

News from the ASM Program Committee

By Tom Appleton, MD, PhD, FRCPC

Come to Victoria and Leave with 20/20 Vision!

2020 marks the start of a new decade in rheumatology. If the last two decades are any indication, exciting things await us in the field over the next 10 years!

Join us on February 26-29 in Victoria, B.C., at the Fairmont Empress & Victoria Conference Centre for the 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA). Canadian and international colleagues across professional domains will be treated to an exciting and interactive opportunity to engage with new science and emerging themes in rheumatology in the picturesque setting of coastal B.C.

The 2020 ASM will build on the success of our new 2019 “state-of-the-art” workshops track, with exceptional content provided daily, developed by world leaders on practical clinical topics for immediate applicability to clinical practice.

New This Year!

The CRA is bringing you two completely new satellite sessions on the first day before the ASM begins. The new CRA Review Course will provide state-of-the-art clinical experience to established rheumatologists looking for new ways to stimulate their practice and provide best-possible patient care. For more information on the new CRA Review Course, please refer to page 5 of this issue of the *CRAJ*.

Beginning on the eve of the ASM, the new Canadian Arthritis Research Conference will bring the research community together to discuss how we can “take collaborative action” and advance the field together.

Crowd-sourced Workshops

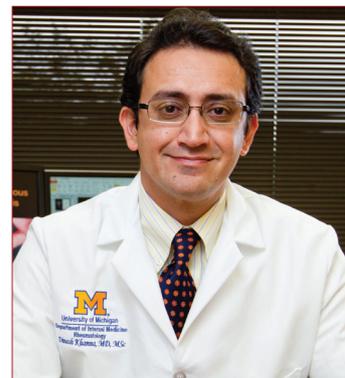
Members of the CRA and Arthritis Health Professions Association (AHPA) were invited to submit proposals to share their knowledge at the ASM by presenting an interactive workshop session. Come and engage with our colleagues who are leading in various areas including allied health experts, practice management, pragmatic research, and much more!

You Told Us That CRA Members Love Controversy!

In 2020, we are bringing back Rheumatology Controversies, providing insights into how to address difficult clinical decisions based on the experience of thought leaders in rheumatology.



Dr. Betty Diamond



Dr. Dinesh Khanna



Professor Tim Spector

Trainees can continue to expect fantastic opportunities to learn from the best, including the Resident's Review Course. Trainees will also have the chance to provide top-line learning points for ASM attendees during the Mysterious Cases and Clinical Pearls session, a perennial highlight of the ASM!

Our ASM Headliners!

We are delighted to present an outstanding meeting that includes world-renowned speakers:

- Professor Tim Spector will kick off the ASM as our Keynote Speaker. As the author of the global phenomenon "The Diet Myth," he will address the role of the microbiome in human health and rheumatic diseases.
- Dr. Dinesh Khanna from the University of Michigan will present the State-of-the-Art Lecture on interstitial lung disease in scleroderma.

- Dr. Betty Diamond from the Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research will present the Dunlop-Dottridge Lecture. She will summarize the latest cutting-edge research in lupus, including how her work has led to new understanding of the cause of neuropsychiatric manifestations in lupus.

Registration opened November 29th! Old friends, new connections, important causes, Canadian content, and world-class opportunities in rheumatology await. I look forward to seeing you in Victoria. Bienvenue!

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Update from the Abstract Review Committee

By Vinod Chandran, MBBS, MD, DM, PhD; and Marinka Twilt, MD, PhD

The abstracts are in, and the CRA Abstract Review Committee has begun the hard work of reading and scoring the abstracts, ably supported by Virginia Hopkins, our research and innovation coordinator. The committee selects the abstracts worthy of podium and poster presentations. Our meeting continues to garner interest from researchers, clinicians, trainees and industry. More than 280 abstracts were submitted this year on rheumatology-related topics ranging from basic science, clinical and translational medicine, education, and quality improvement to health services research. Each abstract will be scored by three reviewers, and the best in each category are chosen based on the average score; the chair and co-chair will break any tie for a spot at the podium by consensus. Thank you reviewers!

There will be two podium sessions, during which the top-ranked abstracts in each category will be presented and judged. There will also be two interactive poster sessions where attendees will be able to discuss posters with the presenters. Both podium and poster presentations will be judged for awards, available in the following categories:

- Best Abstract on Quality Care Initiatives in Rheumatology
- Best Abstract on Research by Young Faculty
- Best Abstract on Pediatric Research by Young Faculty
- Best Abstract on Basic Science Research by a Trainee
- Best Abstract on Clinical or Epidemiology Research by a Trainee – Phil Rosen Award

- Best Abstract on SLE Research by a Trainee – Ian Watson Award
- Best Abstract by a Medical Student
- Best Abstract by a Rheumatology Resident
- Best Abstract by an Undergraduate Student
- Best Abstract by a Post-Graduate Research Trainee
- Best Abstract by a Rheumatology Post-Graduate Research Trainee
- Best Abstract on Spondyloarthritis Research Award (New)

We look forward to seeing you all in beautiful Victoria!

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