

# Passing the Torch

*"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."*

— Desmond Tutu

Dear CRA Members,

As my term as President of the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) comes to a close, I am filled with gratitude and pride reflecting on the past two years. Serving as your President has been an incredible honour and privilege. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our members who have generously volunteered their time and expertise, helping the CRA maintain its status as the trusted national voice for rheumatology in Canada. Your dedication and hard work are the cornerstones of our success.

The CRA's achievements are a collective effort. Our board, staff, and members, through their tireless work on committees and in various leadership roles, have been pivotal in advancing our mission. Together, we represent Canadian rheumatologists and promote excellence in arthritis and rheumatic disease care, education, and research. I am proud of the significant progress we have made across several key areas.

Over the past two years, we have seen remarkable advancements in membership engagement, equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), and financial independence. The establishment of the Canadian Rheumatology Association Foundation (CRAF) has been a significant milestone, providing a new avenue for supporting our community. We have launched innovative educational activities and enhanced the LEAP program to better serve our young members.

In addition, we have been proactive in addressing the environmental impact of our profession. The CRA was among the first organizations to raise awareness about the healthcare industry's significant carbon footprint. Following a series of informative seminars, we launched the Planetary Health Committee under the capable leadership of our Vice-President, Dr. Stephanie Tom. This initiative underscores our commitment to sustainable practices in healthcare.



As I step down, I am delighted to introduce Dr. Trudy Taylor as the new President of the CRA. Trudy's extensive experience with the CRA, including her recent role as a board member of the CRAF, makes her exceptionally well-suited to lead us through the new and complex challenges ahead. Her deep understanding of our organization and her visionary leadership will undoubtedly guide us to greater heights. It is my pleasure to pass the torch to such an incredible leader, and I am excited to continue serving the CRA as Past President.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next ASM in Calgary. Thank you once again for your unwavering support and dedication.

Warm regards,

Nigil Haroon  
Outgoing President,  
Canadian Rheumatology Association

*"The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others."*

— Albert Schweitzer