The Rheumatoid Arthritis Journey: Flipping the Switch! – Reverse Thinking

By Michael Starr, MD, rheumatologist, McGill University Health Center, Montreal, Canada

Today is another day of pain and despair

And I won't be fooled into thinking that

I can cope physically and emotionally

I have changed

My spouse and kids have noticed

Because

Fatigue owns me

And I don't want to be complaining that

Life is a chore

I don't want to believe that

My future is anything but bleak

Believe it, ASK me

Because if your Global is better than mine

I may be suffering more than you think

I am not feeling fine, It's not a lie

Just because I look normal to you

I put on a brave face

I'll surely take my meds

If you say

It's the encouragement I crave

To have hope where there has been none before

You ask as if there is truly a light

I need to believe you

I need a partner on this journey

It's not enough to just write a script

Enjoyment, Play, Work, Love, Self-esteem

The things I have lost

You tell me I will regain, even if it's hard

I am feeling out of control

And I'll never believe that

People are listening to me and ready to help

I have Rheumatoid Arthritis

What is going on

Help me understand

Maybe

I am depressed, and

Perhaps

Not thinking that

Something can be done

My daily activities can progressively get better, and

I can be me again 💠

Now read this in reverse for a different perspective:

I can be me again

My daily activities can progressively get better, and

Something can be done

Not thinking that

Perhaps

I am depressed, and

Maybe

Help me understand

What is going on

I have Rheumatoid Arthritis

People are listening to me and ready to help

And I'll never believe that

I am feeling out of control

You tell me I will regain, even if it's hard

The things I have lost

Enjoyment, Play, Work, Love, Self-esteem

It's not enough to just write a script,

I need a partner on this journey

I need to believe you

You ask as if there is truly a light

To have hope where there has been none before

It's the encouragement I crave

If you say

I'll surely take my meds

I put on a brave face

Just because I look normal to you

I am not feeling fine, It's not a lie

I may be suffering more than you think

Beacuase if your Global is better than mine

Believe it, ASK me

My future is anything but bleak

I don't want to believe that

Life is a chore

And I don't want to be complaining that

Fatigue owns me

Because

My spouse and kids have noticed

I have changed

I can cope physically and emotionally

And I won't be fooled into thinking that

Today is another day of pain and despair �

Copyright © 2017 by Dr. Michael Starr. All rights reserved. This poem was created for the CRA annual meeting Lilly symposia: Coping with the Burden of RA Disease and Sustaining Patient Function-The Interaction Between Physical Function and Emotional Well-being. No part of this poem may be copied or distributed without consent from the author. All requests should be directed to Dr. Michael Starr at Michael. Starr@muhc.mcgill.ca.