

News from the ASM Program Committee

By Vinod Chandran, MBBS, MD, DM, PhD

The CRA ASM Program Committee looks forward to hosting you all at the CRA and AHPA's Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM), to be held in a virtual format on Wednesday February 2 – Saturday February 5, 2022.

With the rapidly rising COVID-19 cases in Canada and the uncertainty posed by the Omicron variant, the CRA has made the decision to host the ASM exclusively online. We are taking this step out of an abundance of caution, to protect the health and safety of the rheumatology community. The conference can now be enjoyed from the comfort of your own home or office and, as an added bonus, you will have the opportunity to watch on-demand sessions afterwards! For more information on how the switch from an in-person to virtual conference may affect you, please visit asm.rheum.ca.

The pandemic has put the inequalities in our society in stark relief. As we celebrate the 76th anniversary of the CRA, our meeting will showcase how we address equity, diversity, and inclusion within our extended rheumatology community, captured by the theme of our meeting, Towards Equity: Rheum for Everyone. At the upcoming ASM, you can look forward to an exciting lineup of speakers who will deliver a breadth of leading-edge content. The program will feature keynote lectures, debates, workshops, with podium and poster presentations and tours, to view the full conference agenda, please visit asm.rheum.ca.

The ASM keynote lectures include the following:

- Dunlop-Dottridge Lecture, to be delivered by Dr. Simon Carette, who is a rheumatologist and Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto. He trained at Laval University, McGill University, the University of Toronto, the National Institutes of Health, and the University of Cambridge. His area of clinical expertise is vasculitis, and he is the director of the Vasculitis Program at Sinai Health Network since 2001. Dr. Carette will speak on the advances made in the management of vasculitis.
- State-of-the-Art Lecture, to be delivered by Dr. Tuhina Neogi, Professor of Medicine and of Epidemiology at Boston University Schools of Medicine and of Public Health, and Chief of Rheumatology. As a rheumatologist and epidemiologist, her research focuses on osteoarthritis, gout, and pain mechanisms. Dr. Neogi will speak on pain in adult and pediatric rheumatic diseases.
- Keynote Lecture, to be delivered by Dr. Grace Wright, rheumatologist and founder and President of the Association of Women in Rheumatology (AWIR). In 2014, Dr. Wright founded the AWIR which has since grown to more than 30 local chapters throughout the United States as well as a growing number of international chapters. Dr. Wright has served as the President of AWIR since its inception. Dr. Wright will speak on equity, diversity, and inclusion within the rheumatology community.



Dr. Simon Carette



Dr. Tuhina Neogi



Dr. Grace Wright

We will of course feature abstracts and poster tours for trainees and investigators to showcase their research activities; state-of-the-art and crowd-sourced workshops; satellite symposia; as well as the not-to-be-missed crowd favourites including Clinical Pearls and Mysterious Cases, *RheumJeopardy* and The Great Debate! Opportunities to celebrate our award-winning colleagues will be featured throughout the meeting, and satellite meetings will feature the Residents' Pre-Course, CRA Review Course, AHPA Pre-Course, and the Canadian Arthritis Research Conference.

We welcome all CRA and AHPA members, as well as all interested stakeholders, and colleagues around the world to join us for this exciting event. We look forward to celebrating with you in February!

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Abstract Review Committee Update

By Marinka Twilt, MD, MScE, PhD

The abstracts have been submitted and the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) Abstract Review Committee has begun the hard work of reading and scoring the abstracts, ably supported by Virginia Hopkins, Manager, Research & Innovation. The committee selects the abstracts worthy of poster or podium presentation. Our meeting will be converted to a virtual meeting this year, and the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) team supported by Claire McGowan (Manager, Educational Programs and Events) has worked hard to retain the multiple opportunities the CRA & Arthritis Health Professions Association (AHPA) ASM offer on an ongoing yearly basis. Our meeting continues to garner interest from researchers, clinicians, trainees and industry. Even during these unprecedented times, more than 200 abstracts were submitted. Each abstract will be scored by three reviewers, and the best in each category are chosen based on the average score; the chair will break any tie for a spot on the virtual poster tour and podium presentation. Thank you, reviewers!

The top 14 podium presentations will be presented. There will be 12 virtual poster tours during which the top-ranked abstracts will be presented. There will also be interactive virtual poster sessions where attendees will be able to discuss posters with the presenters. The top five abstracts in each award category will be judged during the poster session for the following awards:

- Best Abstract on Quality Care Initiatives in Rheumatology
- Best Abstract on Research by Young Faculty

- Best Abstract on Pediatric Research by Young Faculty
- Best Abstract on Basic Science Research by a Trainee
- Best Abstract on Clinical or Epidemiology Research by a Trainee – Phil Rosen Award
- Best Abstract on SLE Research by a Trainee – Ian Watson Award
- Best Abstract by a Medical Student
- Best Abstract by a Rheumatology Resident
- Best Abstract by an Undergraduate Student
- Best Abstract by a Post-Graduate Research Trainee
- Best Abstract by a Rheumatology Post-Graduate Research Trainee
- Best Abstract on Spondyloarthritis Research Award

We look forward to seeing you all during the CRA & AHPA ASM!

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