

# SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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2013 Rheumatologist of the Year  
Dr. Janet Pope



## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

### President's Update

The Ontario Rheumatology Association has continued to be busy working on issues that concern Ontario rheumatologists throughout Spring and early summer 2013. We have had further meetings with the Ministry of Health's Exceptional Access Program and more interaction with third party payers.

Our Annual Meeting was held May 24-26, 2013 at JW Marriott in Muskoka and was a resounding success. Dr. Janet Pope and her team created an excellent scientific program and the venue and activities were all very well received. Dr Pope also won Rheumatologist of the Year for 2013. This was our best attended and most successful meeting yet, with over 200 participants.

These included rheumatologists, rheumatology trainees, allied health participants, pharma sponsors and invited guests. The scientific sessions, once again expertly organized by Dr Janet Pope, were extremely well received and consisted of many topics including liver disease, myopathies, and update from the Ontario Medical Association and clinical criteria for scleroderma. The keynote speaker was Ms. Suzanne LePage who spoke to the membership on the subject of insurance company coverage for medications in Canada, a very topical presentation. Friday evening included an EMR vendor fair organized by the ORA EMR committee, led by Dr Vandana Alhwalia, as well as an excellent poster tour led by Drs.



Jack Karsh and Bill Bensen. The Walk for Arthritis was held on Saturday afternoon with over 100 participants and more than \$16,000 raised for The Arthritis Society.

The ORA remains committed to representing the rheumatologists of Ontario and if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me at [president@ontariorheum.ca](mailto:president@ontariorheum.ca). It has been a pleasure to work with the extraordinarily dedicated ORA executive and administration over the last year and I am looking forwards to all the excit-

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## EXCEPTIONAL ACCESS PROGRAM: TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Delays from Spring 2013 will be decreasing over the summer at EAP
- Make sure your forms are the current version, are **legible** and complete (multiple faxing degrades images) and include your phone number that you will answer
- There will soon be a new form for ankylosing spondylitis that will include diagnostic imaging so a second form will not be needed in the future
- For children transitioning to adult care, you **must** send a written letter as there are no EAP forms for juvenile arthritis at this time
- The ORA will be working with the government on a formal pediatric transition to adult process with a form to smooth out this process
- Ongoing work is proceeding with the government on timing of Rituxan approvals, both for RA and vasculitis
- For any concerns, contact [president@ontariorheum.ca](mailto:president@ontariorheum.ca)



## OMA UPDATE

### OMA update

#### **Fee code of K481 Rheumatoid arthritis management by a specialist \$75.00 /year**

This code allows you to bill a yearly fee for monitoring RA patients in a treat to target fashion as long as you have seen them 3 times in the previous 12 months and have documented some indicators of disease activity. Further information is on the ORA website

Payment discount of 0.5% on all physician payments, in effect from April 1, 2013. The remittance advice (RA) will show the total payment discount as a summary line. The Ministry has not confirmed when the discount will appear on RAs — MDs will be notified once that date is finalized.

Joint injections are uninsured services for injection of intra-articular viscosupplementation agents, effective Jan. 1, 2013.

Fibromyalgia has a new diagnostic code 726.

Physician to physician e-consults are now billable if done by secure e-mail (codes K738/739). We are creating new forms for this to be made available on the website

Philip A. Baer MDCM, Chair OMA Section on Rheumatology

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## RHEUMATOLOGY MANPOWER PROJECT

The ORA along with the Canadian Rheumatology Association is proceeding with a project to try and improve the rheumatology manpower distribution across Ontario. Contacts with trainees through the ORA OSCE weekend and through meetings at the various universities are proceeding through summer 2013. A new website will also be created to collect information on regions in need of further rheumatology resources to make this data available to medical students, residents and rheumatology trainees so they can make well informed career plans.

Our hope is to allow site visits to communities looking for a rheumatologist to let the physician and their family see the whole city, not just the medical aspects.

If you would like your community added to our list of places looking for further rheumatology support (so far the list is Peterborough and London), or to be part of the planning process, please let me know at [president@ontariorheum.ca](mailto:president@ontariorheum.ca)

## EMR COMMITTEE

An ORA EMR User Forum was held on Friday June 28, 2013 at the Toronto Airport Marriott Hotel. There were over 40 attendees including representation from 3 certified EMR vendors; Optimed(Accuro) Software, Indivica – OSCAR EMR and TELUS Health, and delegates from eHealth Ontario, OntarioMD, and MOHLTC e-health Branch.

The objectives of the forum were to a) learn about provincial EMR support/news, b) meet face-to-face with EMR vendors c) view new rheumatology tools and identify new needs d) share best practices to maximize work flow efficiency

### General session Highlights

Funds are still available for Specialists for EMR adoption. eHealth Ontario is encouraging all ORA members that if they are thinking of incorporating EMR into their practices, to submit an EMR adoption program/application. ([www.ontariomd.ca](http://www.ontariomd.ca) for more details).

Dr. Jessica Widdifield, a post doctoral fellow at ICES discussed optimizing the use of EMRs for secondary research in patient care. She highlighted work from EMERALD- *The Electronic Medical Record Administrative Data Linked Database* housed at ICES which consists of clinically relevant information derived from EMRs maintained by Ontario family physicians

### Workshops Highlights

Rheumatology users attended workshops with their respective EMR vendors:

- Practical demonstrations of new tools/ shortcuts
- Sharing of best practices
- Feedback session with vendors for functionality improvement
- Discussion on future rheumatology needs/tools
- E-OBRI forums for seamless data collection at point of care,
- Patient reported outcomes collected via patient portal devices,
- Development of standardized data coding for data retrieval
- Integration on Rheumatology clinical guidelines
- Optimization of a functional eReferral system
- Patient portals for sharing of information/personal health records.

The ORA is committed to taking a strong and organized leadership role and working collaboratively to maximize EMR's solutions.

All Ontario rheumatologists should strongly consider applying for eHealth EMR funding as soon as possible to take advantage of current funding. [Click on this link to get more information.](#)

### **Ontario Rheumatology Association**

[www.ontariorheum.ca](http://www.ontariorheum.ca)  
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**Save the Date:**  
**ORA Annual Meeting**  
**May 23-25, 2014**  
**JW Marriott, Muskoka**

## Potpourri

Looking for a liver clinic offering fibroscans? Click <http://www.knscanada.com/on.php>

Need EAP forms? Click here <http://ontariorheum.ca/drug-forms-and-codes/eap-forms>

Want information on EMRs for Ontario rheumatologists? Contact [pastpresident@ontariorheum.ca](mailto:pastpresident@ontariorheum.ca)

Need a new rheumatologist in your community? Click [president@ontariorheum.ca](mailto:president@ontariorheum.ca)

For all other queries or questions, [admin@ontariorheum.ca](mailto:admin@ontariorheum.ca)

**Models of Care working session Friday October 4, 2013 9am-2pm**

**We would like to invite any member who is interested in attending this meeting to express in writing their request to attend and reason for their participation. Please email your request to Dr. Vandana Ahluwalia at [pastpresident@ontariorheum.ca](mailto:pastpresident@ontariorheum.ca) by August 30th, 2013**

## **MOC Update and Request for Member Participation:**

While we recognize that many of the existing patient support programs as we know them to be, do indeed support our patients currently taking Biologics, there are some real gaps that exist for our patients who struggle with their disease well before medications are started or even while on DMARD therapy. The Ontario Rheumatology Association (ORA) Models of Care (MOC) Committee has been working to help re-define what patient support programs should include to truly support patients in their disease course as well as their medication course.

In an effort to move this initiative forward, the ORA is planning to host an interactive working session on **Friday October 4th from 9-2pm**, bringing all key stakeholders together to discuss current patient support programs, and how to build a more comprehensive and coordinated program that better supports patient needs from time of disease diagnosis and throughout their entire disease course.

The objectives of this meeting are to :

- Initiate an open dialogue among stakeholder groups currently offering patient support programs for patients with joint disorders
  - Review current offerings and identify gaps in patient support programs.
  - Explore strategies which may improve the coordination and delivery of patient support programs while making them more comprehensive to meet the needs of all patients, including patients in the early stages of diagnosis.
  - Identify specific ways in which the ORA and stakeholders can contribute to this process.
- Obtain consensus on how patients can best be referred to support programs and to develop a mechanism for coordination of that activity.

The following stakeholder groups have been invited to attend with representation from : **Ministry of Health, Business Unit Directors of Pharmaceutical partners, Patient advocacy groups, The Arthritis Society, the Ontario Pharmacist Association, The Arthritis Alliance of Canada.**

In an effort to represent the Rheumatology community, **we would like to invite any member who is interested in attending this meeting to express in writing their request to attend and reason for their participation. As space is limited, please email your request to attend to [pastpresident@ontariorheum.ca](mailto:pastpresident@ontariorheum.ca) ( attention: Dr. Vandana Ahluwalia, Chair of MOC committee ) by August 30th, 2013**

### **ORA EXECUTIVE**

Dr. Jane Purvis - President [president@ontariorheum.ca](mailto:president@ontariorheum.ca)

Dr. Arthur Karasik - Vice President [vicepresident@ontariorheum.ca](mailto:vicepresident@ontariorheum.ca)

Dr. Nikhil Chopra - Secretary/Treasurer [secretarytreasurer@ontariorheum.ca](mailto:secretarytreasurer@ontariorheum.ca)

Dr. Philip Baer - Chair-OMA Section of Rheumatology

Dr. Janet Pope - Annual General Meeting Steering Committee Chair [agmscientificdirector@ontariorheum.ca](mailto:agmscientificdirector@ontariorheum.ca)

Dr. Vandana Ahluwalia - Past President [pastpresident@ontariorheum.ca](mailto:pastpresident@ontariorheum.ca)

Dr. Felix Leung - Member-at-Large [memberatlarge@ontariorheum.ca](mailto:memberatlarge@ontariorheum.ca)

Mr. Denis Morrice - [executivedirector@ontariorheum.ca](mailto:executivedirector@ontariorheum.ca) [executivedirector@ontariorheum.ca](mailto:executivedirector@ontariorheum.ca)

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