

What is the CRA Doing For You?



By Kevin Bajjnauth, Communications Coordinator, CRA

With another successful Annual Scientific Meeting recently behind us, some members may not know that in addition to an outstanding learning and networking opportunity, this meeting presents a great opportunity for many of the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) committee members to meet in person and discuss their work plans and goals for the year.

We have highlighted just a few initiatives for CRA members to look out for!

Podcast Project

In development by the Communications Committee, a CRA-endorsed podcast is being produced that will be chalk full of content of interest to our members. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months!

Competency-based Medical Education (CBME)

CBME is coming – and the Education Committee is looking to inform and educate CRA members about how to implement it into rheumatology training programs.

Curate, Create and Collaborate

The HR Committee has established a work plan for 2018-2020 which follows a framework of “Curate, Create and Collaborate.” Some of their initiatives include a scoping review of workforce-related research, launching a 2020 Stand Up and Be Counted Survey, and exploring interprofessional collaboration opportunities, to name a few.

Guidelines

One of the Guidelines Committee's priorities is to support active groups in the completion of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) guidelines and the development of Spondyloarthritis (SpA) guidelines. The Quality Care Committee will also be working with the Guidelines Committee to ensure equity considerations are integrated into the RA and SpA guidelines.

Upcoming Position Statements

The Therapeutics Committee is looking to develop and communicate a position statement on stem-cell therapy, as well as disseminate the Biosimilars Position Statement to membership and industry partners.

And more!

All CRA operational committees are hard at work on their respective work plans for 2019; the above-noted activities highlight only a few of these initiatives. For more information and updates, please visit the News & Updates section on the CRA website at www.rheum.ca.

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CIORA Project Showcase *(Continued from page 6)*

Of 85 participants, 54 were randomized to the videoconferencing care model and 31 to the traditional clinic. There were no significant between-group differences in DAS28-CRP, RADAI, mHAQ or EQ5D scores at baseline or over the study period. Satisfaction rates were high in both groups.

At study completion, we found no difference in effectiveness between inter-professional videoconferencing care and a traditional rheumatology clinic. High drop-out rates reinforced the need for consideration of patients' needs and preferences. While use of videoconferencing/tele-

health technologies may be a distinct advantage for some, there may be a loss of travel-related auxiliary benefits for others. The report on this study is currently published in the *Journal of Musculoskeletal Care*.

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