Canadian Regional Rheumatology Meetings

The focus of this issue is on Canadian regional rheumatology meetings in order to provide our readers information about all the rheumatology educational events accessible to them throughout the year. The questionnaires presented below discuss where and when the different meetings take place, as well as the mission, objectives and history of the various meetings. It is hoped that this focus on the Canadian regional rheumatology meetings will encourage participation from each region and also encourage Canadian rheumatologists to travel and experience these unique educational opportunities.

The Northwest Rheumatism Society (NWRS) Meeting

By: Kam Shojania, MD, FRCPC
President, NWRS

When does the meeting occur? Is it an annual event? What are the dates of the meeting this year?
This meeting takes place the first weekend in May. This year the meeting is being held from the evening of April 29, 2005 through to the morning of May 1, 2005.

Where does the meeting take place? Does it move from location to location each year? Where is the meeting being held this year?
This year the meeting is being held in Seattle, Washington. It typically moves between Vancouver, British Columbia, Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon. Sometimes it is held in Victoria, British Columbia.

What is the target audience for the meeting? Is it just for rheumatologists or can other physicians or allied health professionals benefit from the education? Is this meeting restricted to individuals from a certain region or can anyone register?
The target audience for this meeting includes rheumatologists from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Idaho. Recently, we have been inviting allied health professionals. Fellows from the local centres are subsidized.

What are the objectives/mission of the meeting?
The objectives are to provide educational updates on topics that are important to practicing rheumatologists. This is primarily a clinical meeting. This meeting also hopes to encourage cross-border collaboration and knowledge-sharing in a more informal atmosphere.

When was this meeting first held? Tell us about the history of the organization and the creation of the meeting?
The NWRS was formed 31 years ago to improve cooperation and camaraderie between fellow rheumatologists. Its membership is comprised of rheumatologists from five states in the United States (i.e., Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska) and three Canadian provinces (British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan). The NWRS meetings are popular for their informal and cordial atmosphere where colleagues from adjoining states and provinces participate.

What are the future plans for the meeting?
To continue doing as we have been doing.

What is the format for the meeting?
Mainly short lectures with extensive time for discussion.

What are the non-educational events featured at the meeting?
Local attractions in the three cities are frequently highlighted.

What is the cost of registration?
About $25-$50 USD, depending on membership.

Is the meeting sponsored in part by industry? Are there industry-sponsored educational lectures or seminars at the meeting?
The meeting is sponsored by industry. There are usually no industry-sponsored lectures or seminars.

Are all the educational sessions registered for Maintenance of Competence (MOCOMP) hours?
Yes. Both American and Canadian continuing medical education credits can be obtained.

How does one register to attend the meeting (contact information)?
Contact: Sarah Rice
200 Broadway
Seattle, WA 98122
Tel: 206-621-9396 Fax: 206-621-9455
Email: rices@kcmsociety.org

Why should someone attend your meeting?
This meeting is a unique and informal meeting with American and Canadian rheumatologists. There is no other regular informal meeting with our American colleagues. Interesting discussions take place regarding differences with respect to treatment approaches, drug prescribing and imaging use.

The Canadian Pediatric Rheumatology Association (CPRA)

By: David Cabral, MB, BS, FRCPC
Clinical Associate Professor (Pediatric Rheumatology)
University of British Columbia (UBC)

The upcoming meeting will be titled:
Old Challenges and New Directions in Pediatric Rheumatology: A Tribute to Dr. Ross Petty

When does the meeting occur? Is it an annual event?
What are the dates of the meeting this year?
This one-off, single event in the year of Dr. Ross Petty’s retirement from UBC is in recognition of Dr. Petty’s contributions to the local and international community of pediatric rheumatology. This meeting will be held on April 2, 2005. It also incorporates the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Pacific NorthWest Pediatric Rheumatologists (PNWPR)—an ad hoc group of academically minded pediatric rheumatologists from Washington, Montana, Oregon and British Columbia.

Where is the meeting being held?
The meeting is being held at the Chan Centre of the British Columbia Children’s Hospital, 4480 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC. As mentioned above, the meeting will be held April 2, 2005 (07:45 to 17:00).

What is the target audience for the meeting? Is it just for rheumatologists or can other physicians or allied health professionals benefit from the education? Is this meeting restricted to individuals from a certain region or can anyone register?
The meeting is for pediatric rheumatologists and associated allied health professionals, adult rheumatologists, pediatricians and any other health professionals interested in pediatric rheumatology.

What are the objectives/mission of the meeting?
As stated in the title of the meeting (above), this meeting’s objective is to be a tribute to Dr. Ross Petty, discussing the challenges and new directions in pediatric rheumatology.
What are the future plans for the meeting?
As mentioned, this is a one-off meeting, but the PNWPR will continue to have annual meetings alternating between Washington state and British Columbia.

What is the format for the meeting?
Brief, moderated presentations (20 minutes each), followed by questions and answers.

What are the non-educational events featured at the meeting?
There will be a dinner in tribute to Dr. Petty on the evening of April 2, 2005.

What is the cost of registration?

Is the meeting sponsored in part by industry? Are there industry-sponsored educational lectures or seminars at the meeting?
The meeting is sponsored, in part, by educational grants from Wyeth Pharmaceuticals and Amgen Canada Inc.; there are no specific sponsored lectures or seminars.

Are all the educational sessions registered for Maintenance of Competence (MOCOMP) hours?
The symposium will be accredited for Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) maintenance of certification.

How does one register to attend the meeting (contact information)?
Contact Georgia Petropoulos (gpetrop@cw.bc.ca) if you wish to receive information about the symposium and registration details.

Why should someone attend your meeting?
If you have an academic interest in pediatric rheumatology and/or you would like to pay tribute to Dr. Ross Petty, you should attend!

The Laurentian Conference of Rheumatology Meeting

By: Boulos Haraoui, MD, FRCPC (President, Laurentian Conference of Rheumatology) and Carol-Anne Yeadon, MD

When does the meeting occur? Is it an annual event? What are the dates of the meeting this year?
The meeting is held annually, usually in May. This year the meeting will be held from May 12-14, 2005.

Where does the meeting take place? Does it move from location to location each year? Where is the meeting being held this year?
The meeting has always been held in the Laurentian mountains north of Montreal, except for one year (2001), when it was held in nearby Montebello. This year the meeting will be held at the Château Fairmont in Mont-Tremblant, Quebec.

What is the target audience for the meeting? Is it just for rheumatologists or can other physicians or allied health professionals benefit from the education? Is this meeting restricted to individuals from a certain region or can anyone register?
The target audience for the meeting includes rheumatologists, orthopedic surgeons, physiatrists, rheumatology and internal-medicine fellows, basic scientists working in the field of rheumatology, allied health professionals, medical students, basic science graduate students and residents from other programs. There is no geographic restriction, although traditionally, the audience has come mainly from eastern Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes.

What are the objectives/mission of the meeting?
The objective is to provide a venue for clinicians, basic and clinical scientists, and others interested in rheumatic diseases to meet on an annual basis, in pleasant surroundings, and carry out fruitful exchanges of ideas and knowledge on the recent progress made in research and in the treatment of rheumatic diseases. The meeting program also aims to reflect the work of local researchers and the preoccupations of local clinicians. The presence of nationally and internationally renowned guest speakers has always been an integral part of the conference, along with the opportunity to have discussions in a convivial atmosphere.
When was this meeting first held? Tell us about the history of the organization and the creation of the meeting?

The Laurentian Conference of Rheumatology has a long history, going back to the days before rheumatology was recognized as a specialty. It stems from the expansion of an earlier association, called the Section of Rheumatology, which was a division of the Medical-Chirurgical Society (Med-Chi), which was founded in 1947 by Drs. H.P. Wright and R. Dandurand, the pioneers of rheumatology in Quebec. The Section of Rheumatology was in place until 1965, at which point the name changed to the Laurentian Conference of Rheumatology.

The conference was held yearly in the Laurentians for five years and then experienced a five-year hiatus before its revival in 1974 by Dr. Roger Demers. That year the meeting was held at the Mont-Tremblant Lodge. Since then, there have been no further interruptions with the yearly meetings in the Laurentians. More recently (since 2002), the conference has been returning to Mont-Tremblant each spring and has now acquired a solid reputation as the major annual eastern-Canadian rheumatology meeting. This year marks the 36th annual edition of the Laurentian Conference of Rheumatology.

What are the future plans for the meeting?
To continue holding the annual conference well into the 21st century…as long as it continues to “age gracefully.”

How does one register to attend the meeting (contact information)?
Dr. Carol-Anne Yeadon
CHUM, Hôpital Notre-Dame
1560 Sherbrooke East
Montreal, Quebec
H2L 4M1
Tel: (514) 890-8000 ext. 28800
Fax: (514) 412-7630
E-mail: carol-anne.yeadon.chum@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

Why should someone attend this meeting?
Because it is “just right”: at a day-and-a-half duration, it is not too long, not too short; it is big enough to bring together people with varied interests relating to rheumatic diseases, yet small enough to allow for much interaction and cordial debate. There is a mix of “hot” research presented by close neighbours, as well as stimulating and challenging clinical case presentations. There are opportunities to sit back and listen to several renowned guest speakers, as well as to get up close and interact professionally and socially. It is an opportunity to celebrate the excellence of individuals who contribute to contemporary rheumatology in an outstanding way by giving awards in memory of three outstanding Montreal rheumatologists. Finally, in May, Mont-Tremblant is lovely, quiet, not too cold, not too hot, and mosquito-free.

Are all the educational sessions registered for Maintenance of Competence (MOCOMP) hours?
Yes, through the University of Alberta.

What is the format for the meeting?
The meeting consists of a mix of lectures, abstract presentations (from original, basic and clinical research), clinical case presentations and discussions, workshops and symposia.

What is the cost of registration?
$150 per registrant (includes the scientific sessions, meals and breaks) and $100 for spouses (includes meals).

Is the meeting sponsored in part by industry? Are there industry-sponsored educational lectures or seminars at the meeting?
The meeting is industry-sponsored but there is no industry involvement in terms of the topics or speakers (as per the Canadian Rheumatology Association).
The Ontario Rheumatology Association (ORA) Meeting

By: Carter Thorne
Vice-Chair, ORA
Chair of the ORA: Algis Jovaisas

When does the meeting occur? Is it an annual event?
What are the dates of the meeting this year?
The ORA meeting takes place annually, usually the weekend after Mother’s Day. This year marks the fourth annual meeting which will take place May 13-16, 2005.

Where does the meeting take place? Does it move from location to location each year? Where is the meeting being held this year?
The location for this year is not yet confirmed but for the past couple of years the meeting has taken place at the Taboo Conference Center in Muskoka.

What is the target audience for the meeting? Is it just for rheumatologists or can other physicians or allied health professionals benefit from the education? Is this meeting restricted to individuals from a certain region or can anyone register?
This meeting is for Ontario rheumatologists—community-based and university-based.

What are the objectives/mission of the meeting?
The meeting hopes to enhance clinical practice by:
1. emphasizing issues related to the business of clinical practice;
2. discussing clinical advances as they relate to clinical practice;
3. presenting and discussing “political” issues affecting clinical practice;
4. having an annual meeting of the ORA.

When was this meeting first held? Tell us about the history of the organization and the creation of the meeting.
The meeting was first held in May 2002. It came into development through a provincial continuing medical education event organized by a pharmaceutical company. Attendees were enthusiastic about the format and a steering committee was put together. The “antecedent” organization was the Rheumatology Section of the Ontario Medical Association (OMA); this group was non-functional and historical attempts to bring rheumatologists together had been unsuccessful.

The current format has attracted increasing numbers of Ontario rheumatologists (60 last year, which exceeded our target). The ORA has now subsumed the OMA Rheumatology Section and our Chair now holds the additional position of Chair of the OMA Section.

The ORA is attempting to be recognized by the Ontario Ministry of Health as the experts in arthritis care in Ontario and is attempting to forge links with other providers, including the Ministry of Health and The Arthritis Society.

What are the future plans for the meeting?
To develop a mission statement and strategic direction/objectives.

What is the format for the meeting?
Similar to the format for the Canadian Rheumatology Association meeting.

What are the non-educational events featured at the meeting?
Hiking, golf, relaxing, cycling, wine tasting.

What is the cost of registration?
$250 (plus extra for family). The $250 covers registration and hotel costs.
Is the meeting sponsored in part by industry? Are there industry-sponsored educational lectures or seminars at the meeting?

The meeting has multiple sponsors, with three levels of sponsorship, which are recognized by signage and number of representatives permitted. There are no specific industry-sponsored events.

Are all the educational sessions registered for Maintenance of Competence (MOCOMP) hours?

Yes, through the Canadian Rheumatology Association.

Rheumatology Update Meeting
A Continuing Medical Education Event of the Quebec Association of Rheumatologists (QAR)

By: Mark Hazeltine, MD

When does the meeting occur? Is it an annual event?

What are the dates of the meeting this year?
The first meeting was last year and was held from November 26-27, 2004. The next meeting is planned for November 2005.

Where does the meeting take place? Does it move from location to location each year? Where is the meeting being held this year?
The first meeting (last year) was held at the Sheraton Centre in Montreal, Quebec. No decision has been taken yet for the location of the next meeting.

Are there any restrictions in terms of who can register for the meeting?
No.

What is the target audience for the meeting? Is it just for rheumatologists or can other physicians or allied health professionals benefit from the education?
The target audience of the meeting includes rheumatologists, residents-in-training for rheumatology and internal medicine specialists.

What are the objectives/mission of the meeting?
To bring together rheumatologists from across diverse sectors, permitting the exchange of knowledge and ideas among the experts.

What are the future plans for the meeting?
To repeat the experience in 2005 and to maintain the quality of the presentations.

What is the format for the meeting?
The meeting includes educational conferences, Continuing Medical Education needs assessment evaluations, large-group discussions, including “Meet the Professor” sessions and interactive question-and-answer sessions.

What are the non-educational events featured at the meeting?
There are no non-educational events featured at the meeting, except the dinner Friday night.

What is the cost of registration?
The cost of registration is $125.

Is the meeting sponsored in part by industry? Are there industry-sponsored educational lectures or seminars at the meeting?
Yes, the meeting is sponsored in part by industry, however, there are no industry-sponsored educational lectures or seminars at the meeting.

How does one register to attend the meeting (contact information)?
Registration can occur through general email broadcast, direct mail and/or fax broadcast.

Why should someone attend your meeting?
For a number of reasons: collegiality; networking; family-oriented; “familiarity.”
Interhospital Rheumatology Meeting
A Continuing Medical Education Event of the Quebec Association of Rheumatologists (QAR)

By: Jean-Luc Tremblay, MD

When does the meeting occur? Is it an annual event?
What are the dates of the meeting this year?
The meeting last year was held September 17-18, 2004. The next meeting is planned for November 2005.

Where does the meeting take place? Does it move from location to location each year? Where is the meeting being held this year?
The first meeting (in 2004) was held at the Manoir des Sables (Estrie). In 2005, the meeting will be held at Auberge le Baluchon (Mauricie).

Is this meeting reserved for individuals from a certain region or can anyone register? Are there any other restrictions in terms of who can register for the meeting?
The meeting is restricted to members of the QAR, rheumatologist-pediatricians and residents in rheumatology.

What is the target audience for the meeting? Is it just for rheumatologists or can other physicians or allied health professionals benefit from the education?
The target audience includes members of the QAR, rheumatologist-pediatricians and residents in rheumatology.

What are the objectives/mission of the meeting?
To address all the Continuing Medical Education (CME) needs of the members of the QAR and to discuss clinical cases.

How did this meeting get started?
This meeting was organized by the general board of the QAR and then an evaluation was held to identify the needs of the members.

What are the future plans for the meeting?
We want to preserve the same objectives/format, as this has been extremely appreciated by the participants.

What is the program for the meeting?
Friday morning: Annual general assembly
Friday afternoon: Discussion of the clinical cases
Saturday morning: Symposium

What are the non-educational events featured at the meeting?
Only the dinner.

What is the cost of registration?
To be determined.

Is the meeting sponsored in part by industry? Are there industry-sponsored educational lectures or seminars at the meeting?
The meeting is sponsored in part by industry, however, all the conferences are organized by the QAR. The QAR has 100% control over the agenda.

Are all the educational sessions registered for Maintenance of Competence (MOCOMP)/Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours?
Yes.
How does one register to attend the meeting (contact information)?
Quebec Association of Rheumatologists
2 Complexe Desjardins #3000
Montreal, Quebec H3B 1G8
Phone: (514) 350-5136
Fax: (514) 350-5152
E-mail: amrq@fmsq.org

Why should someone attend this meeting?
It is interesting to attend to this meeting due to its educational aspect.

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By: Gilles Boire, MD

When does the meeting occur? Is it an annual event?
What are the dates of the meeting this year?
The meeting this year was held March 19-20, 2005. This year marks the fourth annual meeting and it is always scheduled for mid-March.

Where does the meeting take place? Does it move from location to location each year? Where is the meeting being held this year?
This year the meeting took place at the Hotel Chéribourg, Villégiature & Spa, 2603 chemin du Parc, Magog/Orford, Quebec, J1X 8C8. All the indoor meetings have been held in Magog/Orford, but mainly at the Manoir des Sables instead of the Hotel Chéribourg.

Is this meeting reserved for individuals from a certain region or can anyone register? Are there any other restrictions in terms of who can register for the meeting?
All residents from Levels I and II (R1 and R2), registered in the Programme tronc commun de médecine within the four medical faculties of Quebec (Laval, Montreal, McGill and Sherbrooke), are invited. This year, medical students who are completing their last year of training and who are selected by a Director of the Division of Rheumatology of the Faculty of Medicine, may also participate in the activity.

The residents who are registered are asked to contribute towards their accommodations, food and educational activities.

What is the target audience for the meeting? Is it just for rheumatologists or can other physicians or allied health professionals benefit from the education?
The target audience includes all residents from Levels I and II (R1 and R2) registered in the Programme tronc commun de médecine within the four medical faculties of Quebec (Laval, Montreal, McGill and Sherbrooke).

What are the objectives/mission of the meeting?
The objectives are to complete the basic rheumatologic training of the junior residents registered in the Programme tronc commun de médecine and to facilitate the orientation of certain residents towards specialized training in rheumatology.

How did this meeting get started? Please provide a brief history of the meeting.
The first meeting was held in 2002 as an intervention attempt due to the lack of recruits for rheumatology training from the various Quebec medical faculties. The organizing committee, under the direction of Dr. Denis Choquette (2002 to 2004), and now Dr. Gilles Boire (2005), was composed of rheumatologists representing each Faculty of Medicine of Quebec, as well as community rheumatologists implicated in education, a rheumatology resident and a representative of Pfizer Canada Inc.

The organizing committee defines the educational activities, the objectives of each activity and the weekend agenda. The committee also identifies the rheumatologists responsible for each educational activity. The aim in choosing the rheumatologists responsible for the educational activities is to utilize the maximum number of rheumatologist registrants.
of QAR members throughout the year and to effectively represent the geographic and facultative distribution of the QAR members.

What is the format for the meeting?
Teaching takes place on the Saturday and Sunday mornings and involves two concurrent series of three work activities (a total of six work activities). The residents are divided into six groups and move from one work activity to another. Three work activities discuss the targets of the musculoskeletal exam (hand, shoulder and knee) and enable participants to practice on Patient Partners—resources for immediate practical exercises. The three other work activities target the proper approach towards peripheral arthropathies, spondyloarthropathies, collagen diseases and lab tests.

There are also short presentations to the whole group on the current developments in the fields of vasculitis, systemic lupus erythematosus, and ankylosing spondylitis. A dermato-rheumatologic quiz ("Sherlock Holmes for Rheumatologists") is given to test the knowledge of the participants and the solutions are provided in an interactive fashion at the end of the day on Saturday.

Last, but not least, a representative of the residents specializing in rheumatology talks with the group about his/her personal motivations and the benefits of this training. Other less formal activities allow the participants to meet with practicing rheumatologists as well as representatives from each of the rheumatology training programs.

What are the non-educational events featured at the meeting?
During the afternoon on Saturday, the participants can take advantage of alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, skating, tobogganing and snowshoeing around Chéribourg and Mont Orford. At the end of the afternoon, all the participants and teachers regroup to play broomball. This year, there was a dinner and dance planned for the Saturday evening.

What is the cost of registration?
The cost for participants is $100, which includes accommodation (shared rooms), registration and meals. If accommodation is not required, the cost is $25.

Is the meeting sponsored in part by industry? Are there industry-sponsored educational lectures or seminars at the meeting?
This activity is sponsored in part by Pfizer Canada Inc., however, no pedagogical activities are industry-sponsored.

Are all the educational sessions registered for Maintenance of Competence (MOCOMP)/Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours?
This does not apply as the activity is addressed to the residents in training.

How does one register to attend the meeting?
All residents from Levels I and II (R1 and R2) registered in the four Quebec programmes tronc commun de médecine receive a personal invitation. To register for this event, please contact Ms. Nancy Fortin of the QAR by phone (514) 350-5136, fax (514) 350-5152 or email amrq@fmsq.org.

Why should someone attend this meeting?
This meeting is essentiel for all the Level I and II residents described above.

The Society of Atlantic Rheumatologists (SOAR) Meeting

By: Jamie Henderson, MD
Secretary-treasurer, Canadian Rheumatology Association

When does the meeting occur? Is it an annual event?
What are the dates of the meeting this year?
The meeting is an annual event taking place each summer. It is traditionally held over the second weekend in June. This year’s meeting will be our 22nd annual meeting and will take place June 10-12, 2005.

Where does the meeting take place? Does it move from location to location each year? Where is the meeting being held this year?
We traditionally change the meeting location each year. We have been rotating between the four Maritime provinces (Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island). Whoever hosts the meeting chooses the venue. The very first meeting was held at a large teaching hospital in Halifax, Nova Scotia but since
then, the resourceful members have switched the venue to high-quality resort destinations throughout the Maritimes to allow for the participation of spouses, family and, recently, grandparents.

At last year’s meeting, held in Prince Edward Island, the members were so enamoured with the facilities that it was unanimously agreed the next two meetings will be held at the same facility. Thus, the next SOAR meeting (June 10-12) will once again be held at Shaw’s Cottages on Brackley Beach in Prince Edward Island.

**What is the target audience for the meeting? Is it just for rheumatologists or can other physicians or allied health professionals benefit from the education? Is this meeting restricted to individuals from a certain region or can anyone register?**

The event is targeted towards rheumatologists. Other specialties participate as invited speakers. Residents-in-training also attend. We have enjoyed the participation of several rheumatologists from the state of Maine in the past several years. No upper Canadians have ever expressed an interest in attending other than as invited guests. There are currently no “laws in the books” to prevent upper Canadians from attending, but the facilities do have physical restrictions on how many people can be accommodated.

**What are the objectives/mission of the meeting?**

The objective of the meeting is to have invited speakers provide state-of-the-art lectures on topics of interest to all members. The topics and invitees for the subsequent year’s meeting are settled at the business meeting each year. The mission is to keep the meeting fun.

**When was this meeting first held? Tell us about the history of the organization and the creation of the meeting?**

Our first meeting was held in 1983 and was the brainchild of Dr. John F. Woodbury. He personally conceived the idea and hosted the first meeting. It has been enthusiastically embraced by members since then and the turnout is generally excellent. The movement from the hospital setting to the resort setting has made it a must-do event for the Maritime contingent.

**What are the future plans for the meeting?**

The future plans are to keep it going and stay below the radar.

**What is the format for the meeting? What are the non-educational events featured at the meeting?**

On Friday night, there is a welcome dinner. On Saturday morning, the meeting starts at 08:00 with a lecture from one of the invited guests. Usually, two guest speakers are invited and each gives two talks (one on Saturday and one on Sunday). The remainder of the weekend is filled by members presenting problem cases, illuminating cases, reviewing relevant topics, etc. Saturday afternoon is free time with many members opting to participate in the annual golf tournament (best-ball scramble). There are craft shops nearby to please the most discriminating shoppers. The venue this year will be only minutes away from the North Shore National Park. There will be a dinner on Saturday evening and the meeting closes after the Sunday-morning session.

**What is the cost of registration?**

No registration is charged but early registration for accommodation is recommended.

**Is the meeting sponsored in part by industry? Are there industry-sponsored educational lectures or seminars at the meeting?**

The meeting is industry-sponsored but the educational content is at the discretion of the members only. Industry representatives attend but there are no booths or other commercial activities.

**Are all the educational sessions registered for Maintenance of Competence (MOCOMP) hours?**

Yes, there is accreditation for MOCOMP.

**How does one register to attend the meeting (contact information)?**

Since “non-Maritimers” have never sought to attend this meeting, there has never been a need to designate a contact person. If someone was misguided enough to wish to attend this dull and lifeless meeting, I suppose they could send their curriculum vitae to myself [Jamie Henderson] and we could consider their attendance.

**Why should someone attend your meeting?**

I can’t think of a single reason why someone would want to come to Prince Edward Island in June and share this meeting with us. Past faculty have been sworn to secrecy. If there is a large contingent of “out-of-towners” who decide to attend, then I could foresee the need to organize a Screeching-In to try and deter them.
The Western Alliance for Rheumatology (WAR) Meeting

By: Paul Davis, MB, ChB, MRCP, FRCPC
Associate Dean and Director of CME
University of Alberta

When does the meeting occur? Is it an annual event?
What are the dates of the meeting this year?
The WAR meeting is held annually in the spring (April, May or June). This year the meeting will be held from May 20-22, 2005.

Where does the meeting take place? Does it move from location to location each year? Where is the meeting being held this year?
The meeting has a permanent venue and takes place at the Manteo Resort in Kelowna, British Columbia.

What is the target audience for the meeting? Is it just for rheumatologists or can other physicians or allied health professionals benefit from the education? Is this meeting restricted to individuals from a certain region or can anyone register?
The meeting is restricted to practicing rheumatologists (community or academic) and trainees from the four Western provinces.

What are the objectives/mission of the meeting?
1) To promote communication and collegiality between Western-Canadian rheumatologists.
2) To provide an accredited (Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada), clinical, Continuing Medical Education event.

When was this meeting first held? Tell us about the history of the organization and the creation of the meeting?
The meeting was first held in May of 2003, after extensive and careful planning by John Esdaile and Paul Davis (and their wives) over several bottles of wine at Lucy Mae Brown’s restaurant (a converted brothel!) in Vancouver.

What are the future plans for the meeting?
To keep it going as long as possible, have fun and learn.

What is the format for the meeting?
The meeting is in a clinical content format: all attendees are given 15 minutes to present something (e.g., clinical care, journal article).

What are the non-educational events featured at the meeting?
Anything and everything Kelowna has to offer!

What is the cost of registration?
The cost to register is $25.

Is the meeting sponsored in part by industry? Are there industry-sponsored educational lectures or seminars at the meeting?
Industry is invited to donate an unrestricted grant of $5000—no more, no less. There are no industry-sponsored events.

Are all the educational sessions registered for Maintenance of Competence (MOCOMP) hours?
Yes.

How does one register to attend the meeting (contact information)?
Registration can be done through the five Western-Canadian rheumatic-disease-unit (RDU) academic offices.

Why should someone attend your meeting?
Because it’s a top-quality, accredited, continuing medical education event in a “class” location with fun people!