

Spotlight on the 2026 CRA Abstract Award Winners

IAN WATSON AWARD for the Best Abstract on SLE Research by a Trainee

Sponsored by the Lupus Society of Alberta

Winner: Lucia Zhu, McGill University

Abstract Title: Trajectories of NT-proBNP in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

Supervisor: Dr. Sasha Bernatsky

PHIL ROSEN AWARD for the Best Abstract on Clinical or Epidemiology Research by a Trainee

Sponsored by the Arthritis Society – Phil Rosen Memorial Award

Winner: Lana Mackic, University of Manitoba

Abstract Title: High-Resolution Thermography and Artificial Intelligence to Evaluate and Classify Rheumatoid Arthritis

Supervisor: Dr. Liam O'Neil

BEST ABSTRACT by a Rheumatology Resident

Sponsored by the CRA

Winner: Leigha Rowbottom, Mount Sinai/University of Toronto

Abstract Title: Enhancing Immunology Education for Rheumatology Trainees Using Artificial Intelligence: A Pilot Quality Improvement Initiative

Supervisor: Dr. Ahmed Omar

BEST ABSTRACT on Basic Science Research by a Trainee

Sponsored by the CRA

Winner: Kathleen Dyer, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Abstract Title: Assessing Genetic Factors Influencing the Variability in Psoriatic Arthritis Onset Among Patients with Psoriasis

Supervisor: Dr. Proton Rahman

BEST ABSTRACT by a Post-Graduate Research Trainee

Sponsored by the CRA

Winner: Reem Farhat, McGill University

Abstract Title: Increased Risk of Intrahepatic Cholestasis of Pregnancy in Women with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Exposed to Azathioprine

Supervisor: Dr. Evelynne Vinet

BEST ABSTRACT on Quality Care Initiatives in Rheumatology

Sponsored by the CRA

Winner: Timothy Kwok, University of Toronto

Abstract Title: Health Care Utilization Patterns Among Patients Presenting to Emergency Department for Gout Flares in Ontario, Canada: A Population-Based Retrospective Observational Study

BEST ABSTRACT by a Medical Student

Sponsored by the CRA

Winner: Kaitlyn Ng Tung Hing, University of Edinburgh

Abstract Title: Phonophoresis for Enthesitis-Related Pain: Real-World Outcomes from a Retrospective Single-Centre Study

Supervisors: Drs. Melissa Holdren and Carter Thorne



BEST ABSTRACT by an Undergraduate Student

Sponsored by the CRA

Winner: Madeline Beron, Queen's University/University of Toronto

Abstract Title: Extremely High Maternal Anti-Ro/La Antibody Titers Predict Non-Cardiac Neonatal Lupus Erythematosus Manifestations

Supervisor: Dr. Linda Hiraki

BEST ABSTRACT by a Rheumatology Post-Graduate Research Trainee

Sponsored by the CRA

Winner: Greta Mastrangelo, University of Toronto, The Hospital for Sick Children

Abstract Title: Confirming the Validity of the New EULAR/ACR Classification Criteria for Pediatric Chronic Nonbacterial Osteomyelitis

Supervisors: Drs. Brian Feldman and Ron Laxer

BEST ABSTRACT on Research by Early Career Faculty

Sponsored by the CRA

Winner: Liam O'Neil, University of Manitoba

Abstract Title: Citrullination of Neutrophil Serine Proteases Enhances Proteolytic Activity, Stability and Autoantigenicity in Rheumatoid Arthritis

BEST ABSTRACT on Pediatric Research by Early Career Faculty

Sponsored by the CRA

Winner: Piya Lahiry, McGill University

Abstract Title: Impaired Dnase1L3 Activity from a Novel Mutation Identified in Monogenic Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

BEST ABSTRACT on Spondyloarthritis Research

Sponsored by the Canadian Spondylitis Association

Winner: Nam Nguyen, University of Toronto

Abstract Title: Evaluation of the Performance of Candidate Enthesitis Ultrasound Scoring Systems for Psoriatic Arthritis Diagnosis – Duet Study

Supervisor: Dr. Lihi Eder

BEST ABSTRACT on Equity Diversity and Inclusion in Rheumatology

Sponsored by the CRA

Winner: Alec Chu Ming Yu, University of British Columbia

Abstract Title: Improving Care for People Living with Rheumatic Disease and Extreme Poverty: An Interim Analysis of a Prospective Study on Honorarium and Outreach Supports

Supervisor: Dr. Brent Ohata