

## Please Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood<sup>1</sup>

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We are trying to get some traction by analogy to inpatient visit codes. In the past in Ontario, there was a single billing code for all internal medicine inpatient visits for the first five weeks of a patient's admission to hospital. Eventually, it was recognized that there was greater intensity associated with visits on the first day in hospital, the second day in hospital, and the last day in hospital when a patient is discharged. New codes have been added for these days, with a higher value than the standard daily visit fee. This is the same discrepancy that we face when we conduct a biologic initiation/switching visit versus a standard follow-up visit, and we think this should be recognized in the fee schedule.

What is a rheumatologist? Judging from some of the referrals we receive, and the blank look of many lay people when hearing the term "rheumatologist," we are

certainly one of the most misunderstood specialties. We need to reassure payers that our intentions are good, and that with proper funding there is no limit to what we can achieve in helping our patients obtain better outcomes. Maybe then rheumatology can be restored to its former status as "the happiest specialty."<sup>2,3</sup>

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#### Selected References:

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2. Tate, Rachel. Why Rheumatologists are the Happiest. 2019. Available at [rheumnow.com/blog/why-rheumatologists-are-happiest](http://rheumnow.com/blog/why-rheumatologists-are-happiest). Accessed November 12, 2024.
3. James R. O'Dell, MD. The Happiest Specialty: Rheumatology Is #1! July 2012. Available at [www.the-rheumatologist.org/article/the-happiest-specialty-rheumatology-is-1/](http://www.the-rheumatologist.org/article/the-happiest-specialty-rheumatology-is-1/). Accessed November 12, 2024.

## Arthritis Society Canada and Creative Destruction Lab Announce Four Innovators Poised to Advance Arthritis Innovations



Ahead of World Arthritis Day on October 12th, Arthritis Society Canada, in partnership with Creative Destruction Lab (CDL), announced four arthritis-focused companies selected to join CDL's world-class program for massively scalable, seed-stage, science- and technology-based companies. They will spend the next nine months developing and bringing their innovations to market to improve the quality of life of people living with arthritis.

The selected innovators are:

1. **Canurta Therapeutics** – a biotechnology company addressing unmet needs in neurodegenerative diseases, including ALS, dementia, rheumatoid and juvenile arthritis, by developing rare botanical drugs.
2. **Interface Biosciences** – using a novel discovery platform that integrates artificial intelligence to develop therapies for autoimmune diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis and cancer.
3. **SereNeuro Therapeutics** – spearheading non-opioid pain therapies for long-term pain relief, using advanced cell and gene therapy for chronic pain, including applications for juvenile arthritis and other types of arthritis.
4. **A new company** (yet to be public) – advancing precision therapeutics targeting the root causes of inflammation in antibody-mediated diseases like rheumatoid and psoriatic arthritis.

These companies, along with 15 other seed-stage ventures, will gain mentorship and resources to launch their innovations. In Spring 2025, Arthritis Society Canada and CDL will celebrate their contributions to the future of arthritis care at an inaugural showcase event.

Learn more about Arthritis Society Canada's leadership in driving innovative solutions at [arthritis.ca](http://arthritis.ca).