

**Governing Principles**

**For the Ontario Rheumatology Association (ORA) and Arthritis Health Professions Association (AHPA)**

**Scope:**

* The Executive Members of the ORA wish to establish a formal relationship between the association and Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) working closely with rheumatologists to support optimal patient care in Rheumatology. An ORA-AHP committee has been established.
* The ORA AHP committee will comprise of: the ORA President, 2 ORA executives, the AHPA President and 1 Board member and 1 community based AHPA member

**Principles**

* There is clear value to all stakeholders in developing a strong collaborative relationship with allied health care professionals who work in arthritis care
* The ORA, as a professional medical association, will collaborate with an established and credible professional association representing allied health care professionals. This has been identified as the AHPA- Arthritis Health Professions Association, a national organization.
* There will be transparent guidelines to describe how allied health care professionals may attend the ORA Annual General Meeting
* The ORA will work closely with AHPA to explore additional areas of collaboration.
* Where there are financial implications the ORA will negotiate and establish a transparent funding model.

**Definition of AHPs (in the context of ORA collaboration)**

* Must generally be working in a rheumatology care setting
* Must be an AHPA member living and/or working in Ontario

**The ORA Executive Members proposed the following recommendations for AHPs who wish to attend the ORA Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

* ORA will offer a subsidized meeting registration fee for AHPs who wish to attend. This will be restricted to a limited number AHPs ( *final number to be agreed upon with AHPA*) owing to meeting space considerations.
* AHPs will incur all expenses related to their hotel accommodation and travel costs
* The selection process will support equal and fair representation for all Ontario AHPA members.
  + AHPs must apply in writing using the ORA AHP AGM application form.
  + All AHP applications will be reviewed and approved by the AHP- ORA working committee
  + Should space still be available and should there be more than 2 AHPs from a single clinic or organization applying, the application will be reviewed by the ORA President
* AHPs may not bring guests to the AGM
* Up to a maximum of 3 posters per year may be presented by AHPA members at the AGM. The members selected to present a poster will receive free registration and accommodation

**The ORA Executive Members identified areas of possible collaboration:**

* Joint education sessions – these may be at the AGM or other arthritis meetings
* AHPA poster(s) at AGM
* Workshops for ORA members on Arthritis Health Professional care issues at the AGM
* Annual ORA AGM. The ORA AHP committee will work with the ORA AGM planning committee to identify workshops for the AGM. These will be presented to the ORA for review and consideration

**Funding options**

* In the spirit of collaboration, the ORA will lead fundraising activities to support AHPs to attend the AGM and agree to embed it into its yearly corporate sponsorship ask.

**ORA AHP AGM application form: - Draft template**

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| Name of AHPA Member |
| Place of Employment  Do you currently work with a Rheumatologist in Ontario? □ yes □ no If yes, please list their name: |
| Please list any projects you are currently collaborating on with ORA Members: |
| Please list any projects or activities in which you are involved that relate to rheumatology: |
| Please indicate your area of practice   * Chiropractor * Dietitian * Nurse * Nurse Practitioner * Occupational Therapist * Pharmacist * Physiotherapist * Research Staff * Social Worker * Speech Language Pathologists * Students * Other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   Please indicate if you are an ACPAC graduate: □ Yes □ No |
| Please let us know how your participation in the ORA AGM will benefit you or your Association/Employment? |