





# Message From the Chair

[ BOARD OF DIRECTORS ]

*It was in 1998 when the vision of creating a distinct fund-raising organization to support arthritis and related autoimmune disease research became a reality. It occurred when a group of exceptional researchers from the former Wellesley Hospital formed a synergistic relationship with the talented researchers at University Health Network. This alliance of basic, clinical, surgical and population health experts were united by one common goal, to beat arthritis.*

We knew for this group to succeed, a core of dedicated volunteers had to make a commitment to provide the financial means for these gifted individuals to do their work.

Today, the Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre (AARC) Foundation is an established, well-respected organization. Over the past eight years it has raised more than \$36 million to ensure these scientists have the resources to research the prevention, treatment and cure of arthritis and related autoimmune diseases.

This year a subcommittee of the Board was struck to consult with AARC scientists about their vision for the future. First and foremost was the need to increase the annual level of support that further advances the Research Centre as the leading global research centre of excellence.

While the tremendous success has been achieved over the past eight years, increased funding is required to:

- Expand and strengthen the breadth of arthritis research
- Retain the best research scientists and clinician scientists
- Recruit preeminent academics.

So we are setting new aspirational goals for raising funds to reach this objective, knowing that we can make a difference by supporting this research.

Being the recipient of Brazilian Carnival Ball this past April has given us a great start on this goal. I am delighted that over \$2.6 million was raised which will help our mission to support scientists, purchase equipment and hire laboratory staff.

We have exceptional donors who believe in investing in innovative research; donors whose endowments provide seed funding for startup experimental projects; donors building funds to make a difference in areas such scleroderma, lupus, and psoriatic arthritis research and donors who help new researchers establish their laboratories in their early years.

Thank you for so generously helping make the original 1998 dream, a reality. Yes, with everyone believing in the same dream, we can beat arthritis.

John W. Teolis  
Chair

*Eleanor Fish, PhD*

[ ARTHRITIS & AUTOIMMUNITY RESEARCH CENTRE ]

*Imagine a scenario where every patient who walks into a rheumatology clinic at the UHN is asked to consent to participating in a research program designed to provide individualized care based on a personal genetic signature. Not science fiction, but the vision of AARC scientists.*

On January 16, AARC scientists met with a single prescribed objective: to set the research direction and priorities of the AARC. Through a collaborative process an overarching research priority emerged: **An Integrated Translational Research Program.** The integration of basic, clinical, and population research to enable innovative translational research for the identification of determinants of autoimmune diseases.

By building the kind of infrastructure to support this vision, basic scientists and clinician scientists in the AARC are collaborating to develop a Centre that will be the foremost in 'biomarker discovery' for autoimmune diseases.

Every patient will provide a specimen, whether a blood specimen, a fluid aspirate from a swollen joint, or a tissue biopsy at the time of surgery. These specimens will be carefully processed and separated into single cell fractions for subsequent analysis of genes and proteins. Each specimen will have a characteristic gene and protein signature, which will be compared with the patient's medical status: disease type, disease severity, medication status, drug responsiveness. And considered in the context of the patient's personal information – gender, age, ethnicity, etc. At each visit, as the patient's health status changes, so does the gene and protein signature. By comparing these signature profiles from many patients with the same disease, and comparing the profiles that emerge from different diseases, it will be possible to identify unique 'biomarkers' that are associated with specific diseases and patient characteristics. For example,

signature genes and protein biomarkers that are diagnostic of early arthritis – even before the bone and cartilage destruction is evident by X-rays or other diagnostic tests. For example, biomarkers that predict whether the individual will suffer an aggressive progressive disease or a mild disease that goes into remission early. Biomarkers that will define which medication regimens the patient will respond to. Biomarkers that are disease-specific and are potential targets for therapeutic drug development.

For this concept to become a reality this requires the collaboration of AARC scientists across all disciplines: immunologists, molecular biologists, rheumatologists, surgeons, population health experts, bioinformaticians, clinical trialists. We have made our commitment to this collaborative program. With the continued support of the AARC Foundation, together we will beat arthritis – and beat them all.

Let me take this opportunity, on behalf of all the scientists in the AARC, to thank the Board of AARC Foundation and Foundation personnel for their tireless efforts and commitment to the AARC.

And finally to you the donors, who share our vision, thank you.



Dr. Eleanor Fish  
Director, AARC



# Donor List

[ 2006 - 2007 ]

A sincere "thank you" to all our generous donors and event attendees. The Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre Foundation appreciates each and every gift it receives and we are truly grateful for your support of arthritis and related autoimmune disorder research. This Annual Report lists gifts of \$250 or more received during the fiscal year between April 1, 2006 and March 31, 2007. It includes donations, new pledges and pledge payments received within that period.

Individuals who give \$1,000 or more annually are members of the **Governors Circle**.

Thank you for helping the Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre **beat arthritis!**

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**The AARC Foundation makes every effort to assure accuracy in its listing of donors. Should an error or omission occur, however, please advise the Foundation office.**

# Financial Report

[ 2007 ]

*The Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre Foundation has made great strides over the past five years by raising more than \$18 million in support of more than 100 basic, clinical and population health researchers working together to beat arthritis. On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors, I am pleased to report another successful year in our fundraising and awareness building activities.*

AARC Foundation fund balances increased from \$19,558 to \$21,630, a 10.6% increase, while the Foundation grants totalled \$2,827, including \$1,250 for our core research program and \$1,577 in donor directed grants. We had a very active year for fundraising, with total donations received at \$3,650, including record receipts for all of our annual events, Day at the Races, St Regis Room, Dance for the Cure, and a new event, Power of Movement. We also enjoyed a 10.5% return on our investment portfolio in 2007. Despite an active year, Foundation expenses were once again managed to a level consistent with last year. The Foundation was also the benefactor of the 2007 Brazilian Carnival Ball. As this event was held in April, the financials which include net proceeds of 2.6 million dollars will be reflected in our 2008 financial report.

In addition to the Board's role in fundraising and volunteer development, the Finance Committee continues to ensure that the Foundation is fiscally responsible and accountable to our donors for the stewardship of funds held and invested by the Foundation. Activities included a review and discussion of our audited financial statements with representatives from Ernst & Young and review and approval of budgets for Foundation expenses. This year, the Finance Committee accepted a proposal from the Investment Committee to reduce the annual withdrawal

rate on funds by a total of one percentage point over the next two years to be consistent with most other funds researched. This proposal was subsequently approved by the Board and will be implemented starting in fiscal 2008. The Finance Committee has also recommended to the Board that, to the extent possible, increased focus be placed on fundraising for core research as opposed to specially directed research, as the Foundation wishes to support the exciting objectives set for the next five to seven years.

The investment portfolio is measured on a market value basis and figures here are reflective of market value performance. Mercer Investment Consulting is hired annually to evaluate the performance of our investment manager McLean Budden, and reviews its findings jointly with the Finance and Investment Committees. Since inception in 2000, investment returns have performed well relative to their respective index benchmarks. The asset mix is considered to be balanced, similar to other hospital foundations.



Brian T. Harrison  
*Treasurer*

# A Five Year Perspective

## Summary of Revenue, Expenditures and Grants [As at March 31, 2007]

### AMOUNT IN 000'S

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Donations and Bequests	4,278	3,159	3,454	4,233	<b>3,650</b>
Grants from Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation	488	250	–	–	–
	<b>4,766</b>	<b>3,409</b>	<b>3,454</b>	<b>4,233</b>	<b>3,650</b>
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME (LOSS)</b>	(1,160)	2,329	902	1,986	<b>1,842</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Fundraising, Administrative and General	713	694	635	615	<b>593</b>
<b>GRANTS</b>					
Grants to University Health Network for research, medical education & patient care programs	3,214	2,808	1,827	2,608	<b>2,827</b>
Transfer of Funds to various health care institutions	100	–	–	–	–
	<b>3,314</b>	<b>2,808</b>	<b>1,827</b>	<b>2,608</b>	<b>2,827</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR</b>					
General Fund	561	56	–	3	<b>52</b>
Restricted Fund	2,487	1,110	2,162	3,600	<b>3,842</b>
Endowment Fund	9,384	13,502	14,400	15,955	<b>17,736</b>
	<b>12,432</b>	<b>14,668</b>	<b>16,562</b>	<b>19,558</b>	<b>21,630</b>

The above figures have been extracted from the Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre Foundation's audited financial statements as at March 31, 2007. You are invited to call the Foundation office at 416-340-4975 if you would like a copy of these Audited Financial Statements. Auditors – Ernst & Young LLP

## Creating a lasting legacy

Named endowments can be established with gifts or pledges of \$25,000 or more. They are a wonderful way to pay tribute to – or create a lasting legacy in memory of – someone special in your life.

The Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre Foundation is pleased to recognize the following named endowments:

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