

Arthritis Society Online Consumer Panels

Online Consumer Panels

The Arthritis Society is looking for individuals who are living with arthritis to participate as volunteer members of our Online Consumer Panels. These Panels give you the opportunity to offer your unique knowledge and feedback on the Arthritis Society's online educational resources and activities.

There are separate consumer panels for each of the following types of arthritis:

- Osteoarthritis (OA)
- Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)
- Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS)
- Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA)

Our aim is for each panel to have a minimum of 8-10 members living with the relevant disease, and will include appropriate representation of different ages, stage of disease, location (rural and urban) and other characteristics that might help inform the participants' experience and perspectives. We welcome and encourage applications from underrepresented groups, including people who identify as Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQIA*, living with one or more disabilities, newcomers to Canada, low-income, living in remote or rural communities, as well as those from under-represented cultural and/or faith communities.

New for 2020, there will be a young adult "sub-panel" made up of panel members that can provide feedback and input on initiatives for individuals under 35 with an arthritis diagnosis.

Members must be willing to share their experience and provide their recommendations/input to the Arthritis Society.

How often would I be contacted?

Online Consumer Panel members can expect to be contacted by email an average of six to ten times a year, sometimes slightly more. Each member of the panel will be required to respond to requests for feedback in a timely fashion. There will also be occasional optional call-in focus groups you can join to provide feedback.

Role of the Online Consumer Panel members

Panel members will:

- Participate and respond via email when contacted.
- Demonstrate preparedness by reviewing all materials that have been circulated.
- Review and provide input on resources and activities proposed or developed by the Arthritis Society, as required.
- Actively provide constructive input and draw upon knowledge, contacts and experience to provide informed feedback on the management, prioritization and development of existing and new educational resources and activities.
- Be appointed for a term of minimum one year with the option to continue participation, as required.



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Confidentiality and conflict of interest

Panel members are asked to contribute as individuals with lived experience of one or more arthritis conditions, and not as representatives of another group or organisation. Panel members must treat all documents that will be shared as confidential. Panel members must disclose any conflict of interest in any matters being considered by the Society. All Panel members will be required to sign a *Confidentiality Agreement*.

Express your interest in joining the Online Consumer Panels!

If you are interested in joining the Arthritis Society's Online Consumer Panels, please fill out the application found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/asocp2020>

If you have any questions, please contact Sammy Feilchenfeld at sfeilchenfeld@arthritis.ca.

About the Arthritis Society

The Arthritis Society is a national health charity, fueled by donors and volunteers, with a vision to live in a world where people are free from the devastating effects that arthritis has on lives. Started in 1948 with one very clear goal – to improve the quality of life of those impacted by arthritis – that same volunteer-led passion carries on today in communities across Canada.

We are proud to have the trust and support of donors and sponsors who provide the funding capacity to invest in cutting-edge research, proactive advocacy and innovative solutions that will deliver better health outcomes and an improved quality of life for people affected by arthritis. That support has resulted in broad educational outreach to people living with arthritis and over \$200M invested, the largest source of charitable arthritis research funding.

For more information, to volunteer or to make a donation, visit arthritis.ca.