



17 YEARS OF SUCCESS

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC) was formed with the aim to improve the lives of Canadians with arthritis.

As an umbrella organization, the AAC collaborates with various arthritis stakeholders: healthcare professionals, researchers, funding and voluntary sector agencies, governments, industry and arthritis patient organizations and groups across Canada. While each member organization continued its own work, the AAC provided a central focus for national arthritis-related initiatives.

Incorporation of Alliance for the Canadian Arthritis Program (ACAP)

In July 2009, ACAP was legally incorporated with the purpose to:

- 1) exchange information;
- 2) harmonize messaging;
- 3) undertake projects and initiatives beyond the scope of any single ACAP member.

Name Change to AAC

In 2011, ACAP management decided to officially rebrand the organization as the "Arthritis Alliance of Canada."

Joint Action on Arthritis

In 2012, AAC released the "Joint Action on Arthritis: A Framework to Improve Arthritis Prevention and Care in Canada." The Framework established research priorities and strategies, identified principles to guide the design and delivery of care, suggested prevention strategies, and proposed a blueprint for the arthritis community to engage with governments and the broader healthcare community.

Pan-Canadian Approach to IA Models of Care

In 2014, the AAC launched the Pan-Canadian Approach to Inflammatory Arthritis (IA) Models of Care. A framework for the development of high-quality, evidence-informed models of inflammatory arthritis care, reinforced by best practices, was developed by the arthritis clinicians, researchers and professionals as well as other key stakeholders in the health system.

Canadian Core Clinical Dataset (CAN-RACCD) for Patients with RA

AAC partnered with the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) and individual investigators to develop a Canadian Rheumatoid Arthritis Core Clinical Dataset (CAN-RACCD) to encourage best practices and facilitate future quality measurement efforts. The CAN-RACCD stands as a national recommendation on which data elements should be routinely collected in clinical practice to monitor and support high-quality RA care. The report was published in 2017 in the Journal of Rheumatology.

Developing a Patient-centered Balanced Scorecard Approach for Rheumatoid Arthritis

In 2018, the project to develop a Balanced Scorecard (BSC) for RA care was launched. A BSC is a tool that outlines a vision for quality improvement and strategic goals along multiple domains, representing different stakeholder perspectives, and uses performance measures to monitor progress toward quality improvement targets in RA care.

CRA-AAC-CIHR-CATCH Collaborative Project to Build an Economic Business Case for AAC IA Models of Care

In 2019, the 4-way partnership project between AAC, CRA, CATCH Early RA Cohort and the CIHR, conducted a study to build an economic business case for Inflammatory Arthritis (IA) Models of Care. The study aims to ultimately provide consistent and standardized description of IA MOCs at participating CATCH sites across Canada and determine the cost-effectiveness of IA MoCs.



Osteoarthritis Consensus Conference

In 2002, a group of researchers, scientists, trainees, consumers, allied health professionals, pharmaceutical industry representatives and non-governmental organizations gathered at this conference to identify research questions and priorities through stakeholder consultation. This conference confirmed that patients must be actively involved in identifying research priorities.



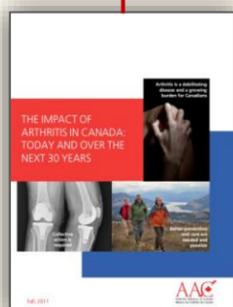
Summit on Arthritis Prevention and Care

In 2005, the Summit on Standards for Arthritis Prevention and Care took place in Ottawa. Summit delegates identified three overarching arthritis themes: awareness, prevention, management. The Summit produced 15 specific standards in nine key areas, which were then refined and presented to government for action.



Funding Landscape Report

In 2011, Canada's leading arthritis research organizations, including Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute for Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (CIHR-IMHA), the Arthritis Society (TAS), Canadian Arthritis Network (CAN) and the Alliance for the Canadian Arthritis Program (ACAP), partnered to understand the arthritis funding landscape related to research. This report summarized the strengths, needs and challenges in current Canadian arthritis research.



Impact of Arthritis

In 2011, AAC also released "The Impact of Arthritis in Canada: Today and Over the Next 30 Years." This report outlined the growing burden of arthritis over a 30 year period and provided examples of how this burden can be mitigated by awareness, education, and intervention. This report played a major role in informing government and the public, as well as garnering support for a National Arthritis Framework.

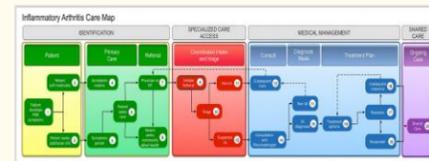


2012

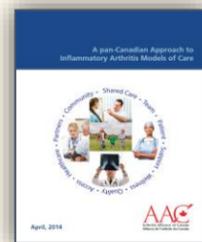


AAC Inaugural Conference and Research Symposium

In 2013, AAC hosted its Inaugural Conference and Research Symposium in Ottawa, having brought close to 200 of Canada's leading researchers and healthcare practitioners in the field of arthritis as well as patients. The symposium showcased the latest scientific discoveries and highlighted advances in clinical practice across the country.



2013



2014

AAC Models of Care (MOC) Measurement Framework

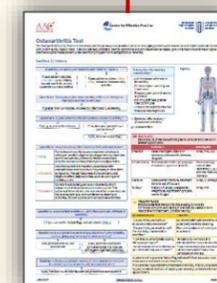
The AAC launched the Framework to define system-level performance measures for IA care in Canada. It serves as a toolkit for healthcare decision-makers, administrators, clinicians, managers and policy makers-to evaluate health systems and inform health system changes with the goal of developing safe, cost-effective, efficient high quality care for patients with IA. The report was published in 2016 in the Journal of Rheumatology.

AAC Research Awards Program

In 2016, AAC developed and launched an annual Research Awards Program to recognize high quality research nationally by: (1) formally acknowledging the outstanding contributions of scientists and patient partners; (2) helping researchers compete for and participate in national grants and programs in arthritis research; and (3) providing opportunities to highlight arthritis research in communications.



2016



AAC-CFPC-CEP Osteoarthritis (OA) Tool for Family Physicians

In 2017, the AAC and the College of Family Physicians of Canada launched the Osteoarthritis Tool. It was designed to equip health care providers with key professional knowledge and skills to effectively diagnose and facilitate the management of patients living with Osteoarthritis (OA). The Tool helps clinicians identify symptoms and provide evidence-based, non-pharmacological and pharmacological options in OA management.



2018



Talk to Your Doctor About Joint Pain Handout

In 2019, a complementary patient version of the original OA Tool for Family Physicians, entitled "Talk to Your Doctor About Joint Pain Handout", was designed in partnership with AAC, Arthritis Consumer Experts and Arthritis Society, to assist those with or at risk of Osteoarthritis, in having better conversations with their doctor or other health care professional by informing them about the care they can expect to receive.



2019