



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021





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## 2021 Board of Directors

**President: Anne MacLeod**

**President Elect: Paul Adam**

**Treasurer: Kristin Dillon**

**Secretary: Jill Hall**

**Professional and Career Development Chair: Sameer Chunara**

**Sponsorship and Marketing Chair: Angelo Papachristos**

**Research Chair: Susan Bartlett**

**Member at Large Eastern Canada: Nik Harris**

**Member at Large Western Canada: Jane Prince**

**Membership Chair: Jackie Williams-Connolly(up to July)/vacant**

**Communications Chair: vacant**

**Volunteer Webmaster/Administrator**

**Jennifer Boyle**

**[www.ahpa.ca](http://www.ahpa.ca)**

**[connect@ahpa.ca](mailto:connect@ahpa.ca)**

# 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.

## VISION AND MISSION

### **Vision**

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

### **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.

## 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 2021.

Major projects this year included the design, development, and updated content of our new website which includes an interactive forum for members, as well as an updated platform for member bios & partner organizations to facilitate networking. The website will be launched early in 2022.

As part of our Strategic Priorities, the Knowledge Translation pillar was restructured into the concept of AHPA OnlineEd, which encompasses both our Hot Topic Webinars and Knowledge to Action Series, thus increasing our virtual offerings to our members.

This fall, both a membership survey and a Town Hall were undertaken to determine what AHPA should be and do in the year ahead. We learnt that our members are loyal and passionate about the arthritis community. Networking and education are the most valued activities and will be our focus for 2022.

Given the ongoing realities of a pandemic and the need for long term sustainability of our organization, our executive committee researched, re-envisioned, and redesigned our board structure and our president roles/functions to better support the needs of the board and our membership. These changes will be presented to our membership at our upcoming AGM and enacted for 2022.

We continue to engage with partner organizations to support advocacy efforts to make real and lasting contributions to arthritis care of Canadians, and to further the Vision of AHPA:

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

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As a working board, we are dependent upon the efforts of our Board members who volunteer their time to AHPA. These individuals continued to work through an ongoing pandemic, at times redeployed or with extra responsibilities added to their regular work. Thank you for your ongoing dedication and efforts to AHPA this past year.



**Kristin Dillon**, Treasurer, for establishing a financial reporting structure for our SIGs; policies and procedures for sponsorship processes; and management of the budget and banking needs of AHPA. She completes her two year term.

**Jill Hall**, Secretary, for her efforts to maintain our minutes, complete government documentation, and ensure board working documents and back up storage are organized. She completes her second two year term.

**Sameer Chunara**, Professional and Career Development Chair, for organizing the Hot Topic Webinar Series for our membership and for the administration of the Clinical Innovation Award. He completes his fourth two year term.

**Angelo Papachristos**, Sponsorship and Marketing Chair, for his ongoing efforts to secure funding for our annual Pre-Course and online education opportunities. He completes his fourth two year term.

**Susan Bartlett**, Research Chair, for coordinating the review of abstract applications and representing AHPA on the CRA/AHPA ASM planning committee.

**Nik Harris**, Member-at-Large, Eastern Canada, for promoting AHPA in the Atlantic Provinces and for his assistance with online recordings. He completes his two year term.

**Jane Prince**, Member-at-Large, Western Canada, for promoting AHPA in the Western Provinces.

**Jackie Williams-Connolly**, Membership Chair until July 2021, for her endeavours to promote AHPA membership.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Paul Adam**, President-Elect, who has brought his management experience and leadership skills to AHPA. He continued in his role as the lead of the AHPA OnlineEd committee to bring new virtual education opportunities to our members. He assumed the role of Co-Chair for the annual pre-course and continued his work on our current website redesign as well as a number of internal projects, document updates and board structure redesign. I am certain that we will be in good hands under his leadership as President of AHPA for 2022.

Beyond our Board members, we have a number of volunteers who make tremendous contributions to the daily activities of AHPA:

**Jennifer Boyle**, our volunteer webmaster and administrator, has been an invaluable member of our team who has coordinated and completed most of the detailed work associated with our new website as well as maintaining and updating our current website. Without a Communications Chair this year, she assumed the responsibility for our monthly Newsbriefs and Newsflashes, as well as continuing to respond to enquiries, managing our membership drive and taking on technology support for AHPA Online Ed. Jenn is retiring from her volunteer role with AHPA this year and will be dearly missed.

I would also like to thank **Sue MacQueen**, who continued her role in the website redesign process as well as a member of the pre-course planning committee. Thank you to **Lynn Richards** who is stepping down as our liaison to the Ontario Rheumatology Association. A number of AHPA members have assumed liaison roles with outside organizations at various times throughout the year. Thank you to **Sameer Chunara, Jill Hall, Alex Charlton, Jocelyn Murdoch and Julie Herrington**. Thank you to the members of the Research Committee for the review of abstracts: **Sara Ahmed, Linda Li, Laura Passalent, Diane Tin, Karine Toupin-April, and Marie Westby**.

As I complete my two year term as a pandemic President, I want to sincerely thank the members of AHPA, for their ongoing membership in this organization. As we strive to make sustainable changes to our organization in the year ahead, I look forward to continuing to connect with our members and our partners to work towards improving the lives of those living with arthritis.

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





# Strategic Progress and Priorities

## Knowledge Translation

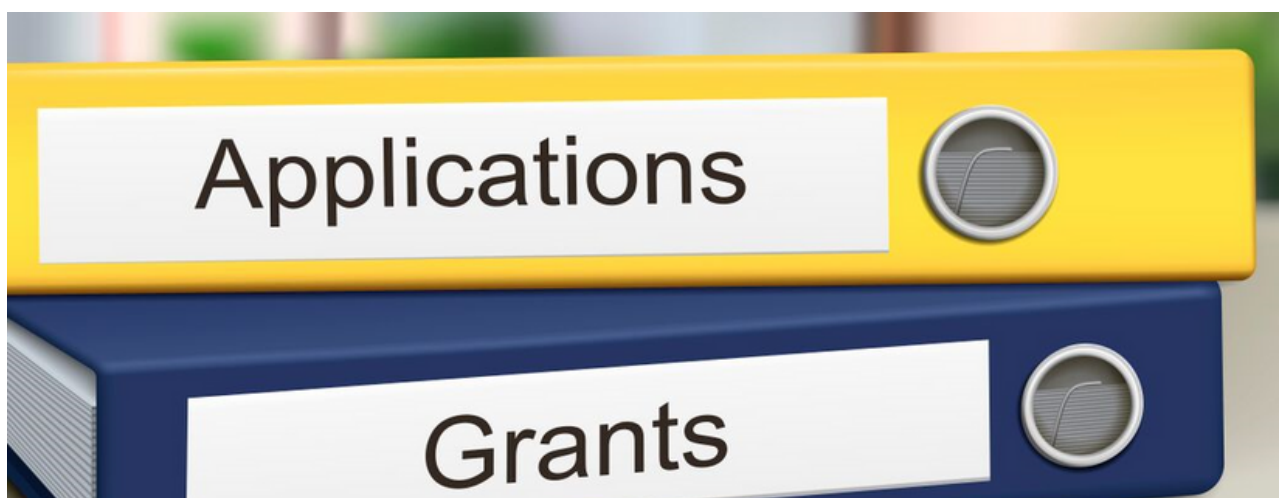
### Progress in 2020-2021

- Successful virtual Pre-Course held in February 2021
- Implementation of a new forum for peer and clinical virtual learning under the title of AHPA OnlineED, including both the Hot Topic Webinar Series (previously AHPA Webinar Series) and the Knowledge to Action (K2A) Series



### Priorities in 2022

- Second virtual AHPA Pre-Course January 2022
- Learning needs assessment early 2022
- Continue Hot Topics Webinars and Knowledge to Action education sessions
- Development and implementation of a new research grant offering
- Increase allied health trainees and arthritis researchers interest in AHPA and in presenting research





# Engagement



## Progress in 2020-2021

- Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA)
  - Ongoing collaboration for the Annual Scientific Meeting; access to education sessions, the CRA Journal and CRA newsblasts
  - increased collaboration between AHPA and CRA members on new initiatives and committees
- Ontario Rheumatology Association (ORA)
  - ongoing educational offerings for AHPA members in Ontario as well as reciprocal invitations to AHPA education
  - enhanced relationship with the ACPAC SIG and ORA and development of a new Model of Care for Northern Ontario
- Association of Rheumatology Professionals (ARP) United States
  - ongoing engagement and support between our associations
- Re-established connections with the Arthritis Society and the Arthritis Rehabilitation and Education Program
- Re-established connections with Bone and Joint Canada
- Ongoing collaboration and communication with patient organizations:
  - Arthritis Consumers Experts
  - Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance
  - Canadian Spondylitis Association
  - Cassie and Friends

## Priorities in 2022

- Continue collaborating with our external partners
- Create opportunities for virtual engagement and networking
- Involve our membership in time limited tasks and working groups



## Sustainability

## Progress in 2020-2021

- Finalized financial structure for SIGs and Sponsorship request process
- Streamlined record keeping practices on google drive and Dropbox
- Standardized AHPA liaison roles and reporting mechanisms
- Standardized forms for AHPA OnlineEd offerings as well as role of Education Support
- New website platform and content development underway with live version in early 2022



## Priorities in 2022

- Re-envisioned structure and responsibilities of President roles with updated Rules and Regulations to be presented at 2022 AGM
- Hire an Administrator
- Taskforce to identify and implement strategies to increase membership
- Review and implement new approaches for enhancing sponsorship funding

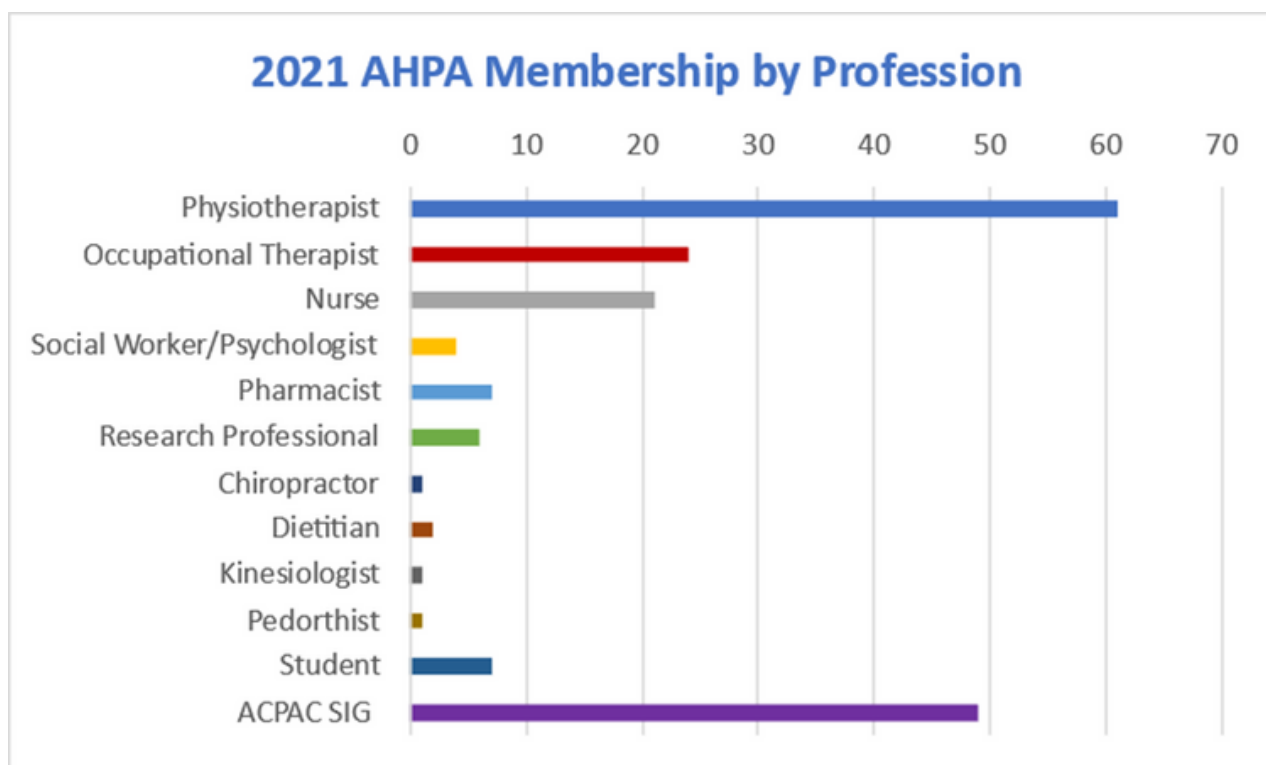




# Membership 2021

## Membership by Province

134 AHPA Members



ACPAC SIG members are comprised of PTs, OTs, RNs and Chiro

# Committee Reports

## AHPA OnlineEd: Paul Adam



### Mandate

- AHPA OnlineED provides arthritis continuing education that is convenient so that members can participate where (i.e., home or workplace) and when they want. The Hot Topics Webinar Series utilizes a traditional didactic learning format, while the Knowledge to Action (K2A) Learning Series provides applied, practical knowledge with the goal of helping to improve clinical practice



### Achievements

- The Hot Topics Webinar Series, previously known as the AHPA Webinar Series, continued to be organized by the Professional and Career Development Chair (report below). K2A is a new educational offering from AHPA
- The first few months of 2021 were spent researching, comparing, trialing, and choosing an online learning management system. After much effort, Zoom Webinar was selected for its affordability, ease of use, and the fact that it met several pre-defined requirements (e.g., A/V session recording feature)
- A late start meant that the first K2A session did not occur until June 2021 with a second session taking place in October. Both sessions addressed the important role all health care professionals have in supporting patients with arthritis to be physically active





# Professional and Career Development: Sameer Chunara



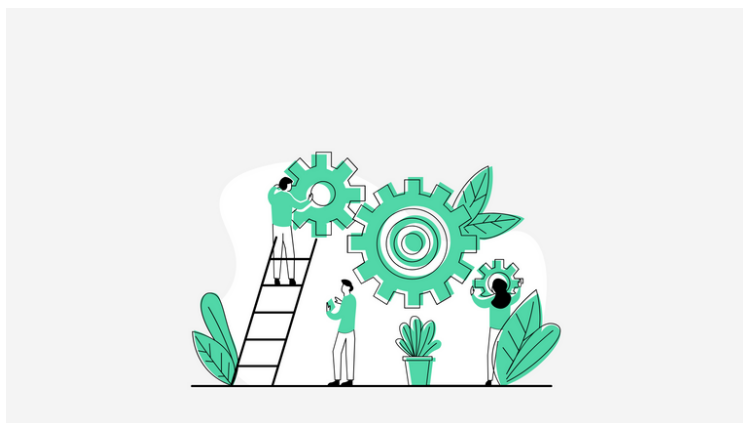
## Mandate

- 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

- Participated in the re-conceptualization of the Knowledge Translation pillar of the AHPA strategic priorities and renamed the AHPA Webinar series to Hot Topics Webinar Series as one component of AHPA OnlineEd
- Webinars for the year 2021: Dr. Elizabeth Stringer (Transition in Rheumatology, July 9 2020), Dr. Erin Brown (Surgical Management of the Inflammatory Hand, December 1st 2021), and Dr. Susan Bartlett (Unending COVID: Identifying and Addressing Emotional Distress in Patients with Arthritis (And Yourself), January 13th 2022)
- Promoting, administering, and grading of the Clinical Innovation Award to be presented virtually at the 2022 AGM
- Continued our relationship with AMGEN, which co-sponsors the webinar series
- Liaised with the ACPAC SIG to ensure yearly requirements were met



# 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 Pre-Course
- Liaise with the Treasurer as part of the annual budget process



## Achievements

- Successful in raising funds to support our 2021 pre-course and online educational offerings with a total of 42,500\$ raised
- There are ongoing challenges with industry sponsors who continue to support these types of educational events. Funding for allied health professionals will continue to come under significant pressure as the landscape continues to become extremely competitive for our industry partners
- Successful execution of 2021 AHPA pre-course which was held virtually over the course of 3 weeks [February 2, 2021, February 9, 2021, February 16, 2021]. We had an excellent line-up of six speakers and three moderators for the events which were held prior to the CRA ASM
- Successful run of two JAKparody evening programs which were well attended. Participants had the opportunity to learn and play during an educational game with prizes awarded to the top scorer of both evenings





## Research: Dr Susan Bartlett



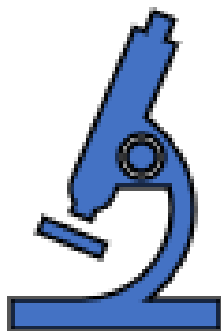
### Mandate

- 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 12 AHPA abstracts by 7 research committee members. All 12 abstracts were accepted for presentation. As Dr. Bartlett had submitted abstracts, she recused herself from the selection of awards and asked President Anne MacLeod and President-Elect Paul Adam to select the winners.
- AHPA Abstract Awards: recipients to be announced at the 2022 AGM
  - Carolyn Thomas Award for Best Scientific Abstract - Dr. Susan Bartlett
  - Barbara Hanes Memorial Award for Best Abstract Submitted by an OT - Karine Toupin-April
  - Best Trainee Abstract Award - Viviane Ta
- President Anne MacLeod and Research Chair Susan Bartlett submitted a successful proposal for new research funding to Organon for the year 2022



# 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 and securing corporation documents, and distributing information and documentation as required
- Executive Committee Position



### Achievements

- Completed duties of taking minutes at monthly and ad hoc meetings
- Maintained a Motion and Action List to track progress on Board initiatives
- Archived Board policies/procedures and meeting minutes in Dropbox and began shift to Google Workspace
- Filed Annual Return with Revenue Canada

## ACPAC SIG Report: Gillian Grant



### Mandate

- The Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC) Special Interest Group (SIG) has been under the umbrella of AHPA since May 2019 and is composed of graduates and students of the ACPAC program. The pillars supporting all our activities are Advocacy, Research, and Education, all underpinned by Leadership. Objectives of the SIG include fostering collaboration between graduates and trainees, supporting program graduates & trainees, providing strategic direction to those interested in extended-role practice careers, maintaining a collaborative relationship with the ACPAC program, and supporting research and professional development activities.

## Achievements



- Forty-nine members were registered with the SIG in 2021
- Subcommittees include the Transition Youth to Adult CRA working group, Medical Directives Subcommittee, Advisory Subcommittee, Research Committee, and Advocacy Committee
- The Transition Youth to Adult CRA working group created a position paper and secured Santis Health to help develop a business case for lobbying
- The Medical Directives subcommittee created a comprehensive medical directives support document available on the website for our members
- Terms of reference were created for the Advisory Subcommittee. A rheumatologist was recruited with plans for a patient representative and possibly, other medical specialists
- The Research Subcommittee is creating a slide deck to outline examples of implementation, evaluation, and impact of MOC and ACPAC roles. There are plans to create avenues to provide mentorship to members interested in submitting grant applications
- Advocacy-related activities were led by Chandra Farrer as co-chair of the Ontario Rheumatology Association (ORA) Northern Ontario Committee and Sameer Chunara as the liaison with the ORA-Emerging Rheumatologists of Ontario (ERO) to assess needs and opportunities. Chandra, in collaboration with Dr. Sahil Koppikar and committee members, created a business plan promoting the ACPAC model of care (MOC). Steps to advocate to the government are underway
- Communication to the broader membership was achieved through quarterly newsletters, recently renamed as ACtion PACked news
- A webinar for the general AHPA membership was presented by Mandy McGlynn on October 14, 2021, entitled “An innovative model of integrated care for hip fractures utilizing an ACPAC trained extended role practitioner”
- The ACPAC SIG AGM on October 22, 2021 included Models of Care presentations by Dr. Andrew Bigness (Low Back Pain Rapid Access Clinic), and Nancy Granger & Lesley Jackson (Rheumatology Rapid Access Clinic); guest speakers included Dr. Jessica Widdifield on “Enhancing Rheumatology Workforce Capacity with Interdisciplinary Health Providers”, Dr. Alexandra Rendely on “Recovering from COVID-19 Infection: Rehabilitation Considerations” and Dr. Arthur Bookman who delivered the 2nd Annual Dr. Rachel Shupak Legacy Lecture, with “An Update on Sjogren’s Disease”



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

AHPA expenditures in each of the 3 strategic priorities: Knowledge Translation, Engagement and Sustainability. Our overall expenditures in 2021 totaled \$46,715

## ENGAGEMENT

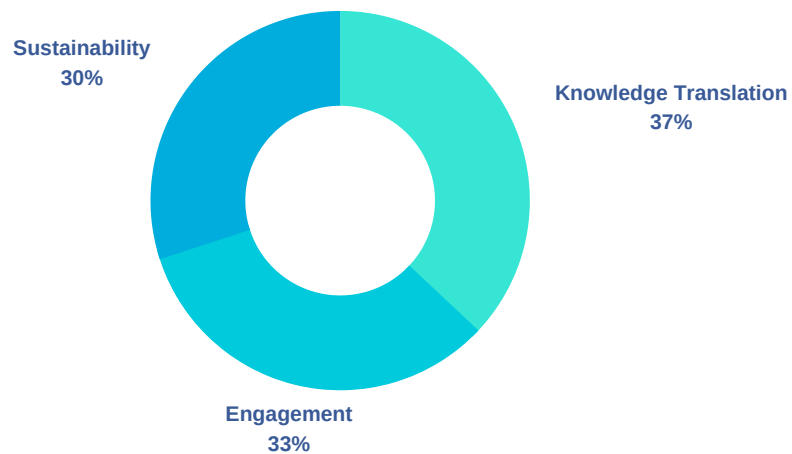
Expenses in this category include costs associated with collaboration with our external partners and marketing our organization. A major expense this year was the design and development of our new website.

## KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

Expenses in this category cover our annual Pre-Course, AHPA OnlineED offerings and all educational and research initiatives. Costs decreased from previous years with transition to virtual offerings.

## SUSTAINABILITY

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



100%  
VOLUNTEER  
RUN

# SPONSOR SUPPORT

Thank you to our sponsors who supported our Annual Pre-Course and other educational activities in 2021:

Abbvie

Amgen

Pfizer

Roche

UCB



