

AHPA in Ottawa: 2013

By Jennifer Burt, BScPT

The Arthritis Health Professions Association (AHPA) was pleased to join the CRA for the Annual Scientific Conference and Meeting. This year featured our 5th annual pre-course for arthritis health professionals; the event was well attended with an excellent line-up of speakers including Dr. Janet Pope, Dr. Andy Thompson, Dr. Ed Keystone, Susan Bartlett (PhD, Clinical Psychologist); and Asuko Brittain (Certified Hand Physiotherapist).

Awards for the best allied health abstracts submitted to the conference were presented during the AHPA AGM. The Carolyn Thomas Award, given to the first author of the best scientific abstract, was established in honour of Carolyn Thomas, a founding member of the AHPA. It was awarded to two recipients this year, Sennait Yohannes and Sydney Lineker. The Barbara Hanes Memorial Award, given to the primary author of the best abstract submitted by an occupational therapist, was established by the AHPA in honour of Barbara Hanes, an Occupational Therapy Director at The Arthritis Society, Ontario Division. This year's recipient was Karine Toupin-April. The Best Trainee Abstract Award was established this year to recognize the work of an arthritis health professional trainee. The recipient was Sabrina Cavello, who presented her research in a podium presentation.

Through the generous support of The Arthritis Society (TAS), AHPA awarded two \$2,500 grants. The two recipients were Lucie Brosseau and Dr. Juris Lazovskis. The Arthritis Research Foundation (ARF) provided funding to allow AHPA to award its first ARF Movement and Mobility Award as a \$5,000 grant to Lucie Brosseau.

The AHPA presented a Clinical Innovation Award to recognize members who have designed and implemented an innovative clinical project or related initiative that benefits the lives of Canadians living with arthritis. This year's winners were Paul Adam, Lori Cyr, Susan Carr, Domenica Knezy, and Shirin Kazemi for their work related to the Inflammatory Arthritis Program at the Mary Pack Arthritis Program in British Columbia.



Ms. Kathryn Drouin receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award for her devoted service to the AHPA.

The Extraordinary Service Award, which recognizes contributions an AHPA board member has made in advancing the mission, vision, and goals of our association, was awarded to Karen Gordon. Karen has contributed countless hours and dedication to the association since joining the board in 2008 as Communications Chair and AHPA NewsBrief Editor.

The Lifetime Achievement Award presented to an AHPA member who has attained a noted level of excel-

lence in the field of rheumatology by having made a significant contribution in the areas of clinical practice, research, education, academics, or administration was awarded to Kathryn Drouin. Kathy demonstrated qualities that the award represents, including mentorship, initiative, quality, innovation, leadership, enthusiasm and an ongoing commitment in the area of rheumatology. She was a nurse manager for the past 14 years at the Arthritis Centre at The Ottawa Hospital. Kathy brought a considerable bounty of clinical trials and education expertise, including playing an important role in the development of the current application forms for biologic medications approval, pioneering the role of biologics nurse coordinator at The Ottawa Hospital, developing a referral triage tool, and acting as one of the collaborators with TAS in the development of the "Getting A Grip" online program. Patient educator, professional educator, administrator and clinical caregiver, Kathy has excelled at all of these roles. Dr. Susan Humphrey-Murto said that, "Kathy is one of the most extraordinary nurses I have had the pleasure to work with. She deserves to be acknowledged for her truly exceptional contributions to the health and welfare of rheumatology patients".

Congratulations to all of our AHPA award winners! I would also like to say thank you to the AHPA Board members as well as regional representatives for their efforts.

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