

Establishing the Canadian Rheumatology Association Foundation



By Evelyn Sutton, MD, FRCPC, CRA President;
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At the CRA Annual General Meeting in 2020, we advised our membership of the intention to establish the Canadian Rheumatology Association Foundation (CRAF). This move will allow the CRA to establish an entity with a charitable status in support of our mission: helping our members provide optimal care to their patients.

The CRA Board has been working with Carter's Law Firm (carters.ca) over the past two years to move our application forward with the Canadian Revenue Agency. We have hired fundraising consultants, The Dennis Group Inc. (thedennisgroup.ca), in June of this year to assist with the operationalization of the Foundation and development of a

“Having a charity focused on supporting our efforts to deliver optimal care for patients with rheumatic conditions will enhance our collective capacity to serve our community. This charity is ten years in the making, and I am excited to share that we are close to making that vision a reality.”

– Evelyn Sutton, MD, FRCPC,
CRA President

robust and vanguard fundraising operation. The Discovery Group (thediscoverygroup.ca), a firm which specializes in governance, has been engaged to define our value proposition as we plan for the future.

The establishment of the CRAF will help to fund current activities of the CRA such as the CIORA, the Annual Scientific Meeting, and research projects. In fact, members should not experience a change in their engagement as the Canadian Rheumatology Association will continue to be the organization that serves the members and will remain the voice of rheumatologists in Canada.

We estimate the process of implementation will take up to one year. The mission of the new charity will be set at the time of its creation. Although it will have its own independent board of directors, our mission and vision for the future will be very aligned and synergistic.

Stakeholder engagement remains a top priority for the CRA. As we roll out our new plan, we intend to work closely

The CRAF is a dream to ensure that Canadian rheumatologists have the ability to be world leaders in research and education, and to ultimately provide outstanding clinical care for both present and future generations. It is the vehicle for providing the guidance and resources to make sure that the ideas and hard work of rheumatologists are not lost because of financial constraints.”

– John Wade, MD, FRCPC
CRA Secretary/Treasurer

with our partners. Our objectives are to create an organization that allows us to build capacity to fund activities that are in line with our mission, which is focused primarily on serving and representing rheumatologists in their pursuit of delivering optimal care. We continue to believe in building strong, synergistic partnerships with aligned charitable health and patient organizations so we can all better reach our collective goals.

“We are excited to be working on launching the new charitable organization, the Canadian Rheumatology Association Foundation (CRAF) which will focus on building sustainable sources of revenues to support and fund programs serving the rheumatology community.”

– Ahmad Zbib, MD, CPHIIMS-CA
CEO, CRA

At this pinnacle in the establishment of the CRA Foundation we welcome member participation and involvement. For more information on the process or how you might be able to support the CRAF, please contact Ahmad Zbib (email: azbib@rheum.ca; phone: 905-952-0698 ext. 8).