

Who's in the Rheum? CRA Staff Edition (Part 2)

Welcome to the second part of our *Who's in the Rheum? CRA Staff Edition* series! We hope to share some of the personalities behind the CRA who work hard to support our members.

	 Kevin Bajjnauth	 Virginia Hopkins	 Claire McGowan
Please describe your role at the CRA in one sentence.	I am the Communications and Marketing Coordinator at the CRA; my role is essentially to support our team and committees on the amazing work they do.	As Manager, Research and Innovation, I am responsible for managing our research programs (CIORA, abstracts) and our technology platforms (website, mobile app, virtual conference, association management system, etc.).	I work with CRA Education and Program Committees to ensure comprehensive educational programs are developed and delivered to the CRA membership.
How long have you been with the CRA?	Since October 2018.	Since October 2011.	Since December 2014.
What is your favourite CRA memory to date?	Definitely the CRA's Gala at the Annual Scientific Meeting. I've worked several events and concerts before, but nothing prepared me for the Gala!	There are too many to choose from but the Gala dinners and Great Debates are at the top of the list.	Favourite recent memory: a sea of colourful blinking party glasses on the dance floor in Victoria.
How has COVID-19 impacted your day-to-day operations?	My regular day-to-day operations were minimally impacted. However, I work a lot with external organizations who were affected, so I've had to adjust in working with other parties who are not accustomed to working from home.	I've been very fortunate to have very little impact on my day-to-day operations.	Programs and planning have been altered by COVID-19 (and my internet has struggled with a full house at home!).
What were your summer plans this year pre-COVID?	I was planning to go to Korea and Japan this year!	My daughter and I were going to take a graduation trip to New York City.	Lots of cottaging and a road trip to the east coast.
Where is your next destination once it's safe to travel?	I've never been to an all-inclusive resort before! If anything, this pandemic has taught me to spend more me time on myself, so that's my next destination for sure.	Italy for a wedding (fingers crossed).	Portugal.
If you were shipwrecked on a deserted island, what two items would you want to have with you (excluding basic necessities)?	Simple, satellite internet connection and a gaming laptop that is solar powered!	My cell phone and a solar charger for my cell phone.	A camera and EarPods (. . . and a little bit of chocolate).
Can you share any of your hidden talents or hobbies?	I was really into muay thai and boxing a few years ago. Now I'm interested in karate, though I'm still a white belt!	I love to organize everything and anything. I also enjoy reading and playing sports.	My latest pastime: furniture makeovers.
What are you watching or reading these days?	My good friend Louisa Onome is a contemporary YA writer from Toronto and is releasing her debut novel, <i>Like Home</i> , in early 2021. I love supporting my friends, and I know this story was a labour of love. It deals with a lot of heavy-hitting social issues but is full of charm and wit! I hope you can all check it out!	I just finished reading <i>In Five Years</i> by Rebecca Serle, and I'm watching <i>Schitt's Creek</i> on Netflix.	Book: <i>If You Want to Make God Laugh</i> by Bianca Marais TV show: <i>The Queen's Gambit</i>
What's your favorite '80s or '90s jam?	<i>No Scrubs</i> by TLC. It's also my go-to karaoke song!	Duran Duran, Culture Club, Depeche Mode (to name a few).	Far too many to choose from. Top picks include Queen, REM, The Hip and Cat Stevens (he's timeless).