

The 4th Annual Canadian Arthritis Research Conference: Arthritis across the lifespan

February 15 & 16, 2023

Day 1 - 11:30 am - 16:30 pm EST

Day 2 - 11:50 am - 16:40 pm EST

Agenda

DAY 1 - February 15, 2023 (Wednesday)		
TIME	<p>Welcome to CARC + Land Acknowledgement (Dr. Karim Khan)</p> <p>Opening Remarks (CRA – Dr. Zbib, Arthritis Society Canada – Dr. Bevan, CIHR-IMHA – Dr. Khan)</p> <p>Housekeeping + Introduction to Keynote Session – Dr. Dawn Richards</p>	
11:30-11:45 EST 8:30-8:45 PST	<p>KEYNOTE SESSION</p> <p>Topic: Arthritis across the lifespan (40 mins + 10 min Q&A)</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Andrea Knight</p> <p>Patient Speaker 1 (10 min): Ms. Lene Anderson (autoimmune/inflammatory)</p> <p>Patient Speaker 2 (10 min): Maureen Quigley (OA)</p> <p>Researcher Speaker (20 min): Dr. Claire Barber</p>	
<p>ROOM SPLITTING BREAK</p> <p>12:35-12:40 EST 9:35-9:40 PST</p>		
	<p>Day 1 Room 1</p> <p>Focus/Theme: Autoimmune/autoinflammatory Disorders</p> <p>Symposium Topic: From Pediatric to Adult RA</p> <p>Moderator: Natasha Trehan</p>	<p>Day 1 Room 2</p> <p>Focus/Theme: Osteoarthritis (OA)</p> <p>Symposium Topic: Risk Factors and Prevention</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Jackie Whittaker</p>
12:40-13:05 EST 9:40-10:05 PST	<p>SPEAKER 1: Dr. Candace Feldman (20 min + 5 min Q&A)</p> <p>Experiences of Trauma, Stress and Discrimination and Rheumatic Conditions</p>	<p>SPEAKER 1: Dr. Leigh Callahan (20 min + 5 min Q&A)</p> <p>The Role of Comorbidities in Osteoarthritis</p>
13:05-13:30 EST 10:05-10:30 PST	<p>SPEAKER 2: Dr. Michelle Bathish (20 min + 5 min Q&A)</p> <p>The Transition from Pediatric to Adult Rheumatology Care - What have we learned?</p>	<p>SPEAKER 2: Dr. Jos Runhaar (20 min + 5 min Q&A)</p> <p>Targeting obesity to prevent knee osteoarthritis</p>
13:30-13:55 EST 10:30-10:45 PST	<p>SPEAKER 3: Dr. Carol Hitchon (20 min + 5 min Q&A)</p> <p>Comorbidities and clinical outcomes in rheumatic disease</p>	<p>SPEAKER 3: Dr. Brooke Patterson (20 min + 5 min Q&A)</p> <p>Putting injury prevention programs into practice in community sport</p>
13:55-14:10 EST 10:55-11:10 PST	<p>PANEL: ASK ME ANYTHING</p>	<p>PANEL: ASK ME ANYTHING</p>
<p>LUNCH</p> <p>14:10-14:45 EST 11:10-11:45 PST</p>		
14:45 -15:15 EST 11:45-12:15 PST	<p>Best Research Presentation</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Sian Bevan</p> <p>14:45-15:00: Keith Colaco (10 min + 5 Q&A)</p> <p>Sex-related Measures of Inequity in Randomized Controlled Trials in Psoriatic Arthritis: A Systematic Literature Review and Meta-analysis</p> <p>15:00-15:15: Dale E. Fournier (10 min + 5 Q&A)</p> <p>Diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis (DISH) in humans: Prevalence and imaging features across the lifespan in a Northern US population</p>	<p>Best Research Presentation</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. David Hart</p> <p>14:45-15:00: Lissa Pacheco-Brousseau (10 min + 5 Q&A)</p> <p>Instruments to assess appropriateness of hip and knee arthroplasty: A systematic review</p> <p>15:00-15:15: Mr. Thomas Wilson (10 min + 5 Q&A)</p> <p>Characterizing the roles of miR-335-5p and miR-335-3p in knee and hip osteoarthritis</p>
15:15 -16:00 EST 12:15 – 13:00 PST	<p>Panel Discussion (45 mins)</p> <p>Moderators: Dr. Carter Thorne and Dr. Tom Appleton</p> <p>Focus/Theme: Virtual Arthritis Care-Challenges and Opportunities</p> <p>Panelists: Cheryl Koehn, Mrs. Linda Truong, Dr. Brent Ohata, Dr. Vandana Ahluwalia, Dr. Deborah Levy</p>	
16:00 – 16:30 EST 13:00-13:30 PST	<p>NETWORKING SESSION</p> <p>Virtual Health</p> <p>Moderators: Dr. Carter Thorne and Cheryl Koehn</p>	<p>NETWORKING SESSION</p> <p>Patients as Partners in Research</p> <p>Moderators: Dr. Dawn Richards, Lene Andersen, Laurie Proulx</p>

DAY 2 - February 16, 2023 (Thursday)

11:50-11:55 EST 8:50-8:55 PST	Housekeeping + Introduction to Keynote Session – Dr. Mohit Kapoor	
11:55-12:25 EST 8:55-9:25 PST	KEYNOTE SESSION: (25 min + 5 min Q&A) Moderator: Dr. Mohit Kapoor Topic: Role of AI in early diagnosis and management of arthritis Speaker: Dr. Thomas Hügler	
ROOM SPLITTING BREAK 12:25-12:30 EST 9:25-9:30 PST		
TIME	Day 2 Room 1 Focus/Theme: Autoimmune/autoinflammatory Disorders Symposium Topic: Early Diagnosis and Intervention Moderator: Dr. Jillian Banfield (Patient partner)	Day 2 Room 2 Focus/Theme: Osteoarthritis (OA) Symposium Topic: Early Diagnosis and Detection Moderator: Mrs. Linda Hunter (Patient partner)
12:30-12:55 EST 9:30-9:55 PST	SPEAKER 1: Dr. May Choi (20 min + 5 min Q&A) Early diagnosis in autoimmune disease: autoantibodies & machine learning	SPEAKER 1: Dr. Lauren King (20 min + 5 min Q&A) Towards classification criteria for early-stage knee osteoarthritis
12:55-13:20 EST 9:55-10:20 PST	SPEAKER 2: Dr. Rae Yeung (20 min + 5 min Q&A) Patient stratification and outcome prediction in JIA using a machine-learning approach	SPEAKER 2: Dr. Bruce Forster (20 min + 5 min Q&A) Early diagnosis of OA: What can imaging offer?
13:20-13:30 EST 10:20-10:30 PST	PANEL: ASK ME ANYTHING	PANEL: ASK ME ANYTHING
LUNCH 13:30-14:30 EST 10:30-11:30 PST		
14:30-15:00 EST 11:30 – 12:00 PST	Best Research Presentation Moderator: Michaela Khan 14:30-14:45: Ms. Lamia Khan (10 min + 5 Q&A) Overexpression of mucin 16 and mesothelin promotes fibrosis in rapidly progressive systemic sclerosis patients 14:45-15:00: Mr. Darren Mazzei (10 min + 5 Q&A) Assessing the Affordability of publicly funding GLA:D in Alberta	Best Research Presentation Moderator: Dr. Jackie Whittaker 14:30-14:45: Dr. J. Denise Power (10 min + 5 Q&A) The Impact of Diabetes Status on Pain and Disability Following Total Joint Arthroplasty for Hip and Knee Osteoarthritis: Variation By Sex and Body Mass Index 14:45-15:00: Dr. James Young (10 min + 5 Q&A) Lumbar spinal stenosis impact on outcomes following patient education and exercise therapy in people with knee or hip osteoarthritis
15:00 – 15:30 EST 12:00-12:30 PST	MODERATED DISCUSSION (Crowdsourced applicants): Ms. Margaret Peters/Laurie Proulx/Dr. Arif Jetha/Ms. Antonella Scali Moderator: Rachel Manion Working it out: Understanding the experiences of people with psoriatic disease at work in Canada	
15:30 – 16:00 EST 12:30-13:00 PST	MODERATED DISCUSSION (Crowdsourced applicants): Dr. Adam Culvenor/Dr. Erin Macri/Dr. Jackie Whittaker Moderator: Mrs. Linda Truong Guiding rehabilitation to prevent post-traumatic osteoarthritis after knee injury: the 2022 OPTIKNEE international consensus statement	
CONFERENCE CLOSING REMARKS 16:00 – 16:10 EST 13:00 -13:10 PST		
16:10–16:40 EST 13:10-13:40PST	NETWORKING SESSION Choosing a Career Path in Research Moderators: Dr. Mohit Kapoor and Dr. Tom Appleton	NETWORKING SESSION Multidisciplinary Research Moderators: Dr. Andrea Knight, Dr. Jackie Whittaker, Michaela Khan

SPEAKERS | DAY 1

Keynote Speakers

Ms. Lene Andersen, Ms. Maureen Quigley, and Dr. Claire Barber

Session Descriptor: Arthritis can have many impacts on the quality of an individual's life. This session will review the impacts of arthritis from a patient perspective and some evidence-based strategies to optimize care with a focus on person-centered care.



Ms. Lene Andersen:

Ms. Andersen is an award-winning writer, advocate, and photographer living in Toronto, Canada. She was born and raised in Denmark, has lived with autoimmune arthritis since she was 4 years old, and has been using a power wheelchair since her early teens. She has a Master's Degree in Social Work and uses the combination of her professional and lived experience to help others live well with RA, Lene shares her home with a few cats and too many books.



Ms. Maureen Quigley:

Ms. Quigley lives with genetic Osteoarthritis. She served as a Director of The Arthritis Society from 2004-2012 and as Board Chair from 2010-2012. She was nominated by TAS for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 and remains involved with TAS as a donor and most recently as a Community Member of the 2022 Innovation Grants Review Panel. Maureen is also a patient member of a UHN Schroeder Research Institute Team in receipt of a CIHR grant to study the relationship between Osteoarthritis and Diabetes. In her professional capacity, she has recently retired after thirty-three years as an independent consultant in the Canadian healthcare and broader public and not-for-profit sectors, specializing in strategy, corporate restructuring, and Board governance. This was preceded by 12 years of progressively senior experience as a provincial and municipal public servant. Maureen has been retained by and served on several national and provincial Expert Panels in the health sector.



Dr. Claire Barber:

Dr. Barber is a rheumatologist and Associate Professor at the University of Calgary Cumming School of Medicine. She is a Research Scientist with Arthritis Research Canada and is the Scientific Director for the Bone and Joint Health Strategic Clinical Network in Alberta. Her research interests include developing strategies to monitor the quality of care and optimizing care delivery for individuals living with rheumatic diseases.

ROOM 1:

Autoimmune/autoinflammatory disorders

Speaker 1: Dr. Candace Feldman

Session Descriptor: This session will review studies that demonstrate the role of trauma, stress, and discrimination on rheumatic disease incidence, disease activity and outcomes. The intersecting contributions of structural factors, social determinants of health, and psychosocial factors on rheumatic disease disparities will be discussed.



Dr. Candace Feldman:

Dr. Feldman is a rheumatologist and health equity researcher at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA. She received her medical degree from the Yale School of Medicine, a Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and a Doctor of Science degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences from the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health. She conducts epidemiological studies and designs and implements interventions to understand and reduce avoidable outcomes and racial, ethnic and socioeconomic disparities among individuals with chronic rheumatic conditions.

Speaker 2: Dr. Michelle Batthish

Session Descriptor: In this session, we will review the importance of preparing youth with chronic rheumatic disease in their transition to adult care. We will also review best practices in establishing a successful transition program.



Dr. Michelle Batthish:

Dr. Batthish is a Pediatric Rheumatologist at McMaster Children's Hospital and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at McMaster University. Her research interests include the transition to adult care for patients with chronic rheumatic diseases. She has published on the transition readiness of patients with JIA and SLE and the role of health care providers in improving self-management skills in these patients. She is currently investigating the role of a transition coach as well as developing a transition readiness assessment for parents of youth with chronic disease.

Speaker 3: Dr. Carol Hitchon

Session Descriptor: This session will review data on the prevalence of comorbidity in inflammatory arthritis and explore how comorbidity may impact arthritis outcomes.



Dr. Carol Hitchon:

Dr. Hitchon is a rheumatologist and clinical researcher in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Her research is focused on outcomes in rheumatic diseases.

Best Research Presentations

Speaker 1: Keith Colaco

Session Descriptor: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a type of inflammatory arthritis that affects men and women differently. Female sex is an important determinant of an individual's response to medication. This session will summarize existing evidence of sex-related dimensions of equity in clinical trials that assessed the efficacy of advanced therapies in PsA.



Keith Colaco:

Keith completed a PhD in Medical Science, with a focus on cardiovascular disease in individuals with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. He is currently a Research Associate in the Rheumatology Program at Women's College Hospital, and an Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, in the Department of Health and Society at the University of Toronto. Keith serves as the External Affairs Officer for the Canadian Arthritis Trainee Association and collaborates with stakeholders to facilitate professional development of trainees across Canada.

Speaker 2: Dale E. Fournier

Session Descriptor: A cross-sectional retrospective evaluation of clinical computed tomography (CT) images of the thoracic spine was conducted in partnership with the Rochester Epidemiology Project (REP) to explore the clinical relevance of diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis (DISH). This session focuses on improving the clinical awareness of DISH and recognition of its early stages.



Dale E. Fournier:

Dale is currently in the final year of the combined M.PT./Ph.D. program at the University of Western Ontario. His research is focused on better understanding a type of spine arthritis characterized by the formation of ectopic minerals between the bones of the spine. Upon completion of his training at Western, Dale expects to be a licensed physical therapist equipped with cutting-edge research abilities to excel as an academic clinician-researcher focused on spine disorders in Canada.

ROOM 2: Osteoarthritis (OA)

Speaker 1: Dr. Leigh Callahan

Session Descriptor: This session will review the most prevalent comorbid conditions in individuals with osteoarthritis. The impact of the conditions on disease incidence, outcomes, and mortality will be discussed. Public health outcomes and approaches to addressing OA and comorbidities will be discussed.



Dr. Leigh Callahan:

Dr. Callahan is the Mary Link Briggs Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Professor of Orthopaedics at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She is an Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology at the Gillings School of Global Public Health at UNC. She is the Associate Director of the Thurston Arthritis Research Center and Director of the Osteoarthritis Action Alliance. She is currently the President of the US Bone and Joint Initiative. Dr. Callahan's research focuses on outcomes in rheumatic disease with a focus on osteoarthritis, social determinants and rheumatic disease outcomes, and community-based trials of physical activity and weight loss interventions in individuals with arthritis.

Speaker 2: Dr. Jos Runhaar

Session Descriptor: Obesity accounts for up to 50% of new cases of knee osteoarthritis. With that, it is the most relevant risk factor for knee osteoarthritis. In this session, I will discuss the evidence and challenges of the prevention of knee osteoarthritis through targeting obesity.



Dr. Jos Runhaar:

Dr. Runhaar is a human movement scientist, working as an assistant professor at the Department of General Practice of Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, the Netherlands. His research focuses on early diagnosis and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders in primary care. As a PI, dr. Runhaar led the first-ever preventive trial in osteoarthritis research and with his team worked to further the knowledge on osteoarthritis prevention ever since.

Speaker 3: Dr. Brooke Patterson

Session Descriptor: Exercise-based injury prevention programs have been shown to reduce the risk of musculoskeletal injury in most field-based team sports, but their uptake by coaches, players, clubs, and organizations is low. Due to their high short- and long-term burden, reducing the risk of serious knee and head injuries is a high priority in many sporting codes, particularly in women playing football - where the risk and burden of injury is often higher.



Dr. Brooke Patterson:

Dr. Patterson is a physiotherapist and research fellow at the La Trobe University Sport and Exercise Medicine Research Centre. After working in a variety of public, private, and sports settings, she completed her Ph.D. in 2020, investigating the risk of arthritis at a young age after an ACL injury, and how physiotherapist-led interventions can help improve outcomes beyond the typical rehabilitation period. Brooke has sustained an ACL injury herself, played in the first three seasons of the women's national Australian Football League, and is now coaching. Currently, she is coordinating a clinical trial in women's community Australian football, evaluating if a supported implementation strategy can increase uptake and reduce the risk of serious knee and head injury.

Best Research Presentations

Speaker 1: Lissa Pacheco-Brousseau

Session Descriptor: This presentation will be on a systematic review of instruments to assess hip and knee arthroplasty appropriateness for adults with osteoarthritis. 55 instruments across 122 articles were found. Most instruments use traditional criteria to assess appropriateness and patient's perspective is not considered. Furthermore, there is limited evidence on instrument's psychometric properties.



Lissa Pacheco-Brousseau:

Lissa is a physiotherapist pursuing a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Ottawa under the co-supervision of Drs Dawn Stacey and Stéphane Poitras. Her doctoral work focuses on the appropriateness of hip and knee joint replacement for osteoarthritis and how to support healthcare professionals and patients in the decision-making process. Lissa's research interest is to advance the science of person-centered care rehabilitation by using implementation science methods with a physiotherapy lens.

Speaker 2: Mr. Thomas Wilson

Session Descriptor: MicroRNAs are important regulatory molecules in the pathology of diseases including osteoarthritis (OA). Utilizing biospecimens from our HFH OA biobank, we characterized the expression of a pair of microRNAs in knee and hip OA. We found that one of these microRNAs (miR-335-5p) has high expression in knee OA tissues and functions to directly regulate gene targets that may contribute to OA pathology.



Mr. Thomas Wilson:

Mr. Wilson is a Research Associate in the Musculoskeletal Genomics Laboratory led by Dr. S. Amanda Ali at the Henry Ford Health (HFH) Bone and Joint Center in Michigan, USA. He holds a BSc in Environmental Geoscience from Michigan State University. Thomas worked for 5 years at the Beaumont Health System, Department of Radiation Biology, focusing on cancer and Alzheimer's disease research. He joined the Ali Lab in 2020 where he helped establish the HFH Osteoarthritis (OA) biobank comprising human joint tissues and biofluids from individuals with osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. Utilizing this resource, Thomas is investigating microRNAs as biomarkers and therapeutic targets for arthritis.

Panel Discussion Speakers

**Ms. Cheryl Koehn, Mrs. Linda Truong, Dr. Brent Ohata, Dr. Vandana Ahluwalia,
Dr. Deborah Levy**

Session Descriptor: This session will bring together the perspectives of a diverse group of stakeholders from patient partners to clinicians on the topic of virtual arthritis care and challenges. Specifically, the panel will have a discussion on sub-topics such as, patient challenges, emerging virtual care models, changes in perspectives of arthritis associations & provincial ministries of health, gaps in virtual care delivery, and transferrable lessons learned from in-person rheumatology care models.



Ms. Cheryl Koehn:

Ms. Koehn is President of Arthritis Consumer Experts (ACE), Canada's longest running and largest arthritis non-profit patient organization. She has survived rheumatoid arthritis for 33 years and become a national patient community leader, educator, research partner and published author. Ms. Koehn has dedicated her life to helping others living with arthritis. In her leadership role at ACE, she has led the development of patient-centred, in person and online education and information programs (jointhealth.org), fought for the treatment and care rights of people with arthritis at provincial, territorial and federal governments, and volunteered on government and research institution committees and boards for over 30 years. Today, she serves as the patient representative on the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Advisory Committee on Ethics and is helping to lead the community's efforts to bring equity in arthritis treatment and care to all who face the daily challenges of discrimination and racism in health care.



Mrs. Linda Truong:

Mrs. Truong is a PhD Candidate at the University of British Columbia and clinical physiotherapist. Her research focuses on understanding the role of social support after a traumatic knee injury. The goals of her research will be identifying and integrating social support to interventions aimed at delaying osteoarthritis risk after a knee injury.



Dr. Brent Ohata:

Dr. Ohata is a clinical assistant professor of rheumatology at the University of British Columbia. He was the cochair of the Canadian Rheumatology Association's Telehealth Working Group, along with Deborah Levy and Vandana Ahluwalia. Through the Canadian Rheumatology Association, they developed position statements, best practice guidelines and educational tools on virtual health for rheumatologists. He was awarded the UBC Division of Rheumatology Innovation Award in 2017 for promoting telehealth to reach underserved communities. He is passionate about health equity and has established outreach rheumatology clinics to the Carrier Sekani First Nations and the downtown eastside of Vancouver.



Dr. Vandana Ahluwalia:

Dr. Vandana Ahluwalia, MD, FRCPC, is a Rheumatologist in Community Practice in Brampton, Ontario. She is the past Corporate Chief, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine at the William Osler Health System. She is also the Past President, Ontario Rheumatology Association, and Canadian Rheumatology Associations. She has a keen interest in Models of Care and EMR efficiencies in rheumatology practice. She was the co-chair of the Canadian Rheumatology Association's Telehealth Working Group, along with Brent Ohata and Deborah Levy.



Dr. Deborah Levy:

Dr. Levy is the Clinical Director, Division of Rheumatology at SickKids, and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Toronto. As Director of the SickKids Lupus clinic her research primarily focuses on the long-term medical and psychosocial outcomes of childhood-onset SLE. She is also interested in alternate models of care for children with rheumatic disease and is working with advanced practitioners to develop a new network of pediatric rheumatology providers for children in underserved communities within Ontario

DAY 2

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Thomas Hügle

Session Descriptor: This session will explain how algorithms such as deep learning can be useful to move from prediction to clinical decision-making in arthritis. This concerns clinical data including PROs on the one hand and imaging on the other. It will also show the development of a new digital biomarker for arthritis based on computer vision and convolutional networks along with a discussion on the limitations and risks of artificial intelligence in clinical practice.



Dr. Thomas Hügle:

Dr. Hügle completed his medical studies in Freiburg, Germany, and Montpellier, France. His training was in internal medicine and rheumatology in Basel & Lugano, Switzerland, and at the Hopital Necker, Paris. He earned his Ph.D. in systemic sclerosis (laboratory) in Newcastle, UK. For 5 years now, he has been the head of the Rheumatology Department at Lausanne University Hospital in Switzerland.

ROOM 1:

Autoimmune/autoinflammatory disorders

Speaker 1: Dr. May Choi

Session Descriptor: An early and accurate diagnosis for many autoimmune rheumatic diseases can be challenging, leading to increased morbidity, mortality, and health care costs. The session will discuss how biomarkers and machine learning interpretation can be used as a novel approach to aid in the detection and prognosis of autoimmune rheumatic diseases.

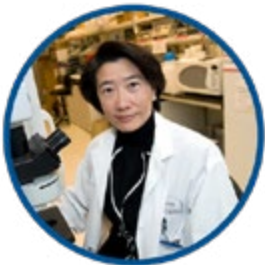


Dr. May Choi

Dr. Choi is a rheumatologist and clinician scientist who started on the faculty as an Assistant Professor at the Cumming School of Medicine, the University of Calgary in 2020 and is a Member of the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health. As an early career investigator, her research is focused on biomarker discovery and validation for the prediction of clinical outcomes in autoimmune rheumatic diseases, and the prevention of autoimmune disease development and disease-related complications. She leads a research laboratory and biobank for local, national, and international collaborators. Her background and training include an MPH in Epidemiology at Harvard University and a lupus fellowship at the Brigham and Women's Hospital (Boston, MA).

Speaker 2: Dr. Rae Yeung

Session Descriptor: This session aims to review approaches to integrating heterogenous data sets and strategies for collaboration and future studies JIA.



Dr. Rae Yeung:

Dr. Yeung is a Professor of Pediatrics, Immunology, and Medical Science at the University of Toronto, and Senior Scientist in Cell Biology Research, and the Hak-Ming and Deborah Chiu Chair in Translational Pediatric Research at The Hospital for Sick Children. The goal of Rae's research is to understand the mechanisms governing autoimmunity, specifically the mechanisms involved in initiating and sustaining the immune response in childhood arthritis and rheumatic diseases. Dr. Yeung is leading both national and international efforts in precision child health, where basic science findings have been translated into clinical correlates, which in turn are leading to new therapeutic interventions to improve the outcomes in affected children.

Best Research Presentations

Speaker 1: Ms. Lamia Khan

Session Descriptor: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a rare form of inflammatory arthritis that causes severe day-to-day limitations and eventually death. Severe form of SSc is responsible for the highest mortality rate among all the rheumatic diseases due to abnormal skin thickening and overgrowth of skin cells that causes scarring or fibrosis. We are trying to understand how abnormalities in the known oncogene MUC16, promotes scarring or fibrosis.



Ms. Lamia Khan:

Ms. Khan is currently pursuing her Ph.D. under the supervision of Dr. Mohammed Osman, a clinician scientist and the director of the systemic sclerosis (SSc) clinic, at the University of Alberta. Her experiences to date have reinforced her passion for developing a deep and fundamental understanding of human chronic diseases that cause inflammatory arthritis such as SSc. By better understanding the pathogenesis of SSc, she hopes that her work may lead to developing novel therapies for patients with this devastating disease which may result in better outcomes for them.

Speaker 2: Mr. Darren Mazzei

Session Descriptor: Alberta's publicly-funded health insurance system does not fund first-line osteoarthritis treatments, meaning access is based on the ability to pay instead of need. Many Albertans are not using first-line treatments before surgeon consultation while joint replacement wait times are two times longer than national targets. We constructed a budget impact analysis (BIA) model to estimate how more equitable funding scenarios could impact use of GLA:D, joint replacement wait times, and costs to the public health budget.



Mr. Darren Mazzei:

Mr. Mazzei is a physiotherapist and is undertaking a PhD in Health Economics under the supervision of Dr. Deborah Marshall at the University of Calgary. Darren is interested in evaluating the socioeconomic impacts of osteoarthritis management to inform resource decisions in learning health systems. Darren's thesis project is investigating the need, value and affordability of first-line therapies for people living with hip and knee osteoarthritis in Alberta. This research will provide foundational knowledge to support decision-makers as they strive to achieve the quadruple aim: better outcomes, better experiences, better quality, and better value for money.

ROOM 2: Osteoarthritis (OA)

Speaker 1: Dr. Lauren King

Session Descriptor: This talk will discuss the current international effort underway to develop classification criteria for knee osteoarthritis, including rationale, process, and work to date.



Dr. Lauren King:

Dr. King is a staff rheumatologist at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, and an osteoarthritis clinical researcher. She is in the final year of a Ph.D. in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Toronto, supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research doctoral award and as a Phillipson Scholar in the Clinician-Scientist Training Program in the Department of Medicine. She is a member of the Osteoarthritis Research Society International (OARSI)-endorsed early-stage knee osteoarthritis initiative task force that seeks to develop classification criteria for early-stage knee osteoarthritis.

Speaker 2: Dr. Bruce Forster

Session Descriptor: This session will discuss the limitations of traditional radiographic imaging of OA and therefore the appropriateness of advanced imaging for OA assessment, as well as promising research tools, including artificial intelligence.



Dr. Bruce Forster:

Dr. Forster is a Professor at the University of British Columbia, Department of Radiology, recently finishing his 11.5-year term as Dept Head on Dec 31, 2021. Previously he was the Director of Diagnostic Imaging for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics/Paralympics Games and is currently the lead Radiologist for the International Olympic Commission Medical and Scientific Games Group. As an Associate Member of the Allan McGavin Sports Medicine Centre, he has been involved in the clinical, educational, and research aspects of sports imaging for 30 years, and is Associate Editor of the "British Journal of Sports Medicine" and Senior Deputy Editor of the Journal of the Canadian Association of Radiologists. Dr. Forster has delivered over 500 invited lectures, many internationally, and has served as a Visiting Professor in Canada, the United States, Ireland, Indonesia, Peru, Brazil, Singapore, Japan, Russia, and the Middle East. He is the author of over 160 peer-reviewed scientific publications, and 140 educational exhibits, has served on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association of Radiologists and was recently the President of the Canadian Radiologic Foundation. He has led outreach work in UBC Radiology and serves on the Executive Steering Committee for the International Certificate for Radiology Fundamentals with Radiologists Across Borders. In 2019 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Canadian Association of Radiologists and was Runner-up for the BCPSQC's Doug Cochrane Leadership in Quality Award. In 2022, he was awarded the Hughton Medal by the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland and was inducted as an Honorary Fellow in the Irish Faculty of Radiologists. He is currently co-chair of the Canadian National Artificial Intelligence Council in Healthcare. Outside of Radiology, Dr. Forster enjoys cooking, music, and spending time with his family, including in sports such as downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, road and mountain biking, and golf.

Best Research Presentations

Speaker 1: Dr. J. Denise Power

Session Descriptor: Available research on the impact of diabetes on hip and knee total joint arthroplasty (TJA) outcomes will be presented. Current project findings examining the association between diabetes and post-TJA disability and pain, explicitly examining whether diabetes impact may differ by sex and BMI, will be described utilizing data from a longitudinal cohort of hip and knee osteoarthritis patients undergoing TJA.



Dr. J. Denise Power :

Denise Power is an epidemiologist and scientific associate at the Schroeder Arthritis Institute, University Health Network in Toronto.

Speaker 2: Dr. James Young

Session Descriptor: This session will first review the potential impact of co-occurring lumbar spinal stenosis with knee or hip osteoarthritis on treatment outcomes. Next, recent work exploring the impact on patient-reported outcomes following the GLA:D® education and exercise therapy program will be presented. Finally, the session will discuss the future research needed in this area.



Dr. James Young:

Dr. Young holds positions as the Postdoctoral Fellow in Integrated Arthritis Care in the Schroeder Arthritis Institute, Krembil Research Institute, at the University Health Network and a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Center for Muscle and Joint Health at the University of Southern Denmark. He is currently supported by a Postdoctoral Fellowship Award from the Arthritis Society Canada for his work investigating treatment outcomes following total joint replacement versus patient education and exercise therapy programs in people with knee and hip osteoarthritis.

Moderated Discussion #1 Speakers

Ms. Margaret Peters, Laurie Proulx, Dr. Arif Jetha, Ms. Antonella Scali

Session Descriptor: The onset and diagnosis of psoriatic disease – including psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis – commonly affects people in the prime of their working lives. These episodic and chronic diseases can result in disability without appropriate care, treatment, and support – including in the workplace. This moderated panel will discuss the needs and priorities of people with psoriatic disease in the Canadian workplace, including perspectives from people with lived experience, policy experts, and patient organizations, and will provide information and resources for supporting people.



Ms. Margaret Peters:

Ms. Peters is the founder of Unmasking Psoriasis, a Saskatchewan-based not-for-profit group to support people living with psoriasis.



Laurie Proulx:

Laurie has over twenty years of experience working in human resources and works as an independent consultant offering services focused on community engagement, disability and health policy, and workplace inclusion. She was previously a board member with the Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance where she brought over thirty years' experience of living with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis, advocating for patient-centered health care policies and practices for people living with rheumatic diseases.



Dr. Arif Jetha:

Arif Jetha PhD is an Associate Professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto and Scientist at the Institute for Work & Health. His research spans population health, systems science, and social policy to examine how the future of work affects vulnerable workers. He earned his PhD from University of Toronto and holds an MSc from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He was the recent recipient of the six-year Stars Early Career Salary Award from the Arthritis Society, and he holds multiple Canadian Tri-Council grants as principal investigator.



Ms. Antonella Scali:

Ms. Scali is the Executive Director of the Canadian Psoriasis Network (CPN), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of people with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis (psoriatic disease) in Canada and led by a Board of Directors who are affected by these conditions. Antonella is a registered social worker with a background in direct clinical services and in policy analysis in community mental health in Ontario.

Moderated Discussion #2 Speakers

Dr. Adam Culvenor, Dr. Erin Macri, Dr. Jackie Whittaker

Session Descriptor: Knee injuries can be life-altering and are a potent risk factor for osteoarthritis. Despite this long-held knowledge and the crippling hold that osteoarthritis has on healthcare systems globally, the prevention of post-traumatic knee osteoarthritis has not gained a foothold. OPTIKNEE is an international group of over ~40 clinician scientists, scientists, and patient and clinician partners working to overcome this. Over the last three years, this group has compiled evidence from ~230 studies, including >133,000 people with knee injuries in 7 systematic reviews and meta-analyses. These reviews informed a consensus exercise that has produced 8 clinical recommendations that guide evidence-based practice and decision-making for the care of patients following a traumatic knee injury with post-traumatic OA prevention front of mind, and 6 research recommendations lay the foundation for best practice research and future data synthesis by harmonizing outcomes. During this interactive moderated discussion, the speakers will discuss the rationale for OPTIKNEE and provide an overview of the OPTIKNEE systematic reviews, consensus process, and consensus recommendations.



Dr. Adam Culvenor:

Dr. Culvenor is a physiotherapist and Senior Research Fellow at the La Trobe University Sport and Exercise Medicine Research Centre, Australia. His research focusses on the prevention and management of knee osteoarthritis over the lifespan. From preventing knee injuries, identifying clinical and biomechanical risk factors for posttraumatic osteoarthritis, developing and testing novel osteoarthritis prevention strategies in young adults, through to older adults undergoing total knee replacement – its impact on individuals and society, and effective surgical and nonsurgical interventions. He has authored over 80 peer-reviewed publications in these areas.



Dr. Erin Macri:

Dr. Macri is a Canadian-trained physical therapist who completed her PhD in 2017 at UBC. She currently holds an appointment at Erasmus MC in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, initially as a CIHR Banting Postdoctoral Fellow in 2018, and since 2020 as a Senior Researcher. Her work focuses on characterizing risk factors for knee and hip osteoarthritis. Dr. Macri is an associate editor for the British Journal of Sports Medicine and is also on the editorial board for Arthritis Care & Research.



Dr. Jackie Whittaker:

Dr. Whittaker is an Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, at the University of British Columbia, and Research Scientist at Arthritis Research Canada in Vancouver, Canada. She holds a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar Award and Arthritis Society's STARS Career Development Award. As a recognized clinical specialist in musculoskeletal rehabilitation and clinical epidemiologist, her research takes a lifespan approach to preventing osteoarthritis, with a particular emphasis on the post-traumatic knee osteoarthritis. This includes reducing the burden of sport-related knee injuries by improving our understanding of their long-term consequences and developing and evaluating exercise-based interventions to promote knee health. Central to her research is an integrated knowledge translation approach, involving patients, health professionals and other stakeholders throughout the research-to-practice continuum. Recently Jackie led an international consensus exercise called OPTIKNEE which produced seven meta-analyses and consensus recommendations for preventing osteoarthritis after traumatic knee injury.