

News from SOAR: Atlantic Update 2014

By John Hanly, MD, FRCPC

An enthusiastic group of rheumatologists with representation from all three Maritime provinces gathered for the 31st annual meeting of the Society of Atlantic Rheumatologists (SOAR) on June 20-22, 2014 at Shaw's Inn and cottages in Brackley Beach, Prince Edward Island. This annual get-together was characterized by the usual intoxicating mix of renewing personal and professional friendships, updating scientific knowledge and, for some, that never-ending pursuit of trying to improve their golf game. Success was achieved on the first two fronts and two out of three is certainly not bad.



Dr. Marie Hudson presenting an update on scleroderma.

This year's guest speakers were an all-Canadian team. Dr. John Esdaile from the University of British Columbia gave the inaugural David Hawkins lecture in rheumatology with the provocative title, "There is No Such Thing As Comorbidity from Arthritis – Only Complications." On the following day he updated the group on the pathogenesis and outcome of osteoarthritis (OA) with the question, "Is OA as boring as we think?" Dr. Marie Hudson from McGill University provided two excellent presentations; her first was an update on "Scleroderma in 2014: Recent Advances and Future Challenges," followed by an introduction to a new national database "The Canadian Inflammatory Myopathy Study – The Role of Registries for Rare Diseases." To complete the scientific program, SOAR members presented data on PET/CT scanning in giant-cell arteritis (Dr. Elana Murphy), Outcome of Lupus Nephritis in an Inception Cohort (Dr. John Hanly), Choosing Wisely Recommendations (Dr. Sylvie Ouellette), and Models of Care: Arthritis Alliance Update (Dr. Jamie Henderson).

At the end of this two-day meeting, SOAR members left with a renewed enthusiasm for applying their newly acquired information in the care of their patients, confident in the knowledge that SOAR is in good shape as it begins its fourth decade.



Dr. Hanly presenting a plaque to Dr. John Esdaile upon delivering the inaugural David Hawkins Lecture in Rheumatology.

*John Hanly, MD, FRCPC
Professor of Medicine and Pathology
Director of Research and CME
Division of Rheumatology,
Department of Medicine
Capital Health and Dalhousie University
President, Society of Atlantic Rheumatologists
Halifax, Nova Scotia*

4. Stretch Your Networks.

Take this opportunity to meet new CRA members and colleagues from across the country. The daily yoga sessions provide the perfect chance to stretch your acquaintances.

5. Easy on Your Wallet.

Attendance is cheap—book for only \$250 before the early bird deadline January 3rd! Visit www.rheum.ca/en/events/

[upcoming_events/travel_and_transport2](#) for promotional codes for various participating airlines.

The ASM will take place February 4-7, 2015, at the Fairmont Chateau Frontenac in Québec City.

For more details, please visit www.rheum.ca.