

The CRA Practice Reflection Award: Dr. Janet Roberts and Dr. Carrie Ye

The use of immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI) has steadily increased over the last decade and heralded a new era of cancer treatment, offering hope and significant survival benefit for many with advanced-stage malignancies. The interplay between autoimmunity and cancer has been magnified with the use of ICI through the development of off-target effects termed immune-related adverse events (irAE). Rheumatologists have now become an integral part of the oncology team, often called upon to diagnose and walk the fine line of managing these patients with immunosuppression. As rheumatologists, we are no strangers to managing rare conditions or navigating diagnostic uncertainty. However, the rapidly evolving nature of this field of medicine has made it challenging to keep abreast of the latest literature on this topic. Support of colleagues and the ability to discuss difficult cases, particularly with those who see large volumes of these patients across the world, is paramount in supporting Canadian rheumatologists who are faced with the challenges of managing these patients.

The Canadian Research Group of Rheumatology in Immuno-oncology (CanRIO), with members from nine academic sites across Canada, has been at the forefront of both research and educational initiatives in the management of rheumatic complications of cancer immunotherapy. Through the assistance of a CIORA grant we have developed the first online educational platform of its kind (*canrio.ca*), with the ultimate goal of improving care of cancer patients across Canada who develop rheumatic irAE or have pre-existing rheumatic disease, through collaboration, education, and research. As part of this educational initiative, we created five case-based learning modules on the topics of immune-related arthritis, myositis, vasculitis, sarcoid-like reactions, and the management of patients with pre-existing rheumatic diseases. The website also serves as the platform to register for bi-monthly case-based rounds which offer a unique opportunity for rheumatologists across Canada to meet with leading experts around the world to discuss challenging cases and ultimately learn from each other. We look forward to building upon the resources developed thus far to strive to meet the urgent need for education on this topic, and to ensure Canadian rheumatologists are optimally positioned to manage this patient population in concert with our oncology partners.



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