



CANADIAN
ARTHRITIS
NETWORK | LE RÉSEAU
CANADIEN
DE L'ARTHRITE

COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

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Consumer Advisory Council

The Consumer Advisory Council is an integral partner in the Canadian Arthritis Network's (CAN) vision of **a world free of arthritis**. On behalf of people with arthritis, the Council contributes to improving the relevance and accessibility of CAN's work. It is comprised of a diverse membership representing a wide range of arthritis diseases and professional experience, ages, cultures, languages and geographic regions.

Council members are responsible for supporting the dissemination of arthritis research information to people with arthritis. They collaborate with other patient-centered arthritis organizations on initiatives and liaise with government on arthritis advocacy issues.

Developing partnerships with other arthritis patient groups ensures broad community representation and participation in the work of the Council and CAN. Accordingly, people with arthritis from other organizations are invited to participate on the Council as allied members.

Scientific and Medical Advisory Council

The Scientific and Medical Advisory Council (SMAC) is composed of leading international members of the scientific and medical communities representing the different strategic areas of the Network (i.e. Osteoarthritis, Inflammatory Joint Diseases and Bioengineering for the Restoration of Joint Function). SMAC membership is reviewed annually to ensure the appropriate levels of scientific expertise are present.

Network grant applications are assessed by SMAC for scientific excellence and other criteria, such as the following: the potential for intellectual property; the ability to decrease the economic burden of arthritis; and, the opportunity to strengthen existing or new partnerships. Members also offer strategic advice to best position CAN research and strategic directions in the global arthritis research context.

Research Management Committee

The Research Management Committee (RMC) reports to the Board of Directors and is responsible for the Network's strategic plan, grant application review and selection, monitoring progress of research projects, identifying and ensuring effective transfer of Network innovations with potential commercial or social benefit, and providing oversight of Network operations and budget allocations. Members of the Network and representatives from the public and private sectors sit on RMC.

Training and Education Committee

The Training and Education Committee (TEC), which reports to the RMC, consists of CAN members, industry representatives and current CAN trainees. TEC develops training programs that will enhance recruitment, training and retention of outstanding new researchers in research areas and technologies critical to Canadian productivity, economic growth, public policy and quality of life. TEC promotes a trans-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach to research; it encourages trainees to consider the economic, social and ethical implications of their work; and, provides trainees with enhanced skills and experiences that will increase their value to prospective employers. TEC reviews training award applications and makes recommendations on their relative merit.