
Presidential Address

By Nigil Haroon, President, Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA)

Thank you, Evelyn, for your vision and leadership that has taken the CRA to new heights. Despite going through the worst pandemic of our lifetime, over the past two years, you took us through two virtual conventions and an incredibly productive and engaging couple of years. This was only possible because of your abilities as our leader. We have immensely benefited from your firm decision-making skills, collaborative and receptive nature, honesty, and willingness to adapt. What was most noted was your integrity as a leader, the emphasis on making sure everyone is heard, your strong focus on justice, equity, diversity and inclusivity, and the emphasis on sustainability. Your impact on the CRA is evident from the direction it has taken under your leadership. I have immensely benefited working alongside you and learning from you. Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do.

I completed my rheumatology training in 2007 in India and moved to Canada in 2008. Since then, I have been a member of the CRA and through the years have worked closely with many of you. You welcomed me with open arms, and in addition to interacting and learning from the incredible skills and knowledge of its members, the CRA provided numerous opportunities for personal growth. For that I am ever grateful.

During my term as CRA President, I will focus on membership engagement, increasing opportunities for



your own personal and professional development, and leading the CRA's mission to enable your pursuit of excellence in rheumatic disease education, research and care that ultimately benefits our patients. I have no doubt that we will continue this journey to excellence, thanks to the incredible energy of our members who continue to support us generously through active engagement and participation in the important work of our committees. My greatest strength is the CRA staff team who work tirelessly to serve this great organization. I am so fortunate to be working with the most committed and skilled colleagues one can dream of. Under the leadership of Dr. Ahmad Zbib, the CRA staff has truly transformed our operations,

and we are winning praise from many in the not-for-profit world. Thank you, Ahmad, Virginia, Claire, Mona, Sue, Madalyn and Sandra for the focus, organization and passion that you bring to the CRA. I look forward to working with you and serving the members of the CRA.

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