

Update from the ORA

By Henry Aaverns, MB, ChB, FRCP (UK), FRCPC

The Ontario Rheumatology Association (ORA) remains highly active on behalf of its members, representing the interests of rheumatologists and their patients through ongoing meetings with multiple stakeholders. We succeed thanks to the amazing engagement of our members. We continue to work closely with the Ontario Public Drug Program Exceptional Access Program (EAP) and private payers to highlight areas important to our members. We also developed a new biosimilar position statement on the principles we would like to see attached to non-medical switching, if imposed.

This year we also developed a revised governance structure for the Board, and a Code of Conduct for our members. Our manpower committee is planning on merging with our emerging rheumatologists project, and plans include a mentorship program and an event early in 2019 to help young rheumatologists transition into practice, as well as ongoing development of our "RheumCareers" website.

Our Annual Meeting was once again combined with an

Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) for the trainees, and this is proving to be an annual highlight for the Fellows.

The Bill Bensen memorial fund has been accepting applications, and we hope to announce successful recipients of the first award soon.

We have almost completed a process for inviting external IT developers to tender for our Informatics project. By 2019, we believe we will have technology to produce real-world evidence from the data within our electronic medical records (EMRs) to inform our own practices and develop comparative outcome data.

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Update from the CRA Residents' Pre-Course Committee

By Dharini Mahendira, MD, FRCPC, MScCH; and Shahin Jamal, MD, MSc, FRCPC

As in years past, the CRA Residents' Pre-Course will precede the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Montreal on Wednesday, February 27, 2019. This full-day program features a broad range of relevant topics, from basic science and clinical assessment to practice management strategies.

The Residents' Pre-Course Committee, comprised of Drs. Jamal, Mahendira, Cui, Hewson, and LeBlanc, have crafted a program to expand participants' knowledge of rheumatic diseases. An exciting line-up of dynamic speakers will be delivering the program, comprised of both national and international experts. The pre-course content has been carefully constructed, based on topics of interest identified by current rheumatology residents. While designed for PGY4-5 rheumatology residents, this program is also open to all medical students (including CRA summer students), as well as internal medicine and pediatric residents interested in rheumatology.

This year's program will not disappoint! The curriculum includes: immunology 101, ophthalmologic screening in patients with rheumatic diseases, antiphospholipid antibody syndrome as well as an immunization update for the rheumatologist. Attendees will also benefit from case-based presentations, X-ray interpretation challenges and practice-based pearls. Furthermore, we cordially invite trainees to partake in a career fair hosted immediately following the Residents' Pre-Course. We look forward to you joining us!

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