

Society of Atlantic Rheumatologists

By Evelyn D. Sutton, MD, FRCPC

A small but enthusiastic group met at beautiful White Point Beach Resort on the weekend of June 11-12 for the annual meeting of rheumatologists wise enough to work or retire in Atlantic Canada. Wisdom is relative of course, and although I am no longer young enough to know it all (other parents of young adult children relate?), I do know that the Society of Atlantic Rheumatologists' (SOAR) annual meeting is one of the best small meetings for learning and interacting with experts, as well as maintaining connections with colleagues.

This year we were thrilled to have Drs. Dafna Gladman and Doug Smith as our invited guests. Dr. Gladman anchored Saturday morning and Dr. Smith was the cornerstone of the much coveted "morning-after-the-party" Sunday program.



Dr. Doug Smith, halfway through his 24-hour collection.

Both provided state-of-the-art lectures: Dr. Gladman on psoriasis diagnosis and management and Dr. Smith on lupus treatment and recognition of drug-induced lupus. Drs. Majed Kraishi and Pooneh Akhavan (who flew in Saturday night for a Sunday morning presentation) outlined the CRA's working group recommendations on current Canadian rheumatoid arthritis (RA) guidelines. Dr. Noreen Walsh, an eminent dermatopathologist, assisted this author in a case presentation on IgG4-related sclerosing orbital and cutaneous disease.

SOAR is not SOAR without golf and this year was no exception. Last year lightning sent teams scrambling from the course after only a few holes played, but this year we were blessed with beautiful sunshine and balmy breezes. White Point's nine-hole course is not one of Atlantic Canada's best, but then, arguably, neither are



White Point Beach Resort: where rheumatology flourishes and golf games sink.

any of the SOAR golfers! The views from several of the holes lining the coast however were nothing short of spectacular and served as a reminder of how fortunate and privileged we all are to be living in this part of the world.

Immediately after Saturday's lobster dinner, Dr. Peter Docherty hosted the golf awards ceremony. He did such an excellent job of prize selection and unbiased team score tabulation (translation, his team didn't win) we may adhere to the adage that no good deed should go unpunished and appoint him as lifetime tournament organizer! Campfire and s'mores for the kids, music and dancing for the adults completed Saturday night's activities, and at Sunday morning's business meeting Dr. Sylvie Ouellette was voted our next president. SOAR 2012 will be either at Fox Harbour or back in PEI, but wherever it is, I know I will make every effort to attend. Best wishes to all!

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Some of those who SOAR (left to right): Dr. Evelyn Sutton, Mrs. Jen Khanna, Dr. Verinder Khanna, Dr. Dafna Gladman, Dr. Jamie Henderson and his wife, Dr. Barbara Bulleid.