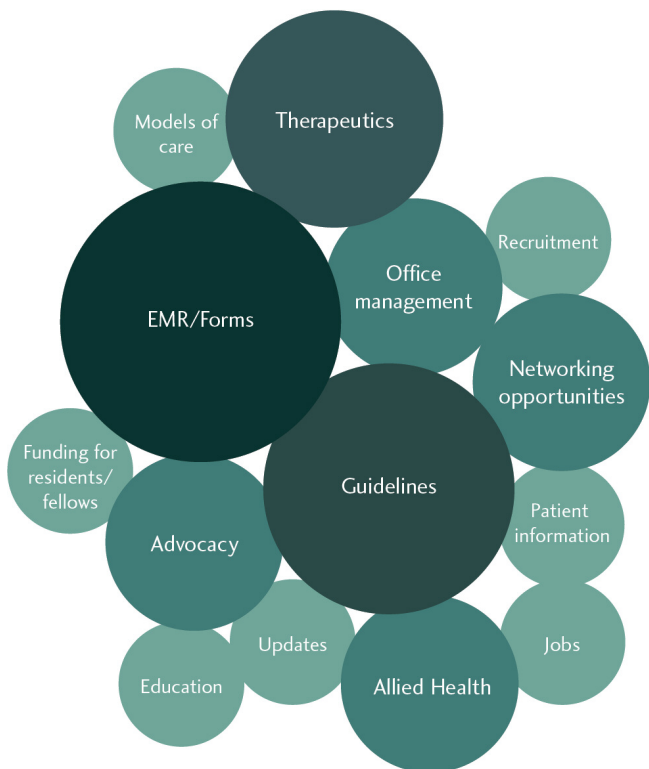


If there is one thing the CRA can do to make your job easier or better, what would it be?



Wanted Most Wanted

Current and future members benefit from:

- Supply and demand for rheumatologists
- A sense of community**
- Learning opportunities**
- A unified Canadian voice for patient access to care
- Networking**
- Advocacy for patient access**
- Advocacy for biologics and other treatment modalities
- Opportunities to improve our practice**
- Increasing knowledge and awareness about rheumatology

ERASE THE PAIN

This spring The Arthritis Society launched Erase The Pain (**ThePain.ca**), a \$25 million campaign focused on delivering concrete solutions to help erase the pain of arthritis in Canada.

One of the campaign initiatives seeks to recruit and inspire a future generation of frontline rheumatology clinicians and researchers. As a proud partner of The Arthritis Society, the CRA is calling on members to help lead the charge to raise \$2 million over five years as part of the larger campaign.

By attracting top medical students to the field of rheumatology, you will be helping to increase access to care for over the 4.6 million Canadians living with arthritis today, and the 3 million more that are expected to develop the disease over the next 20 years.



To find out more and to make your pledge, please contact:

Kathryn De Carlo
The Arthritis Society
416-979-7728 x 3395
kdecarlo@arthritis.ca

Janet Yale, president and CEO of The Arthritis Society, presents Dr. Carter Thorne, Past-President of the CRA, with a plaque recognizing his personal contribution to the Erase The Pain campaign at the CRA's recent conference in Whistler, B.C.

Thank you for your support as we work together to Erase The Pain!

President's Letter

By Cory Baillie, MD, FRCPC

The CRA council has just completed its annual retreat which took place in Winnipeg between April 25-27, 2014. The weekend was focused on two themes: Governance and Strategic Direction for the CRA. To help achieve progress on these themes, we invited an expert on non-profit board governance, Catherine Raso, MBA, to act as our facilitator.

We began the weekend educating ourselves on a number of issues, including a review of the results of member feedback from the recent CRA focus groups and telephone interviews, along with results from the questions asked online during the membership renewal process. We then reviewed the value members receive from CRA membership; this value assessment includes skills development, information and knowledge, networking and fellowship, improved public policy, and increased public awareness. Building on these themes, we established goals for the next two years under the strategic directions of Care, Learning, Research and Representation.

We also spent significant time reviewing non-profit board governance and changes that the CRA should

implement to operate more effectively. Several CRA council members, including myself, have offered to continue to work with Catherine Raso to restructure the CRA governance model. We hope to be able to present a new model for approval at the face-to-face board meeting in November during the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) conference in Boston.

Finally, the board gave direction to the chair of each existing CRA committee, about work that their respective committee should focus their efforts on.

I would like to thank the CRA council members along with Christine Charnock and Sharon Brinkos for their participation at the retreat. I am excited about my upcoming two years as President of the CRA and I am confident that the organization will continue to succeed at its mission of representing Canadian rheumatologists and promoting the pursuit of excellence in arthritis care, education, and research.

*Cory Baillie, MD, FRCPC
President, Canadian Rheumatology Association
Winnipeg, Manitoba*

We asked, and you told us the CRA does this well:



All participants surveyed expressed support for the CRA and applauded the organization's efforts to gather member input. Participants in focus groups and one-on-one interviews said that CRA is truly a national organization, not central to any particular region. It is a strong organization with great leadership—"people feel like CRA does good things!" It is an intimate, collegial, and welcoming group. The work done by busy clinicians on the board and on committees is of great value to the rheumatology profession.