

BRINGING TOGETHER RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION TO IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF ARTHRITIS IN CANADA

On November 21 – 23 2013 the Arthritis Alliance of Canada hosted its inaugural conference. With more than 35 member organizations, the Alliance brings together arthritis health care professionals, researchers, funding agencies, governments, voluntary sector agencies, industry and, most importantly, representatives from arthritis consumer organizations from across Canada. While each member organization continues its own work, the Alliance provides an opportunity for each of the organizations to stay linked with other arthritis organizations.

This conference brought together close to 200 of Canada's leading researchers and healthcare practitioners in the field of arthritis, as well as patients, with a single commitment to advancing innovation and patient care for Canadians with arthritis. The Symposium showcased the latest scientific discoveries and highlighted advances in clinical practice across the country in a number of areas including: exciting new discoveries and innovations in Canadian research that hold promise of significant impacts in the near future for people living with arthritis; cutting-edge research discoveries and innovations in osteoarthritis in Canada as well as emerging research opportunities to address knowledge gaps in OA prevention and care and exciting new discoveries and innovations in inflammatory arthritis (IA) research (adult and pediatric). The conference was designed to facilitate opportunity for researchers to have discussion on applying for a national research grant in arthritis care.

BONE AND JOINT RECEIVES 2013 CIHR-IMHA KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION AWARD

Recognized for establishing national models of care and building research capacity

Bone and Joint Canada was awarded the Canadian Institutes of Health Research's Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (CIHR-IMHA) 2013 Knowledge Translation Award. Ms. Eve Adams, Member of Parliament for Mississauga-Brampton South and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, presented the award at the opening reception of the Arthritis Alliance of Canada's Conference and Research Symposium.

"On behalf of our Government, I congratulate Bone and Joint Canada for receiving this important honour," said Parliamentary Secretary Adams. "Your leadership has improved both the care and management of musculoskeletal conditions and enhanced the quality of life of many Canadians."

BJC was formed in 2002 to represent Canada in the International Bone and Joint Decade launched by the World Health Organization in 2000 as a global partnership to reduce the impact of musculoskeletal health



conditions. BJC received the award in recognition of its outstanding contribution over the last ten years in engaging stakeholders, building research capacity, sharing best practices, and developing and implementing national models of care for hip and knee replacement and hip fracture.

"We are pleased to recognize the outstanding work of Bone and Joint Canada with this award," said Dr. Hani El-Gabalawy, Scientific Director of CIHR-IMHA. "They are an important partner and have contributed greatly in moving research into action and fostering the development of young researchers in the field of musculoskeletal health."

The CIHR-IMHA Knowledge Translation Award honours and supports exemplary knowledge translation efforts and activities of an exceptional individual, team or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to increasing the application of research findings, improving the health of Canadians, health services and products or strengthening the health care system.

BJC exists as a '*knowledge to action*' organization, with its primary mandate to improve the MSK health of Canadians through a process of knowledge exchange to facilitate adoption of best practices and promote efficient health service delivery. BJC received the CIHR KT award for the development and implementation of national projects in hip and knee replacement and hip fracture in which the change management strategy that was developed by BJC was extremely successful in implementing clinical, operational and system improvements.

BJC has identified significant opportunities to use this strategy to prevent injuries and to improve care in the primary care sector to manage pain and disability associated with musculoskeletal conditions. Work is currently underway to develop a national strategy for low back pain, to identify best practices in the management of early to moderate osteoarthritis as well as to implement the injury prevention program called the FIFA 11+ that reduces injury rates in youth soccer players by up to 70%. BJC is working with the Ontario Soccer Association to implement this program in 150 youth soccer clubs in Ontario.