

Eastern Ontario Rheumatology Annual Meeting

By John Thomson, MD, FRCPC

For the past 15 years, the rheumatologists of the Eastern Ontario region have been getting together for an annual educational meeting. Rheumatologists from Ottawa, Kingston, and Peterborough have come to appreciate our little gathering as a very valuable and unique regional experience, full of learning, camaraderie, and fun.

The meeting began as an industry-sponsored symposium, but as times changed it became an accredited meeting arranged by the group itself. Traditionally, we have had our meeting at the Chateau Montebello in Montebello, Quebec, about one hour east of Ottawa. The Chateau, an historic massive log structure built during the depression, is fantastic any time of year—a winter wonderland on the banks of the Ottawa River.

Our meeting spans one weekend. We gather on Friday evening and lectures start early Saturday morning. We try to finish up by early afternoon to allow us to enjoy the venue. Our annual dinner is on Saturday evening, followed again Sunday morning by another round of lectures.

Our lectures are guided by our needs assessment. We usually have one or two out-of-town speakers, but make good use of Ottawa area experts also. Over the past few years, meeting participants have presented interesting cases to the group. We also have an annual business meeting at the conclusion of our programme. Plans for upcoming meetings are discussed and regional issues are addressed.

Our little meeting is a special get-together. We learn, we discuss, we laugh, and we enjoy the camaraderie. Eastern Ontario has its own flavor and style, and once a year we get together and celebrate and take advantage of the wonderful group we have in this part of the world.

John Thomson, MD, FRCPC

*Past President, Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA)
Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine,
Division of Rheumatology, University of Ottawa
Staff, The Ottawa Hospital
Ottawa, Ontario*

Scientific Committee

By Joanne Homik, MD, MSc, FRCPC

Well, it was hard to beat the last Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) annual general meeting in Cancun, but this year's CRA Scientific Committee is going to try! We will be in beautiful Victoria, British Columbia, at the historic Fairmont Empress Hotel and Victoria Conference Centre. So that we can take advantage of the flowering trees and nice weather, the meeting will occur a bit later this year, taking place between March 28-31, 2012.

We will be planning an excellent range of topics, speakers and formats as accompaniment. The break in our North American schedule provided the opportunity to incorporate some of the successful features of the Cancun meeting. As such, we will be extending the trainee day to a full-day format and starting the general meeting with the national update at 5 p.m., to be followed by a wine and cheese reception. The trainee podium presentations will take place the next day; also scheduled is a plenary session where the top-ranked submitted abstracts will have an oral presentation. Building on the success of previous poster tours, those will continue as well. Our sponsored satellite symposia will take

place every morning with breakfast. We hope you'll join us in lovely Victoria next March for an excellent CRA meeting!

Joanne Homik, MD, MSc, FRCPC

*Associate Professor of Medicine,
Director, Division of Rheumatology,
University of Alberta
Chair, Scientific Committee, Canadian Rheumatology
Association (CRA)
Edmonton, Alberta*

