

Expanding Our Online Medical Cannabis Resources

By Trish Barbato, President and CEO, Arthritis Society



Like you, it's important to us at the Arthritis Society that people with questions about medical cannabis get their information from a credible source.

It's the reason we continue to develop and expand our resources about medical cannabis to treat arthritis symptoms. From how medical cannabis differs from recreational products to the different forms of medical cannabis, we work to cover all the questions we know people living with arthritis have about this potential treatment. We've recently added to our resources, launching our Medical Cannabis Patient Journey and Talking to Your Doctor about Medical Cannabis resources.

The Arthritis Society is committed to responding to the pressing information needs of people with arthritis in many areas. For example, we're continually updating our information online about COVID-19 and arthritis, including up-to-date information about the vaccines, and we're expanding the ways in which we share information with our audience. We now offer monthly Arthritis Talks webinars with expert speakers on a range of topics, and have launched an engaging podcast, *flourish* – The Podcast, available wherever you listen to podcasts.

Thank you for being among the Canadians helping to diminish the pain of arthritis. We encourage you to share our resources with your patients at arthritis.ca.

Trish Barbato
President and CEO,
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ACR Convergence 2020 Review (continued from page 20)

the pre-pandemic era. The usual drawbacks of online meetings were also evident: No one-on-one chats with poster presenters, no randomly stumbling upon an interesting poster while strolling the poster hall, and no serendipitous meetings with colleagues.

Another highlight for me was the superb Hench lecture by Dr. Gerd Burmeister on the history of biologic therapies in rheumatology. This was a great reminder of how far we have come in the last twenty years.

At live meetings, there is always a dichotomy between the official program of lectures, posters and symposia and the unofficial program of networking, sharing food and beverages with colleagues, and seeing the sights of the host city. Both provide value and enhance the total meeting experience. At virtual meetings, a similar parallel track exists. I would label this as ACR vs. "meta ACR." The meta ACR featured the CRA's concurrent program of daily up-

dates, tweets, trivia challenges and game changers. Dr. Jack Cush ran a similar excellent *RheumNow* program, including two evening programs during the meeting with Dr. Artie Kavanaugh and a rotating crew of guest experts reviewing key highlights. More informal meta aspects included the chats and Q&A streams accompanying each session. Two colleagues and I maintained a group text chat throughout the meeting, keeping each other engaged and highlighting interesting sessions to attend.

Overall, ACR Convergence 2020 delivered a satisfying experience. The 2021 meeting is scheduled for November in San Francisco, but I expect a virtual component is here to stay.

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