

Project Athena: Tackling EMR Inefficiencies with New Informatics Platform

The Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) Board has identified practice and electronic medical records (EMR) inefficiencies as a top priority for the CRA to address, based on a series of member consultations in 2022.

To tackle this issue, the CRA is working with Dr. Karim Keshavjee, an expert in digital health and clinical informatics, to identify the features of the next-generation pan-Canadian rheumatology informatics platform (code-named "Project Athena").

Streamlining clinical workflows will lead to more efficient use of technologies, reduce administrative burden, and enable better communication between clinicians and patients. The CRA recognizes the importance of optimizing the use of modern platforms for improving quality of care, increasing capacity for guideline implementation, and participation in disease registries.

To ensure that we fully understand the needs of our members and identify best practices, the CRA will be reaching out for member input on key streams of the project. These streams include EMR/office optimization, building on the work done to date to identify quality care indicators, identify common informatics needs for all the great disease registry work our members do, design dashboards and data standards, and explore opportunities for partnerships with other specialty organizations.

The CRA will continue to contact members who have expressed interest in providing input for this project. If members have any questions or would like to provide input on this project, please contact CEO Dr. Ahmad Zbib at azbib@rheum.ca, and the CRA will provide answers in a timely manner.

Canadian Innovators Awarded \$200,000 at Arthritis Society Canada's 2023 Ideator Event

By Arthritis Society Canada

On April 20th, four Canadian innovators received the prestigious Arthritis Ideator Award™ from Arthritis Society Canada at its second annual pitch-style competition event held in Toronto. The Arthritis Ideator Awards™ recognizes the best innovations aimed at improving the lives of people living with arthritis.

"Arthritis is not well understood and there are so many myths about it," says Trish Barbato, president & CEO of Arthritis Society Canada. "The Arthritis Ideator Awards™ are part of our bold Innovation Strategy. We are excited to showcase innovations that will allow us to put a spotlight on this group of chronic, debilitating diseases, by supporting solutions to help the six million Canadians who manage these conditions daily."

To learn more about this year's four Award recipients—FirstHx, Heal Mary, Pillcheck and People's Choice Award winner Joints on Point – please visit arthritis.ca/IdeatorAwards.



As part of the Arthritis Ideator Awards™, the winning innovators receive access to experts from Arthritis Society Canada and the broader arthritis ecosystem including technology, research and corporate partners to help advance their work.