



Ontario
Rheumatology
Association

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING MAY 24 - 26, 2024



PARTNERSHIPS in PRACTICE

MEETING LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the meeting, participants will be able to:

- Discuss recent developments in the diagnosis and management of rheumatic diseases;
- Appraise new rheumatologic treatment paradigms and practice resources; and
- Foster greater provincial peer mentorship and collaboration

The theme of this year’s meeting is **Partnerships in Practice**, where we look to embrace the spirit of collaboration and the sharing of clinical perspectives to improve patient care.

Friday, May 24

SESSION	LEARNING OBJECTIVES
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Poster Session

Dr. Lillian Barra, Angela Cesta, Dr. Molly Dushnicky, Anne MacLeod, Carol Mously, Dr. Daniel Pau & Dr. Sophie Tina Glanz

By the end of the respective session, participants will be able to:

1. Review novel research and clinical investigations of Canadian rheumatology healthcare professionals.
2. Discuss implications of current research and evidence.
3. Identify opportunities for future explorations and collaborations.

Fireside Chat – The Year Ahead...

Dr. Janet Pope & Dr. Jeff Sparks

By the end of the respective session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify current clinical and research trends shaping the global future of rheumatology care in the year ahead.

Saturday, May 25

SESSION	LEARNING OBJECTIVES
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Plenary: How to Detect Fraud in a Manuscript: A True Story

Dr. Désirée van der Heijde

By the end of the respective session, participants will be able to:

1. Recognize signs of fraud in a manuscript.
2. Understand which procedures to follow when fraud is suspected.

Plenary: Immune-Related Adverse Events to Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors

Dr. Jeff Sparks

By the end of the respective session, participants will be able to:

1. List different types of immune checkpoint inhibitors.
2. Describe diagnosis approach to immune-related adverse events.
3. Evaluate management options for immune-related adverse events.

Plenary: Some Modern Aspects about RA

Dr. Robert Landewé

By the end of the respective session, participants will be able to:

1. Understand current thoughts on (very) early treatment, the dangers of overdiagnosis, and the application of treat-to-target.

Short Snappers

Developing a Road Map to Implementing Interdisciplinary Team-Based Models of Rheumatology Care Throughout Ontario
– Dr. Lauren King

By the end of the respective session, participants will be able to:

1. Recognize the potential benefits of implementing interdisciplinary team-based models of rheumatology care throughout Ontario.
2. Discuss implementation science activities aimed to understand how to optionally implement, spread and scale interdisciplinary team-based models of rheumatology care.
3. Identify opportunities to participate in research that seeks to transform rheumatology care.



Short Snappers

Little Joints, Big Breakthroughs: A JIA Update
– Dr. Michelle Batthish

By the end of the respective session, participants will be able to:

1. Evaluate the efficacy of JAKi in the management of JIA, in order to enhance clinical decision-making and patient management.
2. Identify temporomandibular joint (TMJ) involvement in JIA, to optimize early detection, intervention, and multidisciplinary care coordination.
3. Understand the importance of timely screening, monitoring, and management of JIA-associated uveitis.

Short Snappers

Indigenous Perspectives in Healthcare
– Dr. Pat Donio

By the end of the respective session, participants will be able to:

1. Recognize diversity of Indigenous populations in Canada.
2. Describe differences in disease outcome and health inequality amongst Indigenous populations.
3. Realize social and cultural differences contributing to differing attitudes towards health and healthcare amongst First Nations populations.
4. Develop strategies to navigate barriers in communication and improve cultural competency with First Nations patients.

Short Snappers

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus – New Treatments on the Horizon – Dr. Kostantinos Tselios

By the end of the respective session, participants will be able to:

1. Appraise the unmet needs and the evolving environment of SLE therapeutics.
2. Describe the SLE treatment modalities that are in advanced stage of development (phase II, phase III).
3. Discuss the possible role and position of new treatment modalities in the context of the current SLE therapeutic recommendations.

Short Snappers

Government Affairs Update – Dr. Jane Purvis

By the end of the respective session, participants will be able to:

1. Understand what purpose the Government Affairs Committee serves.
2. Outline what GAC has accomplished in the last year.
3. Understand what future projects GAC is planning to pursue.

RheumView in the Real World

Dr. Tom Appleton

By the end of the respective session, participants will be able to:

1. Assess the role of RheumView in day to day clinical practice.
2. Recognize the components of RheumView.
3. Appraise the importance of practice reflection through the use of Ontario rheumatology quality indicators.

Meet the Professors: Round 1

WORKSHOP 1: Risk Factors and Outcomes of Rheumatoid Arthritis-Associated Interstitial Lung Disease

Dr. Jeff Sparks

By the end of the respective session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify subtypes of RA-ILD.
2. Identify risk factors for RA-ILD.
3. Evaluate a possible screening approach to RA-ILD.

Meet the Professors: Round 1

WORKSHOP 2: Update of the EULAR RA - Recommendations for the Treatment of RA

Dr. Robert Landewé

By the end of the respective session, participants will be able to:

1. Outline how EULAR arrived at its 5th update of the recommendations for the treatment of RA.

Meet the Professors: Round 1

WORKSHOP 3: Advancements in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Management: 2024 Updates and Therapeutic Innovations

Dr. Mark Matsos

By the end of the respective session, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the concept of treat-to-target strategy in the management of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), including its rationale, goals, and approach to achieving disease remission or low disease activity.
2. Evaluate the efficacy and safety profiles of novel and emerging therapies for SLE, including biologic agents, targeted synthetic DMARDs, and other immunomodulatory agents, considering their mechanisms of action, indications, and potential adverse effects.
3. Apply the principles of evidence-based medicine and clinical guidelines in the selection, initiation, and monitoring of treatment regimens for patients with SLE, incorporating the



treat-to-target strategy to optimize disease control, minimize organ damage, and improve long-term outcomes.

Meet the Professors: Round 2

WORKSHOP 1: From AS to AxSpA

Dr. Désirée van der Heijde

By the end of the respective session, participants will be able to:

1. Understand the history of the disease axial spondyloarthritis.
2. Examine strategies to make a diagnosis and monitor the disease.
3. Participants will be informed on international treatment recommendations.

Meet the Professors: Round 2

WORKSHOP 2: How to Equitably Fund Interdisciplinary Models of Rheumatology Care in Ontario

Dr. Jessica Widdifield & Dr. Lauren King

By the end of the respective session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the pros, cons and equity considerations of different funding remuneration models.
2. Identify incentives to changing rheumatologists' behaviour/model to switch to a team-based care model.
3. Inform a unified & cohesive policy position on equitable funding.

Meet the Professors: Round 2

WORKSHOP 3: Planetary Health: How to Green Your Practices and Save Costs

Dr. Stephanie Tom

By the end of the respective session, participants will be able to:

1. Understand the impact of climate change on human health.
2. Incorporate environmental sustainability and cost savings to rheumatology practices.

Sunday, May 26

SESSION

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Plenary: Year in (P)review

Dr. Janet Pope

By the end of the respective session, participants will be able to:

1. Appraise clinically relevant rheumatology research from the past year.
2. Identify emerging therapeutic and patient management strategies on the horizon.

Plenary: Artificial Intelligence – A 2024 Update

Dr. Andy Thompson

By the end of the respective session, participants will be able to:

1. Understand the concepts of Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Deep Learning.
2. Explore types of deep learning including Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) compared with Transformer Models.
3. Appreciate the current utility of deep learning in rheumatology.