

Presidential Address

By Nigil Haroon, President,
Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA)



Dr. Haroon with Dr. Felix Leung, ORA President at the 2023 ORA ASM in King City, ON.

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings!

I hope you are in the best of health and high spirits. As the President of the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA), I always look forward to different avenues to connect with the members of our esteemed organization. The *Journal of the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRAJ)* is an excellent medium towards this end, and I thank the ama-

zing team that has been leading this publication over the years, especially Philip and Jyoti, for this opportunity.

One of the key goals during my Presidency is membership engagement and, over the last year, I have had multiple opportunities to interact with our members from different parts of the country. I strongly believe that meeting you in your local environments helps develop a deeper understanding of the diverse cultures, perspectives, and challenges faced by our membership. This in turn feeds into the success of another major CRA strategic theme, fostering inclusivity, diversity, equity, and justice within our organizations. We are stronger together and I encourage you to invite your rheumatology colleagues to join the CRA if they are not already members. Our CEO Dr. Ahmad Zbib and I are keen to meet you in small gatherings and engage with local rheumatology communities. These interactions will help forge new connections, discover unique skill sets among our members, encourage knowledge sharing and build a more interconnected and inclusive organization, harnessing the full potential of our amazing membership. Please let us know if there are opportunities for the CRA to interact with and help you in



With the amazing CRA staff at the 2023 ASM in Quebec City.



At the 2023 Northwest Rheumatism Society (NWRS) meeting in Vancouver, B.C.

any way. I would also encourage you to participate in leadership opportunities within the CRA. In addition to working with different committees, we are currently looking for two new board members. Based on the demographics and skills of the current board, adult rheumatologists, and those from smaller communities and/or within their first ten years of practice are encouraged to apply. For details on how to apply, please refer to my May 26th President's Update email or reach out to the CRA.

Our Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) continues to serve as a remarkable platform for our members to gather, connect, and contribute to the collective growth of our field. It is an occasion that unites us in a shared passion for education, improving patient care, expanding our scientific understanding, and envisioning a brighter future for rheumatology. Thank you to all who were able to attend and contribute to the success of our 2023 ASM, virtually or in person in Quebec City. I sincerely thank the ASM committee who put together a meticulously curated program, esteemed speakers, and a diverse array of scientific sessions. The gala event was a night that we will cherish for a long time. Please mark your calendar for our 2024 ASM, which will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, from February 28 - March 2, 2024.

Please visit the CRA website (rheum.ca) and check out our incredible breadth of activities. Please send us a note if you would like to be involved in any initiatives. You can also listen to our highly rated Around the Rheum podcasts. Thank you to all who are supporting the CRA Foundation (CRAF). If you have not already done so, please visit the CRAF website. Under the leadership of our Chair, Dr. Vandana Ahluwalia, CRAF provides us with an opportunity to build a sizeable endowment that will help fund research, training and advocacy through grants, bursaries and other programs.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to be your president and I look forward to the next time we meet. Best wishes for a fantastic summer.

*Nigil Haroon, MD, PhD, DM, FRCPC, MBA
President, Canadian Rheumatology Association
Head, Division of Rheumatology,
University Health Network and Mount Sinai Hospital
Associate Professor of Medicine and Rheumatology,
University of Toronto
Senior Scientist, Schroeder Arthritis Institute
Toronto, Ontario*