

## News from the Therapeutics Committee

By Alison Kydd, MD, PhD, FRCPC

The CRA Therapeutics Committee has been busy over the past year. Some of the highlights include the following:

- Preparation of numerous reviews for Canada's Drug Agency (CDA) for submission by the CRA
  - Development of a Therapeutics Access review summary to provide the basis for advocacy for medication access in different jurisdictions
  - Position statements on vaccinations in patients with rheumatic diseases, hydroxychloroquine monitoring guidance for optical coherence tomography, access to targeted agents for rheumatoid arthritis, and JAK inhibitors for juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) in collaboration with the Paediatric Committee
  - Submission of feedback on a consultation call for advice on a national bulk purchasing strategy
- Monitoring drug shortages and advocating for CRA members and their patients are always our top priorities.

We will continue to respond to emerging issues on behalf of our members through position statements.

This work is only possible through the dedication of our volunteer committee members, who are all very busy with their numerous other roles. Our committee is involved, enthusiastic and a pleasure to work with. As always, I am impressed with our committee members' timely responses and expert guidance. Our work would not be possible without Sarah Webster, a dedicated CRA staff member, who is critical to our on-going functioning.

*Alison Kydd, MD, PhD, FRCPC  
Chair, CRA Therapeutics Committee  
Clinical Associate Professor, Rheumatology  
University of British Columbia  
Nanaimo, British Columbia*

## Delivering Timely, Evidence-based Support for People with Arthritis

Arthritis Society Canada is dedicated to supporting the six million people in Canada living with arthritis by providing free, evidence-based programs and resources that promote effective arthritis management and improved quality of life. Through a national ecosystem of information, education, and support services, the organization helps people make informed decisions about their health and navigate the daily challenges of arthritis with confidence.

### Arthritis Management Tools and Resources

Arthritis Society Canada offers an extensive library of credible, up-to-date information on arthritis types, treatments, symptom management, physical activity, mental health, and strategies for daily living. These resources are accessible anytime at [arthritis.ca](http://arthritis.ca), ensuring nationwide access to trusted guidance.

### Arthritis Connections

Arthritis Connections provides moderated online peer support groups where people can share experiences, exchange strategies, and find community with others who understand the realities of arthritis. The program fosters connection, resilience, and shared support. Visit [arthritis.ca/connections](http://arthritis.ca/connections) for more information.

### Arthritis Line

The Arthritis Line is a national information service offering personalized support from trained professionals. Individuals can receive guidance on arthritis management, treatment considerations, community resources, and day-to-day concerns by calling 1-800-321-1433 (select option 2) or emailing [info@arthritis.ca](mailto:info@arthritis.ca).

### Arthritis Talks

Arthritis Talks is a national webinar series featuring leading clinicians, researchers, and experts who share evidence-based insights on pain management, joint health, emerging therapies, and more. Participants can register for upcoming webinars or access past recordings at [arthritis.ca/talks](http://arthritis.ca/talks).

To learn more about Arthritis Society Canada's programs and resources, please visit [arthritis.ca](http://arthritis.ca).

