway which will provide key information on Canada’s rheumatology workforce (supply, distribution, clinical activity, retirement planning, wellness & burnout, impact of COVID-19 pandemic on rheumatology practices). Survey will be analyzed in Spring 2021.
Pediatrics Committee

Committee Chair: Dr. Ron Laxer
Coordinator: Sue Ranta

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

Achievements 2020
Collaborated with Therapeutics Committee and Stakeholder Engagement committee re: advocacy efforts related to Actemra, citrate-free Humira, SIMPONI ARIA, and Anakinra.
Educated members on issues related to COVID-19 and pediatric rheumatology patients, including a PIMS webinar and podcast episode. Pediatric Executive members were lead authors on Canadian Pediatric Society PIMS Practice Point, endorsed by the CRA.
Subcommittees actively engaged on developing Choosing Wisely pediatric recommendations, JIA Uveitis Guidelines, and networking opportunities for community pediatric rheumatologists.

Quality Care Committee

Committee Chair: Dr. 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.

Achievements 2020
JIA Transition working group is a collaboration between Quality Care, Pediatrics and Guidelines Committee. Published ‘National Priorities for High Quality Rheumatology Transition Care for Youth in Canada’ in the Journal of Rheumatology.
Supported members through the pandemic with telehealth guidance, including a webinar on best practices for telehealth use. A Telehealth Working Group has been formed with several initiatives planned for 2021.
Indigenous Health initiatives included national workshop (with Phase Two held virtually), and several local workshops for residents, PTs, OTs and nurses in BC.
Survey on type and extent of inequity in COVID-19 vaccine access developed, to be deployed in early 2021.

Priorities 2021
Identify and influence issues of national relevance that affect rheumatologists’ practices through dissemination of Practice Patterns Survey.
Host accredited ‘National Grand Rounds’ webinars of issues of national interest.
Publish pediatric Choosing Wisely recommendations and JIA Uveitis Guidelines.
Continue to strengthen relations and collaborations with Cassie + Friends and the Canadian Paediatric Society.

Priorities 2021
Publish JIA Transition guidelines and compile transition resources, development of an educational blueprint to develop learning sessions; and creation of a ‘business case’ for transition care in rheumatology in Canada, to be used in advocacy efforts.
Develop Telehealth position statement and resources for members.
Continue to increase rheumatologists’ knowledge and practice skills in Indigenous Health topics.
Research Committee

Committee Chair
Dr. Janet Pope
Coordinator
Virginia Hopkins

Mandate
To work with the CEO to champion the cause of Rheumatology Research in Canada:
- The committee will be responsible for soliciting sponsorship funding for the CIORA grant program and formulating new funding strategies and establishing grant competition criteria.
- The committee will establish what can be done beyond CIORA.
- The committee will address all research agenda items for the CRA.

Achievements 2020
- Launched 13th CIORA Grant Competition and funded 5 two-year grants for a total of $509,203.
- Submitted articles to CRAJ Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer issues highlighting past projects.
- Submitted workshop proposal for SR&ED Credits.
- Solicited funding and received $475,000 in sponsorship support.
- Participated on the Canadian Arthritis Research Conference planning committee.

Would you recommend CIORA to a colleague?
- 85% - Yes
- 15% - No

Canadian Initiative for Outcomes in Rheumatology cAre (CIORA)

Mandate
CIORA’s grant program supports sustainable projects related to rheumatic diseases that promote the following pillars:
- Health Economics/Sustainability of Health Care/Quality Improvement
- Early Access for Rheumatic Disease Patients
- Multi-Disciplinary Care Teams
- Community Rheumatology

Present What Can SR&ED Credits Do for You and Your Practice workshop at the CRA & AHPA Annual Scientific Meeting.
- Fund 5 CIORA grants, including one community rheumatology grant.
- Solicit funding for CIORA grants.
- Work with IMHA and Arthritis Society to develop a national research strategy.

Achievements

- Presentations which included:
  - 11 Poster presentations
  - 3 Podium presentations
  - 6 Publications
  - 2 Webinars

- Mandate
  - $1,863,560 Requested by researchers ($2,191,924 in 2019)
  - $509,203 Total funding granted $493,518 in (2019)
  - $475,000 Total funding received $485,000 in (2019)

- Metrics
  - 19 Grants submitted (24 in 2019)
  - 27 Letters of intent 34 in (2019)
  - 5 Applications funded 6 in 2019

Dissemination of results:
### Stakeholder Engagement Committee

**Committee Chair**  
Dr. Carter Thorne  
**Coordinator**  
Sue Ranta

**Mandate**
Stakeholder Engagement committee works to build third-party networks that can develop credible, united voices about issues, products, and/or services that are important to our organization.

**Achievements 2020**
- Worked with Pediatrics and Therapeutics Committee to advocate on a number of drug access issues including citrate-free Humira and Simponi Aria for pediatric patients, HCQ supplies during the pandemic, and Actemra.
- Active on many stakeholder committees including Health Canada’s Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee on Drug Shortages (MSSC) and provided requested CRA feedback to CMA on revisions to the Guidelines for Physicians Interactions with Industry.
- Invited to participate in a pan-Canadian evaluation on biosimilar implementation, extended by Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario).

**Priorities 2021**
- CRA Position Statement on Pharmcare that outlines guiding values and principles to consider while including the unique rheumatology perspective.
- Continue to engage with provincial and federal stakeholders on emerging drug shortages and advocate for the needs of rheumatologists and their patients.

### Therapeutics Committee

**Committee Chair**  
Dr. 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.
- Continue advocacy efforts via letters, position statements, meeting participation with stakeholders, etc.
- Publish updated Medical Cannabis position statement to include section on cannabidiol and a patient information pamphlet and checklist.
- Finalize and publish position statement on Stem Cell Therapy.

**Achievements 2020**
- Published several CRA position statements including: COVID-19 and Hydroxychloroquine Supply, Citrate-Free Humira, and COVID-19 Vaccination.
- Active with other CRA committees on advocacy efforts including a letter to the Minister of Health regarding the hydroxychloroquine shortage, as well as access to drugs for pediatric patients (Actemra, Citrate-Free Humira, Simponi Aria).
Expenditure Summary

Expenditure break down 2020

- **Core mission**: 81%
- **Programs and services**: 70%
- **Administration**: 16%
- **Research**: 14%
- **Governance**: 13%
- **Membership engagement**: 11%
- **Steakholder engagement**: 5%

Expenditure break down of core mission 2020

- **Core mission**: 81%

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  
83% English  
17% French

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. J Rheum also publishes Clinical Highlights for the Rheumatologist (CHR), a bi-monthly publication mailed to US rheumatologists.

**3600** Global subscribers  
**4200** CHR Distribution

2021 Sponsor Support

**Diamond**
- Abbvie  
- Gilead  
- Janssen  
- Novartis  
- Sanofi  
- Sandox  
- Pfizer

**Platinum**
- Amgen  
- Bristol-Myers Squibb  
- Eli Lilly  
- Fresenius Kabi

**Gold**
- Boehringer  
- Ingelheim  
- Merck

**Silver**
- GSK  
- Medexus Inc.  
- Roche  
- Teva  
- UCB

**Bronze**
- Accord  
- Biomar Strategies  
- Sanofi Genzyme

2021 Exhibitors

**ASM Opening Reception**

**Research Conference**  
**Research Champions**: Medexus Inc.  
Fresenius Kabi  
Abbvie

**Research Conference**  
**Research Supporters**: Janssen  
Ucb

**CIORA sponsors**

Abbvie  
Lilly  
GSK  
Pfizer

**Special Projects**

*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.