

Research Priorities in Pediatric Lupus". Who knew that tumour necrosis factors (TNFs), IL-1 and IL-6 were involved in the pathogenesis of endometriosis? That was only one of the fascinating facts I picked up.

The Year in Review was traditional in format, with basic science and clinical segments. The Closing Session was different, with a moderator and four discussants chatting without slides. The participants highlighted new information presented on polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR)/giant cell arteritis (GCA), multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) related to COVID-19 infection in pediatric patients, rehabilitation and employment in the rheumatic diseases, environment-genetic interactions affecting disease pathogenesis, the microbiome, dietary supplements such as fish oil, Vitamin D, and omega-3s, geriatric rheumatology, and the impact of climate change and pollution on autoimmunity.

Other highlights: The ACR Knowledge Bowl, the ACR's counterpart to *RheumJeopardy*, was won by the Gulls of Galveston, based in Texas. More information was presented from the Accelerating Medicines Partnership (AMP) which is working to develop novel therapies in rheumatology. Dr. Kenneth Saag was formally installed as the 85th ACR President.

The plan is for ACR 2022 to be live in Philadelphia, but a hybrid meeting with a virtual component remains quite likely.

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If You Ask for Innovation It Will Come

By Trish Barbato
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In the last issue, I talked about how arthritis needs innovation. Well, it turns out there are a lot of innovators who want to help people living with arthritis.

Whether it's researchers, entrepreneurs or clinicians, the number of creative minds working on solutions that could make life better for people living with arthritis is inspiring.

Our new **Ignite Research Grants** program attracted almost 50 applications in its first year, and we are delighted to have been able to fund nine of them. The projects range from investigating if tiny particles in the blood could predict response to methotrexate, to studying bone marrow lesions in people with osteoarthritis to better understand the disease — and all could yield tremendous results.

Similarly, in December, we were overwhelmed by the number and quality of submissions to both our **Social Impact Program** and our **Arthritis Ideator Program**. The submissions came from across the country and ranged from apps to assistive devices to screening programs.

To support this work, we recruited more than 30 "Innovation Ambassadors." Our Ambassadors, who live with arthritis, have been testing products and technology, meeting entrepreneurs and lending their voice to the assessment of submissions. The Arthritis Ideator Program will



culminate with four finalists — including a People's Choice Award — being selected for funding at our exciting Arthritis Ideation Awards event on April 21, 2022. Join us for this energizing presentation of innovation. We're uncovering and fueling ideas that will change the future! More information is available at www.arthritis.ca/innovation.