



**We'll beat** arthritis  
**We'll beat** scleroderma  
**We'll beat** rheumatoid arthritis  
**We'll beat** lupus  
**We'll beat** ankylosing spondylitis  
**We'll beat** osteoarthritis ...

**We'll beat them all.**

## Message from the Chair



### JOHN W. TEOLIS

*When I became Chair of the Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre Foundation in 1998, I joined a group of dedicated volunteers determined to raise awareness for the need to fund arthritis and autoimmune disease research. Since then I have watched with pride and great satisfaction as this organization has matured and established itself as a preeminent fundraiser in this area of healthcare research.*

With over 4.5 million Canadians affected by debilitating conditions such as scleroderma, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, lupus, vasculitis and hundreds more, finding a cure is critical. Funds must be raised to develop better treatments and provide earlier warning signs of disease susceptibility and progression. It is hard to comprehend that by 2026 it is projected that the number of Canadian affected by these inflammatory conditions will rise to over 6 million. You can tell with these growing numbers, our work is more important than ever.

This past year generous donors helped fund a population health study on the affects of arthritis in the workplace, purchase biobanking facilities, identify targets for molecular therapy of osteoporosis, support research fellows in the furthering their training, provide support for the lupus databank and establish scleroderma and vasculitis funds. These are just a few examples of how broad our support is and how diverse the impact our donors have on research.

The scientists associated with the Research Centre are as diverse as these projects suggest – clinician scientists, immunologists, geneticists, epidemiologists, orthopedic surgeons, biostatisticians to name a few. It is the collaboration between and amongst them that makes this group unique and second to none in North America.

On behalf of all the board of directors and volunteer committees who help us raise both funds and awareness, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to everyone who is helping us ... beat arthritis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JW Teolis'.

John W. Teolis  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

## Message from the Director



### ELEANOR FISH, PhD

*I am often asked how we measure the impact of our research investigations on the care and management of patients with autoimmune diseases. Our ability to translate research activity into clinical application or to influence health care practices in the population is visible and easily understood. Also as scientists, we base some measure of our achievements on publications in high caliber peer-reviewed scientific journals, on invitations as invited speakers and by our success in attracting research funding.*

AARC scientists are making significant contributions to patient care for many autoimmune diseases. A multitude of collaborative studies are undertaken by these gifted scientists every year – for example, experiments to identify candidate genes associated with ankylosing spondylitis; evaluating lupus patients for prevalence and type of atherosclerotic vascular events and risk factors; conducting qualitative studies to better understand patients' perspectives on their experience at work in relation to their inflammatory arthritis; and studying the histological changes in the cell populations of subchondral bone marrow resulting from inflammation in animal models of arthritis.

These scientists are publishing scientific articles that provide new insights into factors that influence susceptibility to autoimmune diseases, offer evidence of other health risks associated with chronic autoimmunity and evaluate the effectiveness of new therapeutic approaches. Active research programs are focused on understanding the immunobiology of disease progression, with the objective to provide therapeutic interventions and develop regenerative approaches to damaged tissues and joints. In every regard, using whichever measures are applied, AARC scientists are at the forefront of research activities related to arthritis and autoimmune diseases.

The renewed commitment from the Board of the AARC Foundation allows us to plan ahead and start to construct the resource infrastructure and scientific collaborations that enable our growth and facilitate our success. Once again let me take this opportunity to thank you for supporting this research, and for the ongoing resolve and determination to assist with the pursuit of research studies to help... beat arthritis.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. Fish'.

Dr. Eleanor Fish,  
Director, Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre

# Donor List 2007 - 2008



Thank you to all our supportive donors and event attendees. The Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre Foundation expresses its sincere appreciation to our many friends for their generous donations. Their gifts are making it possible for the Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre to remain at the forefront of discovery and innovation, as more than 100 basic, clinical and population health scientists work together to beat arthritis and its complex family of autoimmune disorders. Donors listed below made contributions, made new pledge or pledge payments to the Foundation of \$250 or more between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008.

We gratefully acknowledge the many other donors who have contributed up to \$250. Individuals who give \$1,000 or more annually are members of the Governors Circle.

Thank you for helping the AARC team beat arthritis!

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*The AARC Foundation makes every effort to assure accuracy in its donor listing. Should an error or omission occur however, please contact the Foundation Office.*

# Financial Report 2007 - 2008



*The Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre Foundation's vision is to beat arthritis and autoimmune diseases by funding unique and innovative research at the Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre at University Health Network. Our mission is to fund the Research Centre as the leading global research centre for the prevention, treatment and cure for this family of over 115 diseases. On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors, I am pleased to report another successful year in our fundraising and awareness building activities.*

This year our Fund Balances increased to \$23,620 from \$21,630. Revenue from donations, bequests and the Brazilian Carnival Ball was \$5,707. The investment portfolio earned a loss of 2.1% in fiscal 2008 compared to a gain of 10.5% in fiscal 2007. During the year the Foundation granted \$2,847 for research from the Restricted Fund. Fundraising and administrative expenses increased from fiscal 2007 mainly due to consulting services contracted to assist in increasing our fundraising capacity.

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 monies held and invested by the Foundation. The Finance and Investment Committees review and keep current policies covering financial governance, spending and investments.

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. 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

## AMOUNT IN 000'

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Donations and Bequests	3,159	3,454	4,233	3,650	3,073
Brazilian Carnival Ball, net	-	-	-	-	2,634
Grants from Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation	250	-	-	-	-
	3,409	3,454	4,233	3,650	5,707
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME (LOSS)</b>	2,329	902	1,986	1,842	(163)
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Fundraising, Administrative and General	694	635	615	593	705
<b>GRANTS</b>					
Grants to University Health Network for research, medical education & patient care programs	2,808	1,827	2,608	2,827	2,847
	2,808	1,827	2,608	2,827	2,847
<b>FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR</b>					
General Fund	56	-	3	52	218
Restricted Fund	1,110	2,162	3,600	3,842	4,395
Endowment Fund	13,502	14,400	15,955	17,736	19,007
	14,668	16,562	19,558	21,630	23,620

The above figures have been extracted from the Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre Foundation's audited financial statements as at March 31, 2008. 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

## LEAVE YOUR MARK ON SCIENCE

Named endowments can be established with gifts or pledges of \$25,000 or more, and give you the opportunity to help the Foundation beat arthritis over the long-term. They are also 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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COVER PHOTO:

*Living with ankylosing spondylitis, Charles Lafond and his family believe in helping us beat arthritis.*

### Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre Foundation

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