

**Symposium I – A Celebration of CAN’s Successes**

# **“Leading Arthritis Clinical Research In Canada”**



Canadian Rheumatology  
Research Consortium

Consortium canadien de  
recherche en rhumatologie

**Dr. Edward Keystone, Chairman, CRRCC  
Halifax NS  
October 12, 2007**

# Outline

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- CRRC's goals and objectives at the time of establishment
- CRRC's impact as a trial network in conducting and facilitating clinical research in Canada
- CRRC's future as an independent not-for-profit research organization

# CRRC Mission

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Increase the volume and scope of rheumatology clinical trials conducted in Canada.

# CRRC Goals

- Provision of “one-stop shopping” for clinical trial sponsors through the establishment of a centralized database for investigator and site profile information to assist sponsors with site selection.
- Establishment of a clinical trials patient registry to enhance recruitment.
- Development of quality assurance programs, credentialing of clinical trials personnel and funding for investigator-driven research.
- Development of an infrastructure to expedite translational research.

# CRRC Evolution – Launch to 2007

December 2002 - Incorporated

November 2003 - CRRC Launch

January 2004 - First Trial to CRRC

- Rheumatoid Arthritis

2006 - Expanded Indication

- Psoriatic Arthritis
- Ankylosing Spondylitis
- Osteoarthritis

2007 - CANIOS & SPARCC partnerships

# IMPACT AS A TRIAL NETWORK

# “CRRC is One of CAN’s GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS”

“CRRC’s clinical leaders have worked to increase the capacity and quality of clinical research in Canada.”

# Increase Capacity of Clinical Research

# CRRC Membership Update

## 58 Rheumatology Trialists:

- British Columbia (8)
- Alberta (6)
- Saskatchewan (2)
- Manitoba (3)
- Ontario (21)
- Quebec (13)
- New Brunswick (1)
- Nova Scotia (2)
- Newfoundland (2)



**CAN-CRRC Dual Membership: 15**

**CRRC-CAN Clinical Associate Members: 6**

## New Relationships:

SPARCC ~5 new CRRC members

CaNIOS ~17 new members

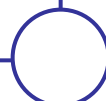
# Clinical Trial Activity

## Profile with Industry

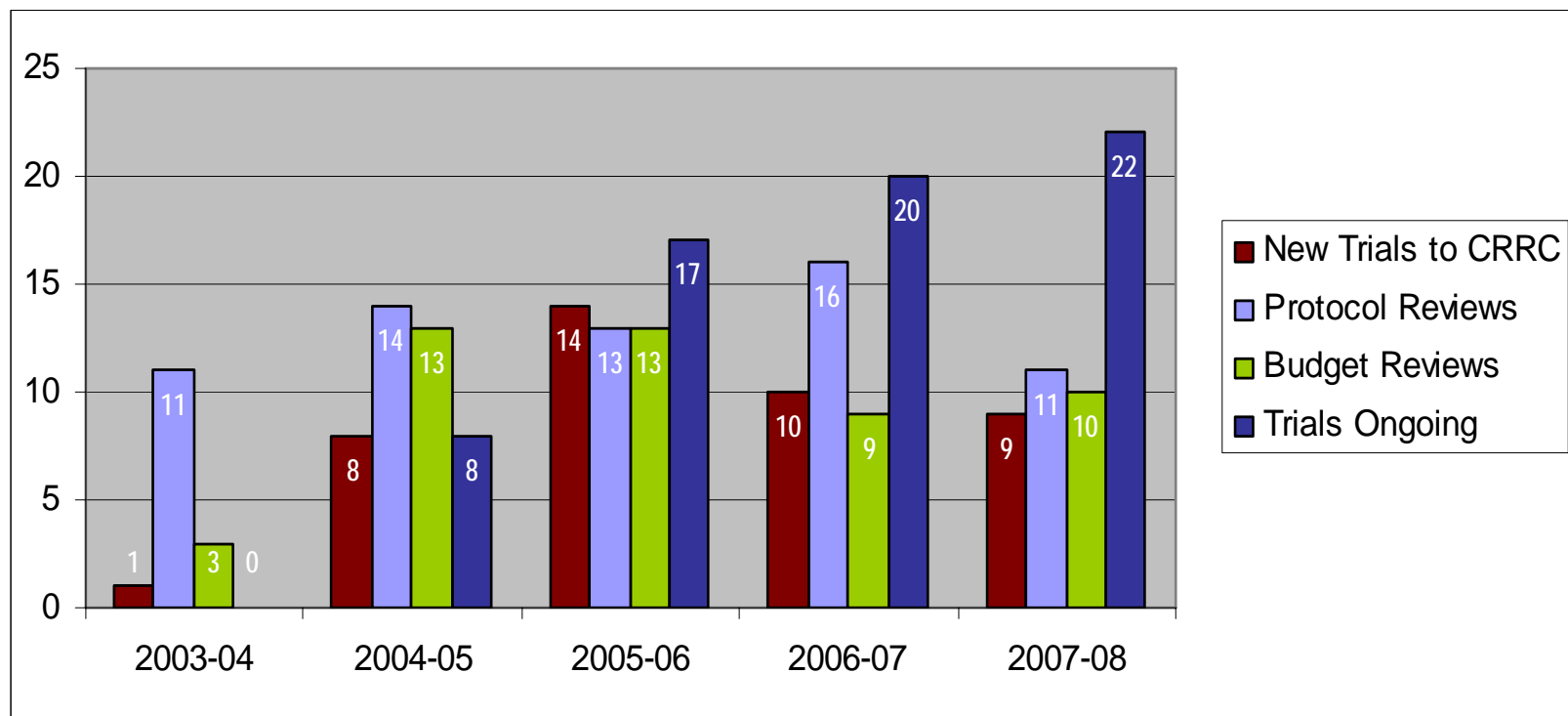
- 21 Pharmaceutical/Biotechnology Companies
- 11 Contract Research Organizations

## Work Performed

- 52 Protocol Reviews
- 36 Clinical Trials Initiated
- 34 Novel Therapies



## Trial-Related Activities (“Work”) by Fiscal



# Therapeutic Targets

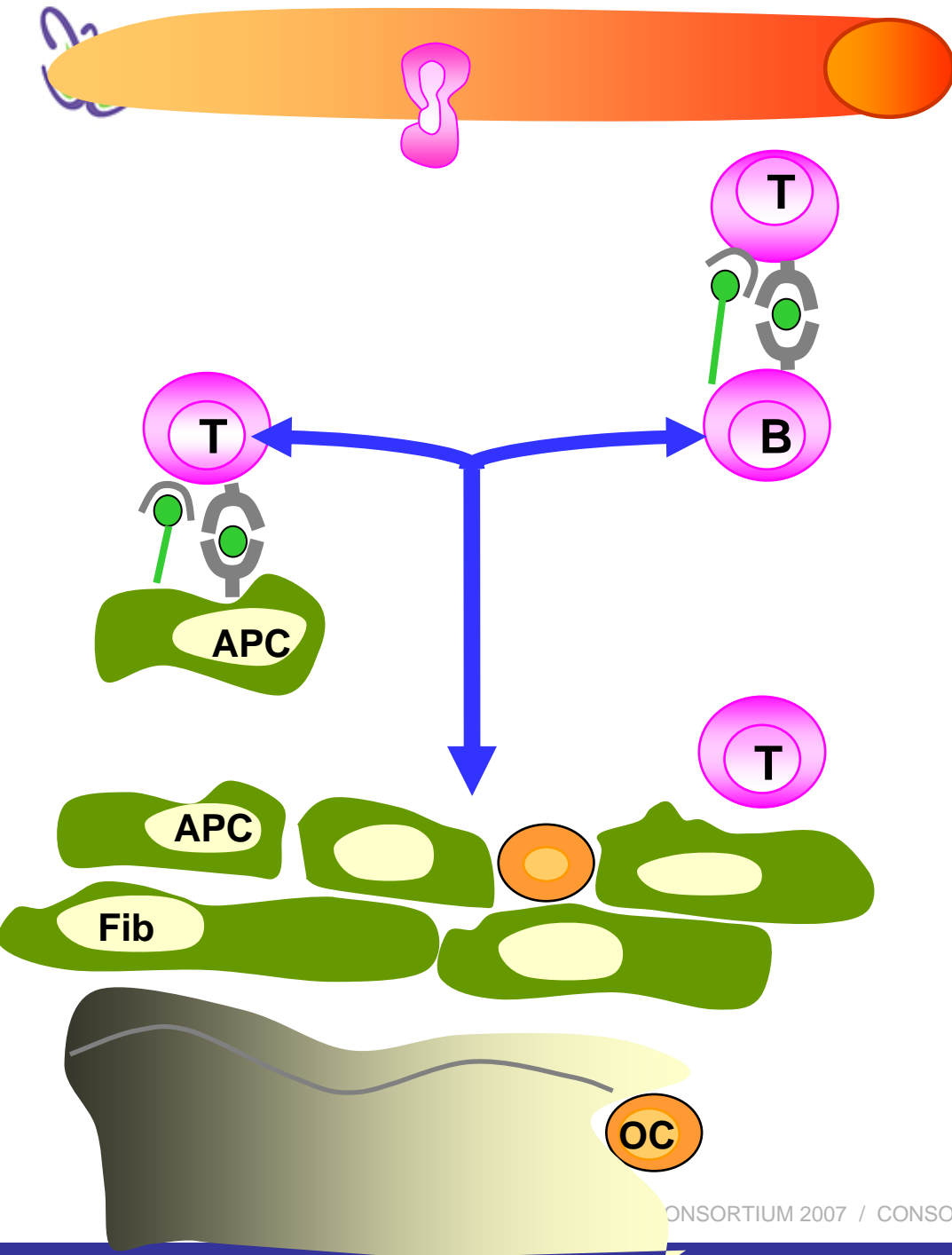
Adhesion molecules  
T/B Cell + T/APC

Tri-molecular complex  
Co-stimulation molecules

Cytokines

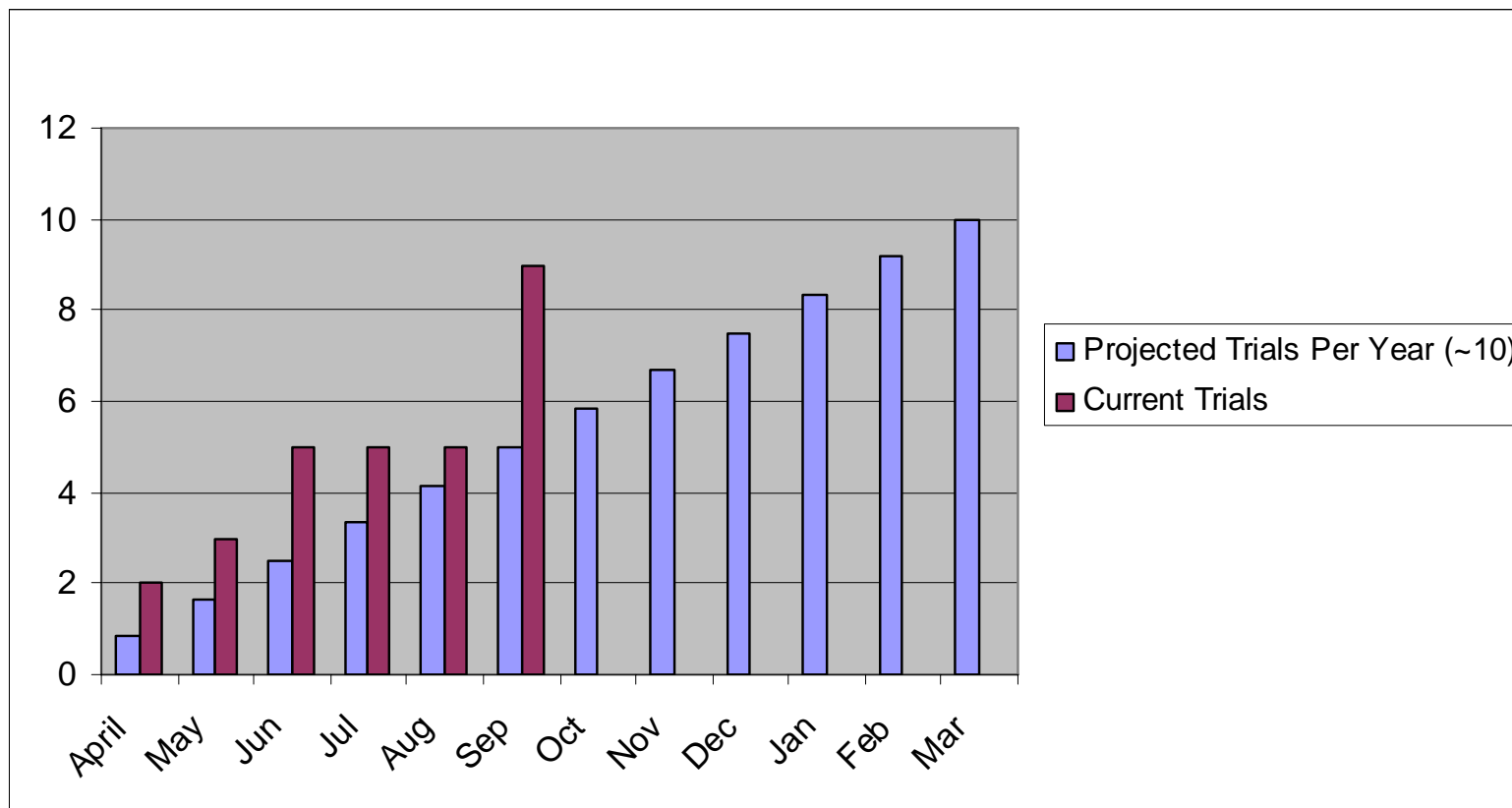
Synoviocytes  
Proteolytic enzymes  
Angiogenesis

Osteoclast



# CRRC Trial Activity 2007-08 Fiscal

*Actual (9) vs. Target (~10 trials/year generates enough revenue to offset expenses)*



**Additional trials under discussion for this fiscal: 13**

# Increase Quality of Clinical Research

# CRRC Initiative - Provide SOPs & Training to CRRC Members & Coordinators

Co-Founder - Network of the Clinical Research Networks (N2)

- Coalition to collaborate to address clinical research needs and challenges on a national level

Create National Resources / Share Best Practices

- Standard Operating Procedures compliant with Canada/US regulatory requirements, ICH Good Clinical Practice Guidelines, Tri-Council Policy Statement
- Online Good Clinical Practice Training Materials
- Partnership with the CIHR Clinical Research Initiative

# Enabling Best Practices

Enhance Trial Awareness & Recruitment	Increase Capacity	Leadership Development Program	Industry Partnership Strategy
Consumer Needs Assessment	<b>Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)</b>	<b>Enhance the Profile of Canadian Rheumatologists</b>	Enhance Canada's Competitiveness
Trials Education	Orientation Manual & Mentoring Program	<b>Protocol Reviews &amp; Trial Design Guidelines</b>	<b>Industry Meeting – ACR 2005</b>
Trials Awareness	<b>Investigator &amp; Coordinator Training (N2 &amp; CIHR)</b>	Leadership Development	<b>Contract &amp; Ethics Streamlining (CAHO &amp; CMPA contributor)</b>

Red indicates progress or activity underway

# CRRC's FUTURE

# Current Goals

- Consumer participation
- Enhance trial awareness and recruitment
- Enhance Canada's competitiveness
- Streamline contract and ethics processes
- Continuing evolution of CAN-CRRC relationship

# Evolution of the CAN-CRRC Relationship

## - CAN Legacy

- Clinical trials patient registry
- Tissue/ bio banking (FIJD & beyond)
  - Pharmacogenomics, pharmacogenetics
- Disease surveillance

**CAN**

- Clinical data to inform basic research
- Translational research
- Validation of CAN member diagnostics (biomarkers, imaging)

**CRRC**

- Evaluation of CAN member therapies
- Industry-sponsored investigator driven trials - engage basic scientists in clinical research

**Responsibility for maintaining this supporting infrastructure**

# Conclusion:

## What *HAVE* We Accomplished?

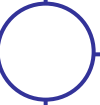
Created a sustainable non-profit organization to enhance the volume and scope of clinical trials

- Centralized database and services to expedite trials
- Raised the international profile of Canadian investigators
- Improved scientific and ethical standards of trials
- Become a valued drug development partner through delivery of business caliber services
- Spearheaded the establishment of a national organization that will enhance clinical research in Canada
- Basic infrastructure for translational research

## Conclusion:

# What **CAN** We Accomplish?

- More robust infrastructure to enhance translational research
  - > National biologic registry
  - > Biobank / biomarkers
- Facilitate investigator-driven research
- Partnership with CAN in its afterlife



# Acknowledgements

- CRRC Administrative Staff
  - > Linda Bennett
  - > Lina Gazizova
  - > Lyn Maguire
- Executive Committee: Drs. Carter Thorne & Boulos Haraoui
- CAN Board Representative – Mr. Ron Simpson

**Thank you CAN  
for all Your Support!**