

Human Resources Committee Update

By Diane Crawshaw, TROT Project Coordinator

The CRA Human Resources Program, Training the Rheumatologists of Tomorrow (TROT), and the Manpower Committee of the Ontario Rheumatology Association (ORA) hosted a booth at the Ontario Medical Students Weekend (OMSW) in Sudbury, Ontario, on October 21st, 2017. This annual event is held in one of the six medical-school cities, and this year saw 450 first-year medical students in attendance.

This is the third year of our participation at the OMSW, and each year a portion of visitors to the booth have been asked to fill out a survey to help gauge impact. There have been a total of 115 surveys completed, with 53 from 2017. The data throughout the years seem consistent with the clear majority of respondents (70%; n=80/115) not having considered pursuing an opportunity for more exposure to rheumatology, such as clinical or research selective or shadowing a rheumatologist. However, this number rose to an impressive majority (94% n=92) considering an experience in rheumatology after interacting with a passionate and informative rheumatologist at the booth. Approximately half of the respondents provided their email addresses, saying that

they would like to receive information about rheumatology education and events.

The combination of the large "Hero" posters, the now famous bone-shaped *RheumCareer* pens and the gloves that simulate deforming rheumatoid arthritis (RA) draws people into the booth. Having said that, it is the opportunity to speak to a passionate rheumatologist that has the most



Students buy into being a hero! Dr. Saara Rawn (3rd from left) and Dr. Jane Purvis (far right) pose with students and RA gloves.

WELCOME TO THE RHEUM

Welcome to the following new members:

Tariq Al Fanna Al Araiimi, Toronto, ON
Anwar Albasri, Toronto, ON
Drew Bowie, Victoria, BC
Erin Butler, Calgary, AB
Natacha Cambray, Sherbrooke, QC
Sana Chambah, Montreal, QC
Sarah Cribby, Calgary, AB
Yassir Daghistani, Vancouver, BC

Dilan Dissanayake, Toronto, ON
Giordano Egiziano, Westmount, QC
Faranak Esmailbeigi, London, ON
Andreu Fernandez-Codina, London, ON
Stephanie Gottheil, Toronto, ON
Carly Hewson, London, ON
Faiza Khokhar, Mississauga, ON
Lauren King, Toronto, ON

Renée-Claude Loignon, Quebec, QC
Sabrina Lue, Kingston, ON
Alice Mai, Vancouver, BC
Eilish McConville, Ottawa, ON
Tamara McMillan, Vancouver, BC
Stephen Morais, Providence, Rhode Island, USA
Dominic Poirier, Quebec, QC
Saurash Reddy, Edmonton, AB

Justin Shamis, Toronto, ON
Watchareewan (Taylor) Sonticha, Toronto, ON
Manon Suitner, Montreal, QC
Herman Tam, Winnipeg, MB
Gael Villanueva-Charbonneau, Sherbrooke, QC
Kyle Walker, Ottawa, ON
Mary-Clair Yelovich, Hamilton, ON
Boyang Zheng, Montreal, QC



impact. Messaging included: rheumatology is the best, most interesting, most flexible medical subspecialty; it is academically interesting; patient function is improved; and the therapies are interesting and new. Students reported: “I didn’t know how the field was expanding and how flexible the job prospects are” and “It sounds very interesting and with the possibility of good job opportunities.” They are

also swayed by the long-term relationships with patients and the intellectual challenge of the diseases.

It was helpful to be able to reference a document that was written by and for medical students, entitled “Insights into Physician Workforce Trends in Ontario” (omsa.ca/sites/default/files/page/24/omsa_hhr_guide_2016.pdf). It rates rheumatology as having excellent job prospects.

Participation in OMSW continues to be a valuable opportunity to reach medical students early in their careers and let them know that rheumatology is an excellent career choice, as we all know it to be.

*Diane Crawshaw
TROT Project Coordinator,
Canadian Rheumatology Association
Hamilton, Ontario*

Update From the Communications Committee

By Dax G. Rumsey, MD, FRCP(C)

Hear ye! Hear ye! The CRA Communications Committee has an exciting year ahead! Our vision is to facilitate optimal and fluid communications between the CRA and its members, among members, and between the CRA and various other stakeholders, including industry, allied health professionals, patients and families, and the general public. In line with the 2018 CRA Board’s priorities for our committee, some of our goals for 2018 are to:

1. Disseminate guidelines via our new (and improved) CRA Website.
2. Develop strategies to encourage community rheumatologists to apply for CIORA grants and, thus, become more involved in research.
3. Implement a new feature of the eNewsletter called ‘Who’s in the Rheum?’ wherein we interview different rheumatologists across the country so that we can get to know each other better.

4. Finalize the ‘History Page’ on the CRA website, working with various rheumatologists and a professional writer.
5. Expand the CRA Communications Committee. We are always looking for new physician members! We will also look to include an allied health professional(s) and plan to invite a patient/parent representative to be involved in select meetings/in a certain capacity.

We are a small but vibrant and engaged committee and invite others to join the fun!

*Dax G. Rumsey, MD, FRCP(C)
Chair, CRA Communications Committee
Pediatric Rheumatologist and Assistant Professor,
Stollery Children’s Hospital and University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta*