

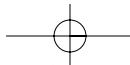
Creating Links between Canadians in the fight against Arthritis

**Canadian Arthritis
Patient Alliance**

*Working with The Arthritis Society to make a
difference in the lives of people with arthritis*



2003 Annual Report



Canadian Arthritis
Patient Alliance

*Working with The Arthritis Society to make a
difference in the lives of people with arthritis*



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President's Report

CAPA was officially launched in August 2001. In the short time since then, CAPA has made great strides. Despite important gains in access to biologics, detailed below, the battle for access to the right medications at the right time continues. We have joined the Best Medicines Coalition in seeking a consumer voice on the provincial Common Drug Review and we continue to advocate for faster drug approvals by Health Canada. We have also spoken out to provincial governments, the federal Minister of Health and the media on the negative impact that Internet pharmacies may have on Canadian access to medications.



A major achievement in 2003 was the launch of two communications instruments. CAPA Voices is a quarterly newsletter that offers a wide range of valuable information to our members. Between issues of Voices, we send out News Alerts when we need to communicate urgently with members. We are proud of the professional quality of these communications, produced largely by a small group of CAPA members.

Many of our members are active advocates. Some participate in multiple arthritis-related organizations. As people living with arthritis, we have an expertise which is essential and relevant to the successful work of these organizations. Each year, people with arthritis are recognized by organizations and communities for their volunteer contributions. In 2003, several CAPA members received the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal for their volunteer arthritis advocacy: Helen Klassen, BC; Glen Urqhart, BC; Linda D'Angelo, AB; Anne Dooley, SK; Catherine Hofstetter, ON; Lynn Cooper, ON; Jim Davies, ON; Ann Qualman, QC; Jean Legare, QC; Linda Wilhelm, NB.

In 2003, we expanded and strengthened our links with other organizations so that we can better achieve our objectives. We are grateful for their collaboration and for the support we receive from The Arthritis Society, our principal partner, and from our Associate Members, people who do not have arthritis but who support our cause.

Ann Qualman
President, Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance

*CAPA's mission is to
create links between
Canadians with
arthritis, assist them to
become more effective
advocates and seek to
improve the quality of
life of all people living
with arthritis.*

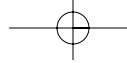


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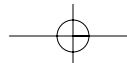
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2003 Highlights

Partnerships and Collaborations

CAPA has links with at least 25 national arthritis and health-related organizations. In addition, individual CAPA members work in common cause with a variety of local and provincial organizations.

At a national level, our most active collaborations are those with Advocare, the Alliance for the Canadian Arthritis Program, the Bone and Joint Decade, Best Medicines Coalition, the Canadian Arthritis Network Consumer Advisory Council, the Cochrane Musculoskeletal Review Group, the Disability Tax Credit Coalition, Health Canada.

CAPA Voices Newsletter

CAPA Voices is a quarterly e-letter launched in 2003, to provide the means for CAPA members across Canada to identify and respond to common concerns, to learn from each other and to deal effectively with arthritis related issues on a national scale. The Communications Committee, all volunteers and with input from other CAPA members, designs and writes CAPA Voices.

Arthritis In Canada

Arthritis in Canada: *An Ongoing Challenge* is a comprehensive publication launched in September illustrating the growing service gap created by the ever-increasing numbers of people with arthritis and the decline of services and providers to people with arthritis.

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Among its considerations are primary care, specialty care, mortality and drug use surveillance data.

This Health Canada publication was a joint effort of stakeholder groups including The Arthritis Society (TAS), Health Canada, the Arthritis Community Research and Evaluation Unit, (ACREU), and the Canadian Arthritis Network (CAN). Numerous other stakeholders groups were involved in its development review including CAPA, hospital and university researchers, clinicians, and provincial ministries and health. CAPA member, Helen Klassen from British Columbia acted as a volunteer reviewer of the content of the publication prior to print.

The following are some facts about arthritis taken from Arthritis In Canada: *An Ongoing Challenge*.

- According to the 2000 Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), arthritis and other rheumatic conditions affects nearly 4 million Canadians aged 15 and older – approximately 1 in 6 people
- Two thirds of those with arthritis are women

- Nearly 3 out of every 5 people with arthritis are younger than 65 years of age
- By 2026, an estimated 6 million Canadians 15 years of age and older will have arthritis

Available both in English and French, Arthritis in Canada can be obtained in PDF format from the Arthritis Society's Web site:

- English: www.arthritis.ca/mediacentre
- French: www.arthrite.ca/centredesmedias

The Year Ahead

2004 Strategic Plan

In November of 2003 the CAPA Steering Committee reviewed the year's accomplishments and refined its strategic plan for 2004. Our Mission statement and Strategic Objectives remain the same since 2001.

We anticipate many opportunities in 2004 to participate and make a difference in our key priority areas and we will be calling on members, associate members and other supporters. But don't wait for an invitation. We invite you to contact any of us at any time with your suggestions. Please see the CAPA Steering Committee contact list attached.

Mission Statement: CAPA is a national organization, which 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 arthritis.

Strategic Objectives:

- Work with The Arthritis Society to implement our national and provincial advocacy strategies.
- Support individual members and groups in implementing advocacy activities including the continuing education of advocates.
- Increase the number of CAPA members and their involvement in arthritis advocacy.
- Increase public awareness of the devastating effects of arthritis including pain and disability.
- Increase the support and collaboration of government and other bodies in order to meet CAPA's objectives.

Strategic Priorities for 2004:

- To obtain timely access to appropriate medications, health professionals and services
- To ensure a meaningful voice in research, planning and policy development
- To support people disabled with arthritis in their efforts to obtain services and other assistance they require

Appendix

CAPA Steering Committee – Contact List

Name	Province	Email
Colleen Maloney	British Columbia	azmony@shaw.ca
Liza Lorenzetti	Alberta	monaliza@telus.net
Anne Dooley	Saskatchewan	annemd@shaw.ca
Corrie Billedeau	Manitoba	billedeau@mts.net
June Henderson	Ontario	tbear@idirect.com
Mary Kim	Ontario	marykim_ca@yahoo.ca
Ann Qualman	Quebec	aqualman@cyberus.ca
Jean Légaré	Quebec	jlégaré@sympatico.ca
Linda Wilhelm	New Brunswick	helm@nb.sympatico.ca
Joan Bona	Nova Scotia	bona.loujo@ns.sympatico.ca
Denis Morrice *	TAS – National	dmorrice@arthritis.ca
Lisa Cirella *	TAS-National	lcirella@arthritis.ca

* ex-officio members

Membership Information

If you are not yet a member or associate member of CAPA, we invite you to join at www.arthritis.ca/capa

The benefits of being a member include:

- Interaction with other arthritis advocates across the country via email and the CAPA Discussion Board

- 4 issues of CAPA voices electronic newsletter per year
- Opportunity to contribute to the CAPA Voices newsletter
- News Alert updates on advocacy issues as they happen
- Helping to make a difference

CAPA has no membership fees. Once you have filled out the online form and clicked "submit" you will receive an email message to confirm that your information was received and to welcome you to the CAPA organization.

Currently, there are 356 CAPA members across the country and 68 Associate CAPA members. Our current membership profile by province across the country includes:

Province	# of CAPA members
British Columbia	78
Alberta	42
Saskatchewan	15
Manitoba	16
Ontario	99
Quebec	54
New Brunswick	21
Nova Scotia	13
PEI	4
Newfoundland & Labrador	14

www.arthritis.ca/capa