

Raising awareness; advancing possibilities.

2008 was a banner year for CAPA!

Steering Committee members were in high demand giving voice to the patient experience and perspective through presentations at federal and provincial government meetings and at national and international scientific conferences in Canada, Europe, and the United States. It was a year of building on past successes and moving closer to achieving our goals:

- raising awareness about arthritis and other chronic auto-immune diseases to ensure timely and uniform access to appropriate and effective medications, health professionals and services;
- ensuring a meaningful voice in arthritis and related research, at all decision making levels for patients and to involve patients in health policy planning, development and decision making,
- educating the public by creating and providing information for adults and children with arthritis diseases and their support communities.

Arthritis Awareness

CAPA is a founding member of ACAP (Alliance for the Canadian Arthritis Program), and continues its involvement with arthritis stakeholders in spearheading ACAP incorporation and supporting the development of a dynamic National Arthritis Framework to improve the health of Canadians with arthritis. Steering Committee members were also involved in the development of the second edition of Arthritis in Canada – a comprehensive picture of the impact of arthritis in Canada. Arthritis in Canada will be published and available in the Fall 2009. Through CAPA's partnership with the Episodic Disability Network, the coalition of 19 member organizations were successful in demonstrating to the federal government the nature of episodic disabilities and the need to reform Employment Insurance and other private and public disability income support programs to accommodate affected individuals and encourage their return to work.

At the provincial level, Steering Committee members brought their expertise and insight to the Integrated Health Networks conference - an initial step in gathering information to successfully transform the primary health care system in BC. Saskatchewan members met with the Saskatoon Health Region's Director of Chronic Disease Management and Renal services, and the Manager of Chronic Disease Management to dialogue about the prevalence of arthritis in Canada and the need to create patient centered models of primary care delivery with a focus on arthritis prevention and care. And in New Brunswick CAPA members were instrumental in creating a Health Charities Coalition and meeting with the Minister of Health to convey the need and importance of catastrophic drug coverage in the province.

Medication Access & Safety

Access to medications has always been a top priority for CAPA. Research demonstrates that access to new medications decreases the demand for primary care and scarce health human resources. Because patient input is crucial CAPA continues its involvement with Health Canada modernizing the Drug Review process, and as a working member of Health Canada's Expert Advisory Committee on the Vigilance of Health Products.

The trust our members place in CAPA to carry their issues and concerns to Canada's leaders is what keeps us moving forward

In addition to providing the patient perspective at the Post Market Drug Safety and Effectiveness Workshop in May leading to the new Drug Safety and Effectiveness Network (DSEN), CAPA was integral to The Patented Medicine Prices Review Board Working Group on defining Therapeutic Improvement. The new guidelines will go into effect in January 2010. CAPA is also pleased to have had a member elected Chair of The Best Medicines Coalition.

Research

CAPA's involvement on the Interagency Advisory Panel on Research Ethics, research advisory boards, committees and as co-investigators, collaborators and consultants on research studies speak to the value we place on research. Last year arthritis consumers participated in meetings with The Canadian Rheumatology Research Consortium (CRRC) to explore barriers and develop solutions to clinical trial participation in Canada. It is the first time consumers have been invited to participate in CRRC meetings. Steering Committee members also lent their voice to support research grant applications.

Public Involvement & Innovation

Beyond our formal participation at conferences and on committees and boards, Steering Committee members wrote letters to health ministers, newspapers, policy makers and to federal party leaders and candidates seeking our vote in the Fall 2008 election. Our efforts achieved small yet rewarding results. But by far our proudest moment came with the launch on January 22nd, of our independent web site. Designed by CAPA members in consultation with The Wire, a Toronto based Internet Service provider and website developer, CAPA's new home was fashioned for maximum interaction with our members and all people with arthritis.



Member built – member driven www.arthritispatient.ca

The Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance is delighted to announce its brand new, independent website.

The new site makes it easy to access information about CAPA activities both past and present, find advocacy tools to assist in voicing your concerns, and use features that allow you to talk to us and share information with your friends.

We are particularly excited about our poll feature that permits us to quickly determine your perspective on current health issues, which helps CAPA represent Canadians with arthritis.

Visit arthritispatient.ca, and tell your friends, family and perfect strangers about it. Let us know your opinion. We really do want to know what you think!

About Us

CAPA believes the first expert in arthritis is the person who has it.

CAPA is a grass-roots, patient-driven, independent, national education and advocacy organization with members and supporters across Canada. It creates links between Canadians with arthritis, assists them to become more effective advocates and seeks to improve the quality of life of all people living with the disease. The organization communicates the latest in health policy issues and knowledge gained from research through its website and quarterly newsletter.

Membership is free to all Canadians with arthritis and all others who support CAPA's goals.

2008/09 Steering Committee members

- Colleen Maloney BC
- Lorena Totton AB
- Anne Dooley* SK
- Denise Gettle SK
- Susan Borwick ON
- Laurie Proulx ON
- Louise Bergeron PQ
- Marcel Ruest PQ
- Linda Wilhelm* NB
- Anne Fouillard NS

*ex officio

CAPA can be reached at:
www.arthritispatient.ca

Statement of Financial Position

Mar 31, 2009

| | |
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| Current Assets | |
| Cash | 55,548 |
| | <u>55,548</u> |
| Long-Term Assets | |
| None | |
| | <u>55,548</u> |
| Current Liabilities | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 637 |
| | <u>637</u> |
| Net Assets | |
| Opening balance | 28,327 |
| Current surplus (deficit) | 26,585 |
| | <u>54,912</u> |
| | <u>55,548</u> |

