

# 2022 CIORA Grant Award Recipients

By Janet Pope, MD, MPH, FRCPC

The Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) is pleased to announce that its granting division, the Canadian Initiative for Outcomes in Rheumatology cAre (CIORA), will be funding 4 two-year grants and 1 one-year grant for a total of \$485,626 CDN to projects that will enhance access and innovation for rheumatology care. Additionally, the CRA will set aside \$60,000 to fund the CRA (CIORA) Arthritis Society Clinician Investigator Award in 2023 (more details to follow).

Over the last 15 years, CIORA has funded 114 projects and provided almost \$8.5M CDN in research funding since 2006.

CIORA's grant program supports sustainable projects related to:

- Academic clinical research initiatives related to all rheumatic diseases
- Clinical research initiatives for community rheumatologists related to all rheumatic diseases

Principal Investigator(s)	Title	Award
 <b>Vinet, E.</b>	Personalized therapy in lupus pregnancies.	<b>\$114,000</b>
 <b>Boire, G.</b>  <b>Beausejour, M.</b>  <b>Feldman, D.</b>	Assessing the timeliness of referrals in rheumatology for chronic inflammatory arthritis from a centralized referral system.	<b>\$111,074</b>
 <b>Abikhzer, G.</b>	Digital FDG PET/CT versus temporal artery biopsy and ultrasound for first-line diagnostic imaging of giant cell arteritis.	<b>\$109,326</b>
 <b>Barber, C.</b>	Development and pilot of a shared-care model for rheumatoid arthritis leveraging an "on-demand" follow-up strategy.	<b>\$109,796</b>
 <b>Gottheil, S.</b>	Reducing urgent care wait times in community rheumatology: A quality improvement project.	<b>\$41,430</b>

A listing of all current and previous recipients is available at [rheum.ca/ciora](http://rheum.ca/ciora).

# CRAF Update

By Ahmad M. Zbib, MD, CPHIMS-CA

We are pleased to announce that, as of July 13th, the Canada Revenue Agency has approved charitable status for the Canadian Rheumatology Association Foundation (CRAF). This is a significant milestone in our journey to establish the CRAF to help fund activities of the Canadian Rheumatology Association.

Stakeholder engagement remains a top priority for the CRAF. We continue to work closely with our members and partners as we activate the roll-out plan. Our priorities are to establish formal operational governance, documentation, and a foundation launch plan.

The main objective is to create an organization that allows us to build capacity to fund activities that are in line with the CRA mission, which is focused primarily on serving and representing rheumatologists so they can deliver the best care possible to their patients.

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.



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We will continue to provide updates as we prepare for the soft launch this Fall and our public launch in the new year. For more information on how you might be able to support the CRAF, please contact Dr. Ahmad Zbib (by email: [executivedirector@crafoundation.ca](mailto:executivedirector@crafoundation.ca) or by phone: 905-952-0698 extension 8.

*"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."*

- Dr. Ahmad Zbib  
CEO, CRA

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CANADIAN INITIATIVE FOR  
OUTCOMES IN  
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**CIORA is issuing another call for grants in 2023!**

CIORA Online Grant Application System opens on **January 23, 2023.**

Letter of Intent must be submitted by **February 20, 2023.**

CIORA Online Grant Application submission deadline is **March 31, 2023.**