

Quality Care Committee Update

By Amanda Steiman, MD, MSc, FRCPC

You can't miss the headlines and the bleak healthcare future foretold: ever-expanding healthcare demand in the face of fiscal, psychic, and infrastructure implosion: the healthcare universe, and its spectacular supernova. I have 300 words to share a Quality Care Committee update in this context. I find it impossible to ignore the stark contrast between the headlines, on the one hand, and the ingenuity, energy, and passion that have driven countless initiatives to improve the quality of care delivered to patients with rheumatic diseases by colleagues from coast to coast. From the study and promotion of models of and approaches to care, nuanced to suit the needs of Indigenous patients, or those transitioning from pediatric to adult care, to Choosing Wisely (and choosing wisely, more generally), from supporting virtual care in our evolving COVID landscape and beyond, to leveraging electronic medical records (EMRs) to ensure care delivery is optimized, there is a palpable passion for and investment in doing better, working smarter, and creating systems that support our colleagues, and our patients.

Initiatives supporting quality care come in all shapes and sizes, and we want to learn more about the work being done nationally, today, and what might grow from this tomorrow. We thus look forward to gaining further understanding of the clinical quagmires, the recurrent themes and pain points, and more of the work being done to address these through our recent Joint Count survey (see page 23 of this issue). In better understanding the Canadian rheumatologic quality care climate, we will work towards forging connections among those working toward common goals, recognizing opportunities, and building networks.

*Amanda Steiman, MD, MSc, FRCPC
Chair, CRA Quality Care Committee
Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Toronto
Clinician in Quality and Innovation
Rheumatologist,
Sinai Health System/University Health Network
Toronto, Ontario*

News from SOAR

By Alexa Smith, MD, FRCPC, MEd

Rheumatologists and allied health professionals from across the Atlantic provinces attended the 38th Annual Meeting of the Society of Atlantic Rheumatologists (SOAR) on June 24th–26th, 2022, at the beautiful Dalway by the Sea on Prince Edward Island. The gathering offered outstanding education along with a welcome opportunity to reconnect in person with regional colleagues.

Dr. Christian Pagnoux (MD, MSc, MPH), an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, Mount Sinai Hospital, delivered this year's David Hawkins Lecture in Rheumatology entitled "Vasculitis in 2022: What are the Remaining Challenges?" He followed this with an engaging presentation called "Vasculitis Playground".

The second speaker, Dr. Laura Cappelli, MD, MHS, MS, an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Oncology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, presented

on the evolving field of rheumatologic adverse effects of cancer immunotherapy. She started with an illuminating talk entitled "Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors and the Rheumatologist" and then led us through the nuances of "Autoimmune Disease and Cancer: Many Intersections".

Dalhousie University's two rheumatology trainees, Drs. Nicole Beckett and Zach Shaffelburg, as well as incoming trainee Dr. Mary Purcell, presented three interesting case-based presentations which sparked thought-provoking discussions.

At the Business Meeting, the members voted unanimously to return to Dalway by the Sea on Prince Edward Island again next year, June 23-25, 2023. Save the date!

*Alexa Smith, MD, FRCPC, MEd
President, SOAR
Saint John, New Brunswick*