

CIORA Committee

By Boulos Haraoui, MD, FRCPC

The Canadian Initiative in Outcomes in Rheumatology Care (CIORA) has matured since its inception in 2006, when Abbott Canada (now AbbVie) pledged to support CRA members in the pursuit and conduct of clinically relevant research projects which would not be otherwise funded by major granting agencies.

After three years with Abbott as the sole supporter and more than \$1 million of funded studies, all the major pharmaceutical companies were invited to participate, expanding the scope of funded research. The vast majority realized the importance of such an initiative and pledged to support the growth of CIORA. Currently, we receive funding from AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Janssen, Pfizer, Roche, and UCB.

Two years ago a major change occurred when CIORA ceased to function as an independent entity and became an integral part of the CRA, established as a committee responsible for advancing rheumatology clinical research in Canada.

Since the beginning, the grant review process was conducted by an independent panel of reviewers chaired by Dr. John Esdaile. The highest standards were applied; I would like to especially thank John and the many reviewers over the years who have volunteered their time and expertise. At the last round in the fall of 2012, six one-year grants and three two-year grants were funded, totaling \$715,892!



This makes CIORA the third-largest arthritis-research funding agency in Canada.

CIORA has recently created the CRA-The Arthritis Society (TAS)

Clinician Investigator Award, to be managed by TAS. The first recipient is Dr. Cheryl Barnabe, for her contributions to rheumatology research. This is an investment in future leaders in clinical research in rheumatology.

The next call for grant applications will be conducted in the spring of 2014. For more information about CIORA and the grant application process, you can visit the CRA website at rheum.ca. You can also view posters and publications from past funded projects.

I would like also to thank the steering committee of CIORA for their guidance: Dr. Carter Thorne, Dr. Alfred Cividino, Dr. Jamie Henderson, Dr. Janet Pope, Dr. Michel Zimmer, Dr. Maggie Larché, and Dr. Regina Gjevre, as well as Virginia Hopkins and Christine Charnock for their invaluable administrative skills in the management of CIORA.

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Education Committee

By Christopher Penney, MD, FRCPC

The CRA became an accreditor of continued professional development (CPD) for the Royal College in 2011. We will be re-applying for accreditor status over the course of 2014. This is a very necessary but time-consuming and expensive process.

During 2013, the CPD subcommittee provided accreditation reviews for the CRA Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) as well as for the Society of Atlantic Rheumatologists (SOAR), the Ontario Rheumatology Association (ORA), the

Sjogren's Society, and Credit Valley Rheumatology. Online programs were co-developed with mdBriefcase on clinical trial appraisal, the CRA RA guidelines, and current trends in RA. At the ASM this year, a workshop on accreditation was held by the Royal College and attended by members of the CRA Education Committee.

As of the fall of 2013, the Education section of the CRA website is now open. This is a work in progress; if you have any educational materials that you wish to share with