

CRA SCR

CANADIAN
RHEUMATOLOGY
ASSOCIATION

SOCIÉTÉ
CANADIENNE
DE RHUMATOLOGIE

BUILDING BRIDGES



2018–2019

Annual Report

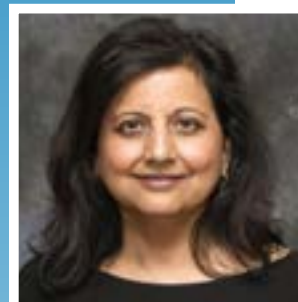
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Our Mission:
Represent Canadian rheumatologists and promote the pursuit of excellence in arthritis and rheumatic disease care, education and research.

Message from the President and the CEO



I am pleased to welcome you all to the Canadian Rheumatology Association's second Annual Report. Although this publication was only introduced to the organization last year, the CRA has a long and storied history, which has seen great contributions to the rheumatology community over the many years of our existence.

As the voice for Canadian rheumatologists, the CRA has not slowed down its efforts as we continue to trailblaze through the development of challenging guidelines, controversial position statements, and educational initiatives. Our successes over the past year, including record-breaking attendance at the Annual Scientific Meeting, is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our Board of Directors, committees and staff.

To meet the unique needs of our membership, the CRA will continue striving to deliver innovative programs and unique networking opportunities as we collectively seek to improve the care of Canadians living with rheumatic diseases. I look forward to the great strides we will surely accomplish together in the future.

Vandana Ahluwalia

MD FRCPC

President, CRA



To say that time flies by fast is an understatement – at least at the CRA! It feels like just yesterday I was writing my opening statement for last year's Annual Report and, as I reflect upon our achievements, I am proud of what we continuously deliver. As you will observe in this report, the CRA is an extremely active organization thanks to our dedicated volunteer members, staff, as well as our key stakeholders and supporters.

Looking forward, we will be building upon our successes and focusing on evolving our organization as the demographics of our membership change. One of our goals is to continue to be increasingly relevant to our members as we provide them with support in delivering optimal care. This will require us to diligently focus on unraveling the various needs of our members throughout their careers as the medical field evolves. Additionally, we are committed to raising the profile of the CRA nationally to bring the voice of the practicing rheumatologists to key tables and ensure that this voice is heard.

Here's to a great year ahead as we work together to deliver on our mission!

Ahmad Zbib

MD CPHIMS-CA

Chief Executive Officer, CRA

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. Louis Bessette
Dr. Joanne Homik
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. Tom Appleton

Chair, Abstract Review
Dr. Vinod Chandran

CHAIR, COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Dax Rumsey

CHAIR, EDUCATION

Dr. Raheem B. 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)
Drs. Mercedes Chan and Susan Humphrey-Murto

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

FLIRT (Future Leaders in Rheumatology)
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

Drs. Claire Barber and Jessica Widdifield

CHAIR, QUALITY CARE

Dr. Cheryl Barnabe

Sub-Committee Chair, Choosing Wisely
Dr. Shirley Lake

CHAIR, PAEDIATRICS

Dr. Ronald Laxer

SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advocacy
Vacant

Education
Drs. Mercedes Chan and Evelyn Rozenblyum

Human Resources
Dr. Michelle Batthish

Community Paediatrics
Dr. Tommy Gerschman

NEW CHAIR, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Dr. Carter Thorne

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

Then and Now

1946

CRA was established, initially called the Canadian Rheumatic Disease Association. Interest in rheumatic disease was minimal and early membership numbers were sparse.

2019

Nationally and internationally respected organization, with 500+ members across the country (and growing!).

Our Promise to Members



Constantly striving 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 Rheumatology Association.



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.



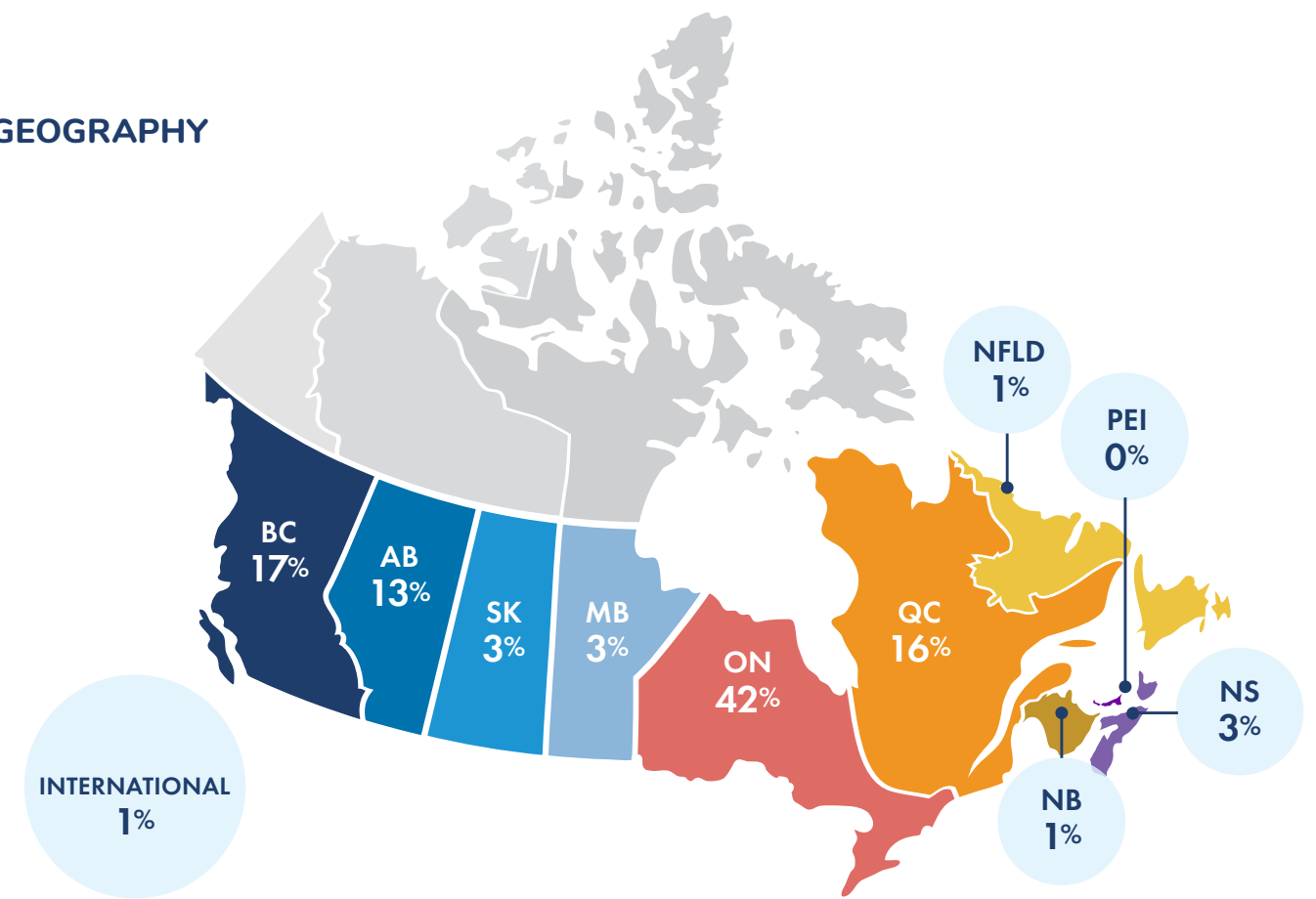
ORGANIZATIONAL VIABILITY

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

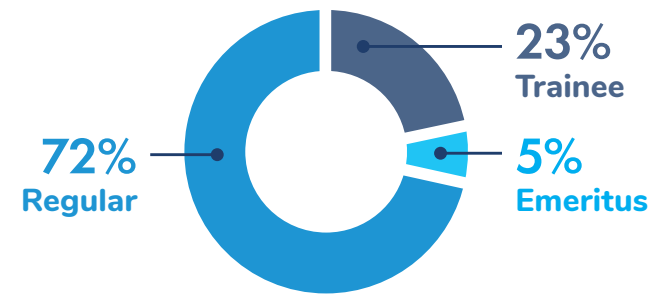
Membership Overview



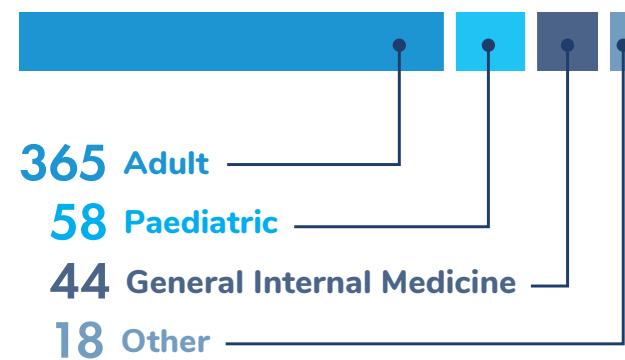
GEOGRAPHY



MEMBERSHIP TYPE



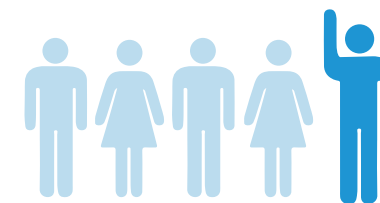
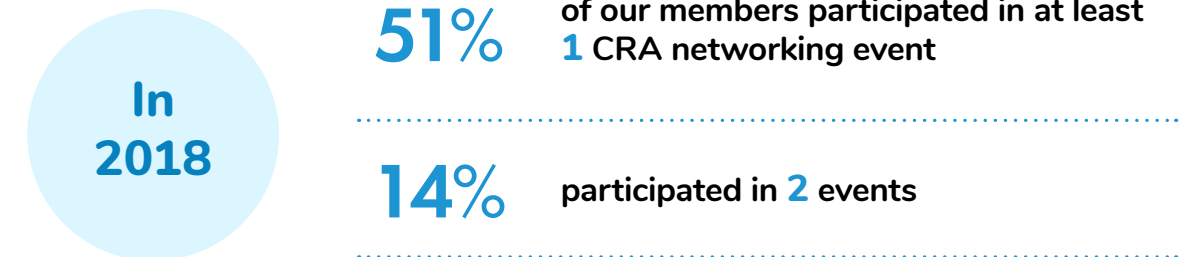
SPECIALTY (PRACTICE)*



*Does not include trainees and emeritus. Members may report more than one.

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

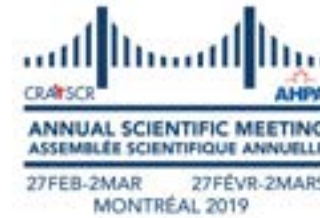
Our members are highly engaged:



1 in 5 of our members are involved in CRA committees

Operational Committees

Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) Program 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

- 2019 ASM hosted in Montreal, Quebec, February 27 – March 2, 2019

Theme: Building Bridges

Sessions were designed to bridge identified gaps in knowledge, therapy, diversity and cultures, distance and access to care, discovery and implementation, patients and providers, and ensuring success into the future.

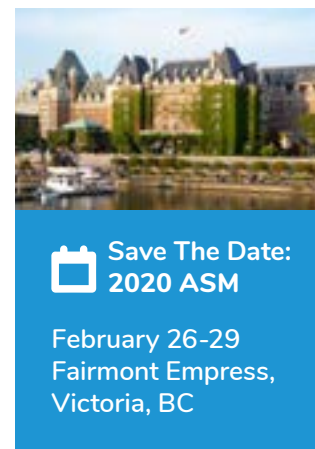
The scientific program featured keynote lectures, debates, workshops, podium and poster presentations delivered by Canadian and internationally recognized experts. Much of the content was “crowd-sourced” from a needs assessment across the CRA membership, with an emphasis placed on audience interactivity.

New sessions included:

- State-of-the-Art Workshop Series: In response to demand for more clinical take-aways, this workshop series focused on the management of six specific rheumatic conditions
- CIORA Project Showcase: Grant recipient updates on CIORA-funded projects (Canadian Initiative for Outcomes in Rheumatology cARe) to spotlight the program’s success and inspire new applications

PRIORITIES

- Conduct a needs assessment of the CRA membership
- Develop the scientific program for the annual conference to ensure that members’ Continuing Professional Development (CPD) needs are met through a comprehensive breadth of content and leading-edge information
- Present networking opportunities among CRA members and the wider rheumatology community so that they can continue to work together in the pursuit of excellence in arthritis and rheumatic disease care, education and research
- 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)
- Launch a Request for Proposal (RFP) Program for 2020 ASM workshops



MEETING AT A GLANCE

722 Attendees

255 Poster Presentations

64 Speakers

Best attended meeting in CRA history!

29 Workshops

4 Keynote Lectures

3 Symposia

16 Awards

Communications Committee



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

- 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
- Launched 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

- Improve the CRA’s social media presence
- Develop CRA-endorsed podcasts with content of interest to our members
- Complete the CRA history project
- Identify CRA members from each region of Canada (West, Central, East) to respond to media requests
- Support effective communication/collaboration amongst community rheumatologists
- Continue the Who’s In The Rheum? column and establish Accounting and Board of Directors columns in the CRA newsletter

Education Committee



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

- Accreditation and facilitation of the 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM)
- Development of 2019 Residents' Pre-Course program
- Implementation of Future Leaders in Rheumatology (FLIRT) mentorship program (conclusion of 2016-2018 program and 2018-2020 program launch)
- Establishment of NWRITE Sub-Committee, to operate under the umbrella of the CRA Education Committee
- Development, dissemination and review of 2018 National Written Rheumatology In-Training Examination (NWRITE) for adult rheumatology trainees
- Review of CRA accreditator status and assessment of potential CRA accreditation opportunities, associated costs and administrative resources
- Adjustment to the Education Committee's organizational structure has provided working sub-committees the opportunity to respond to the needs of the CRA membership



PRIORITIES

- Collaborate with the ASM, Residents' Pre-Course, FLIRT and NRRW Program Committees to facilitate program planning
- Develop, produce and analyze the 2019 NWRITE trainee examination
- Assess the need for difficult-to-teach topics in rheumatology programs and determine how to best share resources
- Develop a national core set of learning objectives for undergraduate education
- Inform and educate CRA members about upcoming implementation of Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME) in rheumatology training programs
- Promote scholarship and provide expertise in medical education
- Review CPD opportunities, including accreditation of CRA activities and inform membership on Section 2 and Section 3 Maintenance of Certification (MOC) credits

Human Resources Committee



MANDATE

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



ACHIEVEMENTS

- Two co-chairs along with 18 committee members from across Canada recently reformed the committee
- The committee established the work plan for 2018-2020 which follows a framework of "Curate, Create and Collaborate"

PRIORITIES



- Conducting a scoping review of workforce-related research and ensure these materials are available to the CRA
- Preparing and launching a 2020 Stand Up and Be Counted Survey
- Establishing consensus and disseminating resources for education and advocacy to ensure consistent messaging about workforce issues facing rheumatology across Canada
- Continuing to support the successful CRA Summer Studentship Program
- Exploring interprofessional collaboration opportunities related to rheumatology models of care as well as synergies with other CRA committees and related rheumatology and medical organizations (ACR, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada)
- Collaborating with ongoing programs addressing workforce needs (FLIRT, TROT)
- Support CRA members in advocating for HR resources in their regions



CRA SUMMER STUDENTSHIP PROGRAM



464
Student Participants
2001 - 2018



16%
of participants historically
chose rheumatology as a
sub-specialty



28
clinical and research
based summer
studentships (2018)

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

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

- Launched 'Canadian Recommendations for the Assessment and Monitoring of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus'
- Supported the development of the CRA Position Statement on Medical Cannabis
- Established a collaboration between ACR, CRA and Australia, with a plan to establish a living systematic review and network meta-analysis, eventually leading to living guidelines that could be quickly updated as new evidence emerges/drugs approved

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 (e.g. Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA), Takayasu Arteritis (TA), ANCA Vasculitis and/or Osteoporosis) as required
- Finalize standardized Conflict of Interest document applicable to the development of all future CRA guidelines

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

- Creation of new Community Paediatric Rheumatologist Sub-Committee provides opportunities for connection for our community paediatrics members
- Developed relationship with the Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS) to form a Special Interest Group and hold workshops at the CPS annual meeting
- As a result of advocacy efforts, triamcinolone hexacetonide has now become available in Canada without need for the Special Access Program, facilitating patient care immensely
- Launched the Practice Patterns Survey
- Maintenance of significant paediatric representation on all CRA Operational Committees

PRIORITIES

- Develop and maintain CRA relationship with key national childhood arthritis patient organizations
- Develop and disseminate Paediatric Human Resources Survey to identify rheumatology workforce issues related to practice management, career development, employment opportunities and training new rheumatologists

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

- Launched a multi-phased "Train the Trainer" indigenous health competency program for CRA members
- Launched "Indigenous Health in Rheumatology Rounds", an interactive monthly peer-to-peer discussion
- Stand Up and Be Counted 2 Survey distributed and qualitative data reviewed, with dissemination of results in 2019
- Funding support for AAC Cost-Consequences Analysis of Models of Care for Inflammatory Arthritis Patients Project – currently in Phase 2

PRIORITIES

- Integrate equity issues in CRA guidelines
- Create national advocacy tools for quality care delivery
- Maintain strong linkages with Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) and continue active participation in the Choosing Wisely initiative

Stakeholder Engagement Committee



MANDATE

Develop and maintain relationships with key stakeholders across Canada to further the CRA's mission priorities.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Chair appointed along with 10 committee members (January 2019)
- Priorities established

PRIORITIES

- Drug shortages and overall drug access (in collaboration with Health Canada)
- Manage and nurture relationships with key stakeholders to ensure CRA continues to be recognized as a valued voice for rheumatologists in Canada

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

- Published CRA Position Statement on Medical Cannabis in the Journal of Rheumatology and disseminated internationally
- Finalized CRA Position Statement on Biosimilars
- Provided consultations and expert input on multiple topics (ISMP Canada consultation on the naming of biologics; response to Health Canada's Expert Panel on Immune Globulin Product Supply and Related Impacts in Canada; etc.)
- Communicated drug shortages to CRA membership (Myochrysin; Shingrix)
- Finalized Standard Operating Procedures for developing CRA position statements and communicating drug shortages/withdrawals



PRIORITIES

- Develop and communicate Position Statement on Stem Cell Therapy
- Disseminate Biosimilars Position Statement to membership and industry partners
- Continue to respond to drug shortages/withdrawals as required and maintain essential relationships with Health Canada and other key stakeholders
- 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

- Recommended the CIORA Project Showcase session at the ASM to highlight successful grants
- Funded a 3rd CRA (CIORA)-AS Clinician Investigator Award
- Launched 12th 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 ICORA



MANDATE

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



METRICS



\$573,000

Total funding received
(\$597,798 in 2017)



\$2,867,611

Requested by researchers



37

Letters of Intent
(43 in 2017)



31

Grants submitted
(34 in 2017)



6 two-year grants

Applications funded
(5/6 had a CRA member as PI)



\$670,000

Total funding granted
(\$749,715 in 2017)

DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS INCLUDE:



50

Presentations which included:



9 Publications



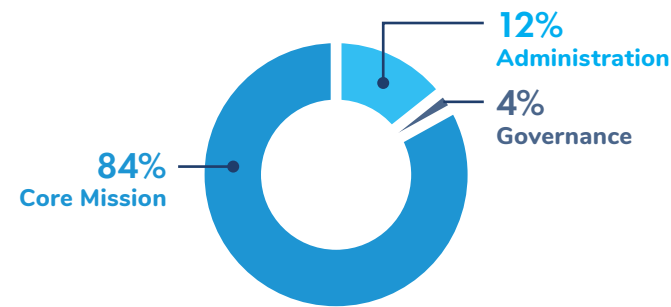
9 Podium presentations



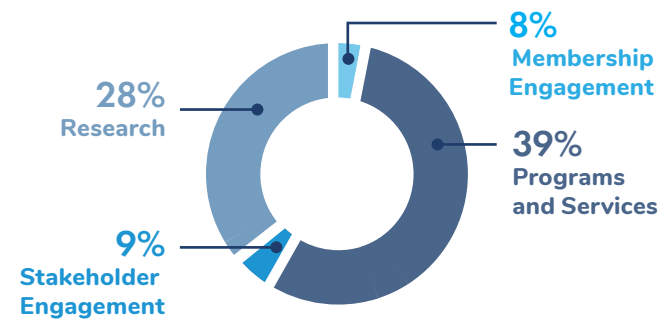
32 Poster presentations

Expenditure Summary

Expenditure Breakdown 2018



Core Mission Breakdown 2018



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 four 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. *The Journal of Rheumatology* 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	abbvie	Lilly	Pfizer
PLATINUM	AMGEN	Boehringer Ingelheim	Janssen
GOLD	Bristol-Myers Squibb	Celgene	MERCK
	NOVARTIS	SANDOZ	ucb
SILVER	MEDEXUS Inc.	Roche	SANOFI
	sobi		
2019 EXHIBITORS	abbvie	ALEXION	AMGEN
	Boehringer Ingelheim		
	Bristol-Myers Squibb	Celgene	Signa Splint
	Lilly		
	@saote north america	gsk	Innogy Strategies
	MEDEXUS Inc.		
	MERCK	NOVARTIS	Pfizer
	Roche		
	SANDOZ	SANOFI	SplintCo INC.
	ucb		
CIORA SPONSORS	\$125,000 to \$150,000	NOVARTIS	Pfizer
	\$100,000 to \$125,000	abbvie	
	\$50,000 to \$75,000	Lilly	MERCK
	\$35,000 to \$50,000	GILEAD	



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