

Happy 10th Birthday CIORA!

By Janet Pope, MD, MPH, FRCPC

CIORA stands for Canadian Initiative for Outcomes in Rheumatology Care. CIORA is a unique granting organization committed to being a catalyst for improving the care of Canadians living with all rheumatic diseases.

CIORA's grant program supports sustainable projects related to rheumatic diseases that promote one of our three core pillars: Awareness/Advocacy/Education, Early Access for Rheumatic Disease Patients, and Multi-disciplinary Care Teams. This granting body, which is part of the CRA, allows questions relevant to rheumatologists to be

answered, many of which would not be eligible for other peer-reviewed funding, or be given seed funding for pilots. There is a commitment to knowing where the awardees spent their money—a 10% holdback occurs until after the final report is received, allowing us to gauge the success of the program overall and each grant allocation. The presentations/publications that result from each grant acknowledge CIORA, helping advertise the success of the program. We have committed reviewers (many of whom have been past awardees) and each division head recommends someone to help in the review process. The grants review panel works like a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) panel where individuals score each grant and a consensus score is reached after panel discussion. The panel has been chaired for years by Dr. John Esdaile and Dr. Paul Fortin; we are indebted to them both.

The 2016 competition has just been reviewed and candidates will soon know their results. In 2015 nine grants were funded (three for one year and six for two years), totaling approximately \$740,000. CIORA is one of the three largest Canadian peer-review funders of rheumatology research (preceded by CIHR and The Arthritis Society). There have also been funding competitions for clinician investigators.

What is really neat about the CIORA program is the breadth and novelty of the projects. Last year the range of projects was very broad, with funding for grants related to pediatrics, vasculitis, rheumatoid arthritis (RA), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), cardiovascular disease (CVD) interventions for inflammatory arthritis (IA) by pharmacists, and evaluation of systems for measures of IA.

We could not have this grant competition without our many sponsors, and thank them profusely for their continued contributions.

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CIORA 2016 Grant Awards

Improving the Care of Patients With Systemic Vasculitis Through the Development of Management Recommendations and Educational Materials¹

Principal Investigator: Dr. Christian Pagnoux **Award:** \$89,170

Supporting Patient Care with Electronic Resource (SuPER): Efficacy of an Online Decision Aid for Patients Considering Biologic Therapy for RA¹

Principal Investigators: Dr. Linda Li & Dr. Diane Lacaille
Award: \$89,170

The Economic Challenges of SLE: Measuring and Mitigating the Impact¹

Principal Investigator: Dr. Ann Clarke **Award:** \$111,800

Translating Research into Practice: Identifying Factors that Influence the Uptake of Canadian Research Findings into the Clinical Care of Children with Arthritis¹

Principal Investigator: Dr. Elizabeth Stringer **Award:** \$74,990

Understanding the Effects of Creating and Viewing Art and Digital Stories with Pediatric Rheumatology Patients, Healthcare Teams, and in Educating the Community¹

Principal Investigator: Dr. Paivi Miettunen **Award:** \$52,841

Do Persons With Rheumatic Diseases Have Timely Access to Chronic Pain Services?²

Principal Investigator: Dr. Kadija Perreault **Award:** \$68,540

Preventing Rheumatoid Arthritis (Pre-RA): Perspectives of People at Risk and of Rheumatologists on Selected Interventions²

Principal Investigators: Dr. Mark Harrison & Dr. Marie Hudson
Award: \$82,933

Testing of System-level Performance Measures for Inflammatory Arthritis²

Principal Investigator: Dr. Claire Barber **Award:** \$110,000

Pharmacist-led CVD Intervention for Inflammatory Arthritis Patients³

Principal Investigator: Dr. Carlo Marra **Award:** \$99,627

Pillars: 1. Awareness/Advocacy/Education; 2. Early Access for Rheumatic Disease Patients; 3. Multi-Disciplinary Care Teams.