

News from the ASM Program Committee

By Marinka Twilt, MD, MScE, PhD

The Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) Program Committee looks forward to seeing you all at the 2026 CRA ASM, this coming April 16th-19th, 2026. We are looking forward to reconnecting with colleagues and friends in Halifax!

We will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the CRA ASM. This year's meeting theme, *Shifting Tides: Embracing Change in Rheumatology*, will focus on shifting paradigms and evidence to assist the understanding of our diseases in order to improve care for our patients with rare diseases. We will once again provide unparalleled educational and networking opportunities, centered on a program that will deliver innovative leading-edge science, interactive programming, and insights from Canadian and international experts.

In addition to the Distinguished Investigator lecture, which will be delivered by awardee Dr. Cheryl Barnabe, the ASM will feature three keynote addresses: Dr. Elizabeth Volkmann from the University of California will present her lecture titled, "Holistic Approaches to Autoimmunity"; Dr. Michael Ombrello from the National Institute of Health (NIH), USA, will discuss "Still's Disease and AOSD Across the Age Spectrum"; and Dr. Lisa Christopher-Stine from the Johns Hopkins Myositis Center will present the 2025 Dunlop-Dottridge Lecture, "Myositis."

This year's ASM schedule will change slightly from last year; it will start on Thursday at 1:30 pm with core educational content featured from Thursday to Saturday (Thursday morning prior to start of the ASM and Sunday morning will be reserved for small group meetings). The meeting will commence the afternoon of Thursday April 16th, 2026, with the Year in Review and will end Saturday, April 19th, 2026, with the gala dinner and awards ceremony. Each day will offer a full day of educational programming, with adequate time for networking. This year we have a new session called "Tough-to-Treat" where the speakers will highlight defi-



Dr. Michael Ombrello



Dr. Lisa Christopher-Stine



Dr. Elizabeth Volkmann

nitions, management, existing knowledge gaps and the importance of a multidisciplinary approach through a case-based structure. In addition to the top abstract sessions introduced last year, we will introduce a new abstract workshop on "translational research"—your opportunity to engage directly with cutting-edge research and participate in lively discussions with leading experts.

The meeting will of course feature all of the compelling content you have come to expect from the CRA ASM. We will have poster sessions and poster tours for trainees and investigators to showcase their research activities; State-of-the-Art, paired specialty and crowd-sourced workshops; satellite symposia; as well as favourites such as Mysterious Cases and Clinical Pearls, Controversies in Rheumatology, the Year in Review, RheumJeopardy and the Great Debate! This year's debate topic is "Be it Resolved that Medications Should be Tapered in Patients with Inflammatory Arthritis." Opportunities to celebrate our award-winning colleagues will be featured throughout the meeting. The Residents' Pre-Course will again be delivered over two days, one virtual afternoon in January and one in person on Thursday April 16th (in the morning) before the CRA ASM.

We welcome all CRA and AHPA members, as well as other colleagues within the rheumatology community from across Canada and around the world. We look forward to seeing you all in Halifax and celebrating all our achievements together in April 2026.

*Marinka Twilt, MD, MScE, PhD
Pediatric Rheumatologist, Clinician Scientist,
Alberta Children's Hospital
Professor, Department of Pediatrics,
Cumming School of Medicine
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta*