

### Acronyms Gone Wild *continued from page 3*

2012, made the honourable mentions list: "Treating to target matrix metalloproteinase 3 normalisation together with disease activity score below 2.6 yields better effects than each alone in rheumatoid arthritis patients: treating to twin targets; the T-4 study." We also had an entry on the dishonourable mentions list: the "Abatacept study to Determine the effectiveness in preventing the development of rheumatoid arthritis in RA patients with Undifferentiated inflammatory arthritis and to evaluate Safety and Tolerability (ADJUST)." This study was also cited as an example of a failed Tolstoy manoeuvre, as the letter J is not present anywhere in the title!

For now, in the world of virtual meetings, everything happens in your home or office on your computer screen.

When we return to in-person meetings, remember not to confuse any of the CRA acronyms, or you could end up in Los Angeles when you should be in Quebec City.

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#### References:

1. Herbert L Fred, Tsung O Cheng. Acronymesis: The Exploding Misuse of Acronyms. *Tex Heart Inst J.* 2003; 30(4):255-7.
2. Pottegård A, et al. SearCh for humouristic and Extravagant acroNyms and Thoroughly. *BMJ (Clinical research ed).* 2014; 349:g7092. doi: 10.1136/bmj.g7092.
3. Lehman AJ, et al. A 48-week, randomized, double-blind, double-observer, placebo-controlled multicenter trial of combination methotrexate and intramuscular gold therapy in rheumatoid arthritis: Results of the METGO study. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2005; 52:1360-70.

## Update on CRA Initiatives

The Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) is pleased to provide the following updates:

### Pediatric Choosing Wisely Recommendations

Over the last several months, the CRA Choosing Wisely Pediatric subcommittee has developed a list of seven recommendations that clinicians and patients should consider regarding resource stewardship. This list will be published on the Choosing Wisely Canada website: [choosingwiselycanada.org/](http://choosingwiselycanada.org/). The development of this list was a collaborative endeavour, involving not only CRA members but an Advanced Clinical Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC), parent and patient representative as well.

### Position Statement on Virtual Care

The CRA has published a position statement on virtual care. The purpose of the position statement is to support responsible, appropriate virtual health usage by Canadian rheumatologists. The position statement recognizes that rheumatologists will and should continue to use virtual health post-pandemic; identifies the benefits of virtual health and the need for ongoing support; and recognizes the importance of establishing virtual health practice standards. Visit the following link for more information: [rheum.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/EN-CRA-Position-Statement-on-Virtual-Care\\_April-29\\_2021.pdf](http://rheum.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/EN-CRA-Position-Statement-on-Virtual-Care_April-29_2021.pdf). Best practice statements for virtual care in rheumatology are currently being finalized and will be another valuable resource for CRA members coming soon!



### Call for 2022 ASM Workshop Proposals

Members of the CRA and Arthritis Health Professions Association (AHPA) are invited to share their knowledge and experience by submitting a workshop proposal for the upcoming 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting. ASM interactive workshops are intended to bring the rheumatology community together to discuss topics and issues that optimize patient care. For more information and to submit a proposal, please visit [rheum.ca](http://rheum.ca). The deadline to submit is July 30, 2021.

### Updated CRA Recommendation on COVID-19 Vaccination in Persons with Autoimmune Rheumatic Disease

The CRA GRADE recommendation, originally published on February 13, 2021, has now been updated to include the AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines and can be found on the CRA website at [rheum.ca/resources/publications/](http://rheum.ca/resources/publications/). Additionally, the manuscript has been published in the *Journal of Rheumatology* and is available to read here: [jrheum.org/content/early/2021/05/11/jrheum.210288](http://jrheum.org/content/early/2021/05/11/jrheum.210288). The CRA Decision Aid for the COVID-19 Vaccine that accompanies this guidance is being updated and expanded to include considerations for pediatric patients. This tool is currently under development but may in fact be published

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# Presidential Address

By Evelyn Sutton, President of the CRA

It is with great pleasure and humility that I have the privilege to serve members of the Canadian Rheumatology Association as the president for a second year. Looking back and having been part of CRA's response since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, I cannot overstate the work that we have all undertaken and the pressures we have faced. I am proud of how well our team, committees, members, volunteers as well as partners have been proactive in developing resources, tools, advocacy campaigns, guidelines, and many other elements for the benefit of the rheumatology community.

This past year, we also formed the CRA's first Diversity & Inclusion Task Force as we seek to ensure our association delivers an inclusive opportunity and experience for all future and current members, as well as stakeholders. Although our community is distanced, our resilience and dedication continually foster a spirit of togetherness.

With the current trend of work, practice, programs, and events that are transitioning into virtual environments, this unique situation has also provided an opportunity to reflect on our pre-pandemic habits, and to be increasingly cognizant of issues relating to climate change. The CRA recently hosted an event on sustainability featuring Dr. David Suzuki, who summed up the situation with immense urgency. "The very survival of all human beings is at risk." This is not hyperbole—the evidence Dr. Suzuki presented was overwhelmingly convincing.

This is our time to change the world, and I challenge all of us to proactively seek out information and make infor-



med decisions about how we live and how we can lessen our impact on the environment. At my weekly meeting last week with our CEO, Dr. Ahmad Zbib, we discussed what we can do individually and as an organization to decrease our carbon footprint. A few of our ideas were to walk when we can, share rides when walking is not an option, and to reduce in-person CRA meetings by half. We need to do this! I would love to hear your suggestions and what you are planning to do. We cannot ignore the science of climate change. Our work as rheumatologists is important and will be for

naught if we don't have a world with clean water and air.

Now, more than ever, we must support each other. It is with a reinvigorated spirit in my second year that I pledge to everyone, as president of the CRA, that the entire team and I are ready and here to support you. The CRA will continue to innovate dynamically to positively shape the future of rheumatology in Canada. Until we meet again, I look forward to connecting with you all at Canada Night, and at our 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting, in person or remotely. Remember to make time for yourselves, your family and friends and don't hesitate to reach out to your CRA family.

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## Update on CRA Initiatives *continued from page 5*

by the time of this publication. Please check the CRA website at [rheum.ca/covid-19/](http://rheum.ca/covid-19/).

### Updated CRA Position Statement on COVID-19 Vaccination Care

In addition to the CRA GRADE recommendation on COVID-19 Vaccination, CRA has also published an update to the Position Statement on COVID-19 Vaccination to include the expanded use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in children between the ages of 12-15 years. The Position

Statement is a document intended not only for clinicians, but for the public and decision-makers as well and is often used as an advocacy tool. The Position Statement has been updated several times since its first publication on December 31, 2020, to reflect changing recommendations and to advocate for the prioritization of vaccination and early second doses for immunocompromised individuals. Visit [rheum.ca/resources/publications/](http://rheum.ca/resources/publications/) to read the updated CRA Position Statement.