

Top honours for Dr. Carter Thorne for his outstanding contribution to Rheumatology in Canada

NEWMARKET, ON – February 6, 2015 – Praised for his dedication to advancing rheumatology medicine and his passion for making lives better, Dr. Carter Thorne, chief of rheumatology and director of The Arthritis Program at Southlake Regional Health Centre, has been named the 2015 recipient of the Canadian Rheumatology Association’s Distinguished Rheumatologist Award. Dr. Thorne was presented with this national award at the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) Annual Scientific Meeting at The Fairmont Château Frontenac, in Quebec City, Quebec.



For Dr. Thorne, his passion comes from knowing his work is changing people’s lives. “This recognition is truly an honour. At Southlake, we are committed to delivering the best possible care to our patients. Arthritis can be a challenging and debilitating disease but through the work of The Arthritis Program at Southlake, we’re able to give people their lives back. It’s always a special feeling when someone comes to us feeling hopeless and with

the right tools, support, and coaching, they realize they can truly improve their quality of life.”

The Distinguished Rheumatologist Award is presented annually to a clinician who has made an outstanding contribution to rheumatology in Canada in the areas of patient care and service, and participation in Canadian and international rheumatology organizations and associations.

Dr. Thorne is an incredibly accomplished and active clinician in the field of rheumatology. In addition to creating the thriving Ontario Rheumatology Association (ORA), he is involved in the Canadian Early Arthritis Cohort (CATCH), the Ontario Best Practices Research Initiative (ORBI), and has participated in a number of local provincial and national models of care initiatives. An avid-researcher, Dr. Thorne has authored more than 80 peer-reviewed publications and served as an executive member of the Canadian Rheumatology Research Consortium (CRRC) in order to Canadian-ize trials that would be good for patients and feasible to recruit.

In addition to his role as chief of rheumatology at Southlake, Dr. Thorne has previously served as president and vice president for the CRA, and previously as the treasurer and secretary, a role he held for 11 years. He was Secretary-Treasurer of PANLAR (Pan American League of Associations for Rheumatology), a position that he held for five years.

Dr. Thorne's recognition is just one in a number of recent recognitions for The Arthritis Program. Lorna Bain, Coordinator for TAP, was recently awarded the Barb Haines Memorial Award for the best scientific abstract submitted by an Occupational Therapist at the Canadian Rheumatology Association annual Scientific Conference. A third award, a plaque, was also presented to TAP, by the Osteoporosis Strategy and Osteoporosis Canada for their work in implementing an enhanced model of a fracture clinic screening program at Southlake.

About The Arthritis Program

With approximately 10,000 patient care visits per year, The Arthritis Program (TAP) is an award-winning regional program at Southlake dedicated to delivering the highest standards in quality arthritis care. Since its inception in 1991, TAP has used a team-based, patient-centred approach to the assessment, treatment, and education of people of all ages who are diagnosed or experiencing the symptoms of arthritis. TAP is committed to research and is involved in a number of leading-edge projects that are paving the way in the field of arthritis care. The program teaches and coaches other healthcare teams, medical trainees, residents, and healthcare students who are interested in learning about TAP's practice environment and approach to patient care.