



AHPA

ARTHRITIS HEALTH PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL
REPORT
2020





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Board of Directors : 2

Mission and Vision : 3

President's Report : 4

Strategic Progress and Priorities : 7

Committee Reports : 10

Other Reports : 16



2020 Board of Directors

President: Anne MacLeod

Past President: Sue MacQueen

Treasurer: Kristin Dillon

Secretary: Jill Hall

Communications Chair: Denise Jupp

Membership Chair: Jackie Williams-Connolly

Professional and Career Development Chair: Sameer Chunara

Research Chair: Raquel Sweezie

Sponsorship and Marketing Chair: Angelo Papachristos

Member at Large Eastern Canada: Nik Harris

Member at Large Western Canada: Paul Adam

Volunteer Webmaster/Administrator

Jennifer Boyle

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ARTHRITIS HEALTH PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION

We are a dedicated group of health professionals, researchers and administrators from across Canada who are passionate about improving the care of people living with arthritis.

MISSION AND VISION

Mission

To build and sustain a community of professionals who provide the best possible care to Canadians with arthritis through knowledge translation, engagement, and inter-professional collaboration.

Vision

Optimal care and quality of life for every Canadian living with arthritis.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2018 - 2023

Knowledge Translation

To generate, share, and disseminate the evolving body of arthritis care knowledge by creating opportunities for research funding, collaboration, and education for our members.

Engagement

To maximize the engagement of our members and external partners, leveraging our positive impact on individual professionals, the healthcare system, and better positioning AHPA to fulfill its mission.

Sustainability

To build the resources, organizational structures, and capacity to achieve our goals and provide excellent value to our members.





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This annual report is a summary of the initiatives and the activities that the AHPA Board of Directors has undertaken on behalf of the membership during 2020.

At the Board Planning Meeting held in Victoria, BC, we welcomed new board members and reviewed the strategic plan progress to date. Priorities and goals were reviewed for the third year of our strategic plan, but little did we know how the world was about to change. We soon found ourselves rapidly adapting to a global pandemic.

The board shifted quite capably to increased virtual demands and changes to our plans. Along with the rest of the world, we mastered Zoom, and discovered that we are able to conduct a very productive virtual Strategic Planning meeting. This platform allowed us to examine our strategic plan in more depth and determine how we might best meet our goals as an organization in a virtual world.

We also recognize that as an operational board with volunteer members who have full time jobs, a pandemic adds a new layer in our struggle to balance our time and energies. We have worked hard to maintain our offerings for our members, as well as shifting towards increased virtual engagement of our members in the year ahead.

Our Vision

Optimal care and quality of life for every Canadian living with arthritis

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



We are dependent upon the hard work of our Board members who volunteer their time to AHPA. I would like to acknowledge that these individuals continued to work through the pandemic, and many were redeployed or had extra responsibilities added to their regular work. Thank you for your ongoing dedication and efforts to AHPA this past year.

Kristin Dillon, Treasurer, who assumed this new role at the start of a pandemic. She paid great attention to the budget and banking needs of AHPA. She worked to establish financial policies with the ACPAC SIG and explored ways to simplify communication and tracking of funds with our accountants.

Jill Hall, Secretary, for her efforts to maintain our minutes, governance documentation, board working documents and back up storage.

Denise Jupp, Communications Chair, for providing the membership with the monthly Newsbrief. Her presence will be missed on the board as she completes her term this year.

Sameer Chunara, Professional and Career Development Chair, for organizing topical Webinars for our membership and for the administration of the Clinical Innovation Award.

Raquel Sweezie, Research Chair, for coordinating review of applications, liaising with applicants, and administrating research awards. She has managed a robust Research Committee and we look forward to her continued involvement as a committee member as she completes her 4th term on the board this year.

Angelo Papachristos, Sponsorship and Marketing Chair, for his ongoing efforts to secure funding for our annual Pre-Course, as well as, for new virtual opportunities in 2021. His efforts at relationship building and partnerships are appreciated.

Jackie Williams-Connolly, Membership Chair, for her endeavours to promote AHPA membership through innovative strategies and updated membership materials.

Nik Harris, Member-at-Large, Eastern Canada, for promoting AHPA in the Atlantic Provinces and for the knowledge he brings to our social media platforms and communication efforts.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Paul Adams, Member-at-Large Western Canada, for promoting AHPA in Western Canada and for his hard work on our Communities of Practice initiative which has transitioned into our new virtual offerings for 2021 - AHPA OnlineEd.

And finally, **Sue MacQueen**, Past President, for her ongoing leadership and dedication to AHPA. She continued in the role of Chair for the annual Precourse, ably adapting to the realities of a virtual conference. Sue also assumed the role of AHPA representative for the CRA/AHPA ASM planning committee. She took on a leadership role in our current website redesign as well as a number of internal projects and document updates. Her invaluable assistance and leadership will be missed but we look forward to her ongoing involvement on our special projects.

Beyond our Board members, we have a volunteer who makes tremendous contributions to the daily activities of AHPA:

Jennifer Boyle, our volunteer webmaster and administrator works hard maintaining and updating our website, sending out e-blasts and responding to enquiries. She took on increased responsibilities to meet our increased virtual needs during the pandemic, including weekly Newsflashes. She is an invaluable resource and we are so very appreciative of Jenn's support.

I would also like to thank the AHPA members who have assumed liaison roles with outside organizations. Thank you to **Lynn Richards, Sameer Chunara, Jill Hall, Alex Charlton, Jocelyn Murdoch and Julie Herrington**.

My sincere thanks to the members of AHPA, for your ongoing membership in this organization and your continued interest in working to improve the lives of those living with arthritis.

As we settle into the new "normal" of living through a pandemic, I look forward to the continued work of this board to ensure that we thrive as a community of health care professionals, researchers and administrators.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne MacLeod PT, BScPT, MPH, ACPAC
AHPA President



Strategic Progress and Priorities

Knowledge Translation

Progress in 2019-2020

- AHPA webinar series ongoing
- Successful Pre-Course in Victoria
- A Model of Care Community of Practice was piloted but was determined not to be a suitable educational forum for AHPA members
- Work began on the development of a new forum for peer and clinical virtual learning under the title of AHPA OnlineED



Priorities in 2021

- The first virtual AHPA Precourse February 2021
- We will continue to offer educational webinars and explore funding for research activities
- Development and implementation of AHPA OnlineEd



Engagement



Progress in 2019-2020

- Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA)
 - Ongoing collaboration with the Annual Scientific Meeting
 - AHPA members receive the CRA Journal as well as weekly CRA newsblasts
- Ontario Rheumatology Association (ORA)
 - educational offerings for AHPA members in Ontario
 - strong relationship developed between ACPAC SIG and ORA
- Association of Rheumatology Professionals (ARP) United States
 - ongoing engagement between our associations - activities on hold due to pandemic
- AHPA Member Liaisons
 - Ontario Rheumatology Association (ORA) - Lynn Richards
 - Pan-Canadian Working Group on Reducing Wait Times for Joint Replacement Surgery hosted by the Arthritis Society - Sameer Chunara
 - Pan-Canadian evaluation on biosimilar implementation - Jill Hall
 - CRA Transition Working Group - Julie Herrington
 - CRA Virtual Committee - Jocelyn Murdoch

Priorities in 2021

- Continue collaborating with our external partners
- Improve awareness of AHPA through new marketing initiatives
- Create opportunities for virtual connection and networking
- Engage our membership in AHPA activities and committees



Committee Reports

Communications: Denise Jupp



Mandate

- Keep members informed of advances in rheumatology, AHPA activities, etc. through the production of a monthly newsletter
- Encourage other AHPA members to write articles for the newsletter, review current books or literature and note important upcoming dates of interest to the AHPA membership
- Be responsible to maintain and update the AHPA website, in collaboration with the AHPA webmaster



Achievements

- Published the monthly Newsbrief
- Created a template for the Newsbrief and organized the uploaded graphic files
- Participated in the creation of Facebook page
- Participated in analysis of and recommendations for adjustments to the existing website
- Managed the Twitter and Facebook accounts



Priorities for 2021

- Provide the incoming Chair with adequate information and guidance to perform the duties of the position
- New communication strategies will be developed to support virtual platforms and facilitate connections amongst members

Membership: Jackie Williams-Connolly



Mandate

- Recruitment, retention and recognition of AHPA members
- Development of programs for membership recruitment and retention
- Oversee the membership process and applications
- Organize the Lifetime Achievement Award



Achievements

- Membership committee outreach to rheumatology clinics in partnership with CRA
- Revamped membership forms
- Branding and consistent messaging used for revamped welcome letters, brochures, flyers and social media
- Ads created for social media presence on Twitter and Facebook
- Contest to welcome and appreciate everyone's new or renewal membership
- Lifetime Achievement Award Nominations Nov 1 - Nov 30, 2020, extended to mid Dec/20 however no applications received



Priorities for 2020

- Build on successes of 2020
- Continue to improve registration process
- Evaluate Social Media Campaign
- Create new membership initiatives
- Develop incentives for new and renewing members
- Improve interest in Lifetime Achievement Award
- Develop new membership survey to advance strategic planning and to meet needs of membership

Membership by Province 2020

151 AHPA members 2020



Professional and Career Development: Sameer Chunara



Mandate

- To identify professional practice needs and career development opportunities for AHPA members to advance roles of allied health professionals in rheumatology, specifically related to the one hour webinars
- To promote and administer the Clinical Innovation Award
- The Chair of the committee shall lead the review process of new SIG applications and liaise with established SIGs to ensure yearly requirements are met



Achievements

- Met target of 3 teleconferences for the year 2020: Dr. Bryan MacLeod (Arthritis and Pain Management, May 2020), Dr. Lee Schofield (Management of Foot and Ankle pain in patients living with Arthritis, August 2020), and Dr. Johannes Roth (Update on Clinical use of ultrasound in adult and pediatric patients with arthritis, December 2020)
- Promoting, administering, and grading of the Clinical Innovation Award to be presented virtually at the 2021 AGM
- Continuing our relationship with AMGEN, which co-sponsors the teleconference series
- Liaised with the newly formed ACPAC SIG to ensure yearly requirements met

Priorities for 2020



- Awarding the Clinical Innovation Award at the AHPA AGM in 2021
- Determining and booking speakers for teleconference series in 2020. The committee would like to set a target of 3 teleconferences and to discuss dissemination to a wider audience
- Participate in ongoing relationship with ARP – plans to do so in 2020 were sidetracked due to emergence of COVID-19

Research: Raquel Sweezie



Mandate



- Concern itself with research and research training in rheumatology
- Undertake the peer review of all AHPA submitted abstracts for presentation at the CRA/AHPA annual scientific meeting
- Coordinate competition, submissions and peer review of AHPA grants

Achievements



- Coordinated the review of 9 AHPA abstracts by 12 research committee members. All 9 abstracts were accepted for presentation at the virtual CRA ASM in February 2021
- AHPA Abstract Awards: recipients to be announced at the 2021 AGM
 - Carolyn Thomas Award for Best Scientific Abstract - Laura Passalent
 - Barbara Hanes Memorial Award for Best Abstract Submitted by an OT - Sabrina Cavallo
 - Best Trainee Abstract Award - Viviane Ta
- Marie Westby, the winner of the 2019 Arthritis Society grant competition, was granted an extension as a result of COVID delays to her research



Priorities for 2021

- Determine the status of funding for the Arthritis Society 2021 grant competition and consider new funding sources for research grants
- Develop research offerings within the new AHPA virtual programming for 2021 which may include journal clubs, meet the expert sessions, and live discussion on predetermined research topics
- Engage students and research fellows in the AHPA research committee and AHPA virtual programming activities
- Identify strategies to increase the diversity of abstract and grant applicants as well as new AHPA research members

Sponsorship and Marketing: Angelo Papachristos



Mandate

- Concern itself with external communication/marketing and the development and evaluation of fundraising targets and strategies for the purpose of generating revenue to support the activities of AHPA
- Develop fundraising campaigns targeting corporations, foundations, individuals and government
- Participate in the development of a plan, budget and agenda for the annual Precourse
- Liaise with the Treasurer as part of the annual budget process

Achievements



- At the time of publication of this report, secured \$75K of industry sponsorship funding for ongoing educational events in 2019-2020 cycle. We continue to expect drastic decreases in funding over the next few years with anticipation of a decline of 25-30% in 2020- 2021
- Successful in setting the pre-course agenda for 2020 meeting that was held Wednesday February 26th, 2020 at Fairmont Empress in Victoria, BC. There were eight talks/sessions during the day including an interactive Yoga/exercise session. We continue to welcome patient partners/advocates and sponsors to the course
- AHPA sponsored and planned two workshops during the CRA meeting in 2020
- Provided forty-eight [48] travel bursaries to our membership during the 2020 year for educational events including our board members. Average travel bursary support for our members was approximately \$1020.00



Priorities for 2021

- Continue marketing and obtaining sponsorship for 2020-2021
- Ongoing planning for 2021 AHPA pre-conference event that was to be held in Quebec City, however, due to Covid-19 is to be provided in virtual /online education format. Topics based on feedback from current year and members questionnaires
- Continue to look for alternative sponsorships and partnerships with industry partners and providers of medical education

Other Reports

Secretary's Report: Jill Hall



Mandate

- Responsible for disseminating the agendas and minutes for all Board meetings and the AGM
- Responsible for maintaining all working documents for the Board in Google Drive, maintaining corporation documents securely, and distributing information and documentation as required
- Executive Committee Position



Achievements

- Completed duties of taking minutes at monthly and ad hoc meetings
- Created and maintained a Motion and Action List to track progress on Board initiatives
- Created a Dropbox account to archive Board policies/procedures and meeting minutes
- Filed Annual Return with Revenue Canada



Priorities for 2021

- Continue to streamline record keeping practices

ACPAC SIG Report: Leslie Soever



The ACPAC SIG has officially been under the umbrella of AHPA since May 23, 2019. We are comprised of graduates and students of the ACPAC Program. Our activities to date have focussed on our pillars: Education, Advocacy, and Research, all underpinned by Leadership. From a leadership perspective, during 2020, we worked on developing a formal structure for our executive and committees who meet and represent our membership. This work included succession planning for positions. As an executive we met virtually, using AHPA ZOOM technology, for our regular business meetings on 11 occasions in 2020. During the June meeting, we invited the ACPAC SIG membership to join us for a combined business meeting and education event. We also met at the Canadian Rheumatology Association/Arthritis Health Professions Association Annual Meeting in Victoria, British Columbia on February 27th, where we hosted ACPAC graduates (ACPAC SIG members and non-members) both in-person and virtually. (cont.)



Our Annual General Meeting was held virtually through Zoom on October 23, 2020. Forty ACPAC graduates participated in the meeting with an additional 15 joining for networking, an education component, and a retirement celebration.

On the advocacy front, Chandra Farrer is Co-chair of the Northern Ontario subcommittee of the Ontario Rheumatology Association with Dr. Sahil Koppikar. The subcommittee will be hosting two virtual care workshops in January 2021 with the goal of: generating interest amongst rheumatologists to work in the north; discuss benefits and challenges; and to recruit for Sudbury, and subsequently, Thunder Bay. The subcommittee is also developing a business plan to present to the Ministry of Health in Ontario, encompassing an interprofessional model of care using ACPAC Program trained clinicians.

From an education perspective the following events were held: Webinar for all AHPA members: “Yes we can! Quality Improvement in Action: How Advanced Practice Roles are Improving Musculoskeletal Health” – Chandra Farrer; January 30, 2020; Webinar for ACPAC SIG members: “An Interesting Case of Back Pain from Teenage to Adult Years: An Evolving Diagnosis” – Laura Passalent; June 24, 2020; Webinar for ACPAC SIG, AHPA, CRA, ORA & TAS President: “Virtual Physical Assessment in Arthritis Care” – Jocelyne Murdoch; July 6, 2020; AGM educational component: Models of Care presentations – Karen Tsui, Edel Carberry, Julie Herrington, Jen Burt; Clinical talk – “Interventional Therapies for Spine Disorders” Dr. Gil Faclier, Anaesthesiologist, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre; Dr. Rachel Shupak Legacy Lecture – “Idiopathic Inflammatory Myositis” Dr. Shupak, Rheumatologist, Medical Director ACPAC Program.

Lastly, Dr. Rachel Shupak, Medical Director of the ACPAC Program retired. We hosted a virtual Retirement Celebration in her honour on October 23, 2020 following our AGM & Education Event. Dr. Bob Bell was the keynote speaker. Dr. Katie Lundon, delivered a tribute to Dr. Shupak; and Sameer Chunara coordinated a video montage with words from ACPAC representatives by year. Sue MacQueen made a toast to Dr. Shupak and presented her with a gift, a sculpture meant to symbolize her contribution to the professional growth and development of ACPAC graduates, while paying tribute to her passion for gardening.

Despite the challenges imposed by COVID-19, 2020 was a busy and successful year, thanks to an exceptionally dedicated group of ACPAC SIG committee members. We value and appreciate the opportunity offered by AHPA for our group to formalize ourselves; and look forward to ongoing collaboration.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

AHPA expenditures in each of the 3 strategic priorities: Knowledge Translation, Engagement and Sustainability. Our overall expenditures in 2020 totaled \$107,070.00. Expenditures were less than initially budgeted due to cancellation of events related to the pandemic.

ENGAGEMENT

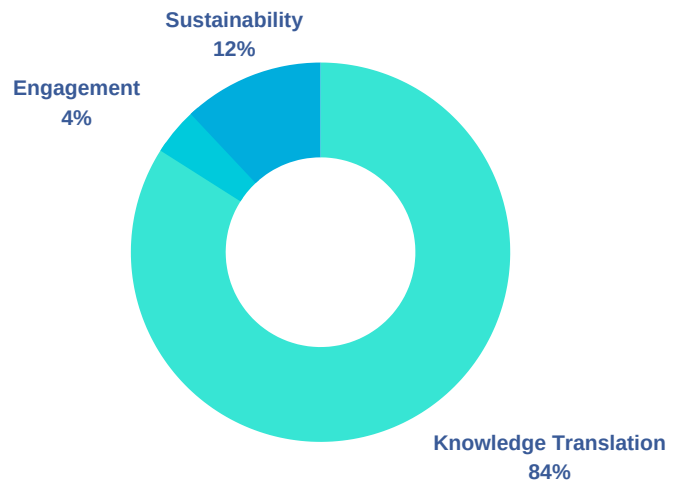
Expenses in this category include costs associated with collaboration with our external partners and marketing our organization.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

The largest of our expenditures, this covers our annual Pre-Course and includes the cost associated with speakers, AV, meals and travel bursaries. Quarterly webinars and research awards are also included in this category.

SUSTAINABILITY

This includes costs associated with running an organization such as bookkeeping and accounting fees, insurance, bank fees and website maintenance.



SPONSOR SUPPORT

Thank you to our sponsors who supported our Annual Pre-Course and other educational activities in 2020:

Abbvie

Amgen

Pfizer

Janssen

Roche

Sanofi

UCB



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