

# Greetings from the CRA President

By James Henderson, MD, FRCPC

Another Christmas season is upon us. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a wonderful holiday greeting. I hope everyone is able to spend quality time with family and friends over the holidays.

The Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) board has had a busy season tending to the many facets of the organization. Dr. Joanne Homik and the scientific committee are working to organize our annual meeting in Victoria this coming March. Many of the details are finalized and the program should be exciting for all members. The weather should be spring-like and will provide welcome relief from the winter ahead.

We have a new chair for the website committee, with Dr. Mark Matsos from Hamilton currently supervising an upgrade to the website that will allow us to do more than previously. We are aiming to have educational programs on the site once the upgrade is complete. Registration for the annual meeting will be done online. We are looking forward to the launch.

Dr. Shahin Jamal has taken over the reins of the Therapeutic Committee and there has been a buzz over the recent publication of the CRA guidelines. This has been a product of significant work by a subcommittee headed by Dr. Vivian Bykerk. The guidelines serve to solidify the best practices for treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. Congratulations to Vivian and her group on a job well done.

The *Journal of Rheumatology (JRheum)* continues to be successful in paying down the debt we incurred with the purchase. Dr. Arthur Bookman (along with Dr. Michel Zummer and Dr. Gunnar



CRA President Dr. James Henderson

Kraag) are managing the journal on our behalf. The board gets reassuring updates on a regular basis.

The board now has the responsibility of running the Canadian Initiative for Outcomes in Rheumatology Care (CIORA); Dr. Paul Haroui is chairing the committee that supervises the activities. We will be funding projects for our fifth season this year.

I am happy to report that the organization is strong, and with many members volunteering their time and energy, we are

moving confidently into the future.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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President Henderson reeling in his yearly greetings!