

# Update from the AMRQ

By Frédéric Morin, MD

Like all of our Canadian colleagues, Quebec's rheumatologists are hoping we are approaching the end of this long pandemic cycle. Nonetheless, there are many challenges and there is considerable work to be done in *La Belle Province*. In particular, the *Association des médecins rhumatologues du Québec (AMRQ)* has submitted a project, through the *Institut de la pertinence des actes médicaux (IPAM)* set up by the Quebec government, with the goal of better supporting the clinical work done by rheumatologists. This is a major undertaking in which the *Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux* could reinvest more than \$7 million to support the clinical practice of rheumatologists by providing them with practice supports. These supports could be not only nurses, but also physiotherapists, occupational therapists, nursing assistants, and other allied health professionals. Eventually, more than 70 full-time equivalent practice supports could be deployed for the 140 rheumatologists in Quebec. This is a complex process but one that is vital to increasing the public service provided by rheumatologists. Other specialists have benefited from technological upgrades to improve their practices. Rheumatologists need to have a supportive environment in order to achieve an optimal practice. For too long, we have remained sclerotic in a 20th-century environment. Despite a wage reduction agreement between medical specialists and the Quebec government, this promising project will hopefully be completed by 2022.

At the AMRQ's virtual annual conference in September 2021, we had the pleasure and honour of presenting a merit scholarship to our colleague, Dr. Évelyne Vinet, a rheumatologist at the McGill University Health Centre in Montréal. Though still in the early stages of her career, Dr. Vinet has set herself apart through her influential expertise in reproductive health for women with rheumatic diseases, in addition to being a valued resource for her colleagues throughout Quebec.

In closing, I would like to recognize the extraordinary contribution of my colleague, Dr. Nathalie Langlais, to Quebec's rheumatology community. Nathalie was the Association's first female president and has set herself apart through her commitment, integrity and ability to move issues forward. Although she had to leave her role after only one year for professional reasons, we are all extremely grateful for her involvement in promoting rheumatology in Quebec.

The year 2022 will mark the *Association des médecins rhumatologues du Québec's* 25th anniversary. We hope we can celebrate in person.

Hoping to see you all soon,

*Frédéric Morin, MD*

*President, Association des médecins rhumatologues du Québec*

## AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS, AND ACCOLADES

The *CRAJ* would like to recognize the contributions of its readers to the medical field and their local communities. To have any such awards, appointments, or accolades announced in an upcoming issue, please send recipient names, pertinent details, and a brief account of these honours to [JyotiP@sta.ca](mailto:JyotiP@sta.ca). Picture submissions are greatly encouraged.