



beatarthritis.ca

Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre Foundation

2008 - 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



It is with great pride that I assumed the Chair's role of the Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre Foundation (AARCF) in September 2008. Thanks very much to John Teolis, who had done an excellent job as Chair since the inception of AARCF.



TRUDY A. EAGAN
Chair, Board of Directors

“In addition to our generous donors, for whom we are most grateful, AARCF continues to develop new ideas to raise funds for research.”

The Foundation was established in 1998 to raise monies to support the Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre's brilliant and passionate scientists, clinicians and surgeons who work together to create a better future for the 4.5 million Canadians whose lives are dramatically affected by these diseases. The Centre comprises an unparalleled group of over 50 world-leading experts. Together, and with your financial assistance, they will continue to create bold solutions to enhance the quality of life for thousands of patients.

It is a misconception that arthritis is reserved for the elderly. I was diagnosed at age 22, and to say it played a key role in the person I am today would be an understatement. It is predicted that by 2021 almost one-quarter of all Canadians will be affected. Wide ranging in its effect, arthritis takes a toll physically, mentally, emotionally and financially. It is very encouraging to know that significant advances in technology and human genetics have led to earlier diagnosis, and resulted in highly targeted, sophisticated and individualized medicine which means less time to develop painful joint deterioration and better long-term outcomes.

In addition to our generous donors, for whom we are most grateful, AARCF continues to develop new ideas to raise funds for research. Most recently, the Power of Movement which involves yoga events in major cities across Canada raised both substantial funds and considerable awareness of the effects of arthritis.

On behalf of the Board, our scientists, and dedicated AARCF staff, it is my pleasure to say thank you very much for your continuing support. In these difficult economic times, we are most appreciative of every dollar we receive, and assure you that **we work diligently to ensure your donations will help beat arthritis!**

4.5 million Canadians are
dramatically affected by these diseases.

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he scope of scientific investigations of our Research Centre ranges from basic science experiments at the molecular level, to genomic medicine interrogating the DNA of individuals with different autoimmune diseases, to clinical research in rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, lupus, ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis and scleroderma, to population health studies and surgical innovations. Our successes and potential to make major advances in health care reside in this scope of expertise.

Our interdisciplinary team is building a network of excellence through collaborative studies that are focused on understanding the biology of these diseases, their course over time and how different individuals respond to different therapies. Research is focused on identifying the earliest predictors of disease – to develop rapid and accurate diagnostic tests. Understanding the biological mechanisms that trigger a specific autoimmune disease and the factors that result in the persistent inflammation that lead to, for example, joint or organ damage, is essential for developing therapeutic interventions such as new drugs. Early and aggressive intervention may prevent disease progression. By identifying those at risk of developing a particular autoimmune disease, the potential to prevent onset becomes a reality. Understanding how environmental factors, lifestyles and access to health care contribute to disease outcomes help shape patient management and influence health care policies. AARC scientists have the expertise to address each of these issues.

AARC scientists are recognized as international leaders in their respective areas of proficiency. Bringing this wealth of expertise to bear on these debilitating diseases positions the AARC as a major centre for arthritis and autoimmune disease research, fulfilling the mandate to 'beat arthritis, beat them all.'

To all the donors who support our research, we couldn't do it without you. On behalf of all the scientists in the AARC, I would like to express a special thank you to former Board Chair, John Teolis and welcome new Chair, Trudy Eagan.



ELEANOR FISH, PhD
Director, Arthritis &
Autoimmunity Research Centre

“As I reflect back on the past 12 months and ‘learn forwards’ it is obvious that the major strength of our Research Centre is the scope of scientific investigations.”

AARC scientists have the expertise

to address each of these issues.

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 Research Centre to remain at the forefront of discovery and innovation, as basic, clinical and population health scientists work together to beat arthritis and its complex family of autoimmune disorders. Donors listed below made contributions, new pledges or pledge payments to the Foundation of \$250 or more between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009.

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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BRIAN T. HARRISON
Treasurer

FINANCE CHAIR'S REMARKS

The AARC Foundation continued to fundraise through fiscal 2009 despite the unfavorable economic climate and funded research grants totaling \$3.05M. Total fundraising revenues were \$1.5M, down from \$3.1M in the prior year as the recession and global stock market declines impacted donations, and significant major pledges were postponed. On a positive note, the annual Power of Movement event continued to grow in its 3rd year and is becoming a significant revenue source for the Foundation. The Board is committed to our research mission, and approved grants for core research as well as donor designated programs for fiscal 2009 while continuing to cautiously monitor the economic situation.

AARCF's fund balances reduced from \$23.6M to \$18.2M this year. Endowed funds are invested in the McLean Budden balanced fund, which performed well against industry benchmarks but nevertheless showed a negative return of 15.1% in the period. Mercer Investment Consulting evaluates the performance of our fund manager and provides a report to AARCF's finance and investment committees annually. In view of the lower fundraising and investment returns, AARCF's overhead spending was managed at a level significantly below the annual budget. Due to the lower fundraising revenue, our fundraising cost per dollar of revenue in 2009 was higher than our target, and we expect this to return to the normal range as fundraising returns to more typical levels.

The AARCF Board, Finance Committee, and Investment Committee continue to monitor the economic situation and its impact on fundraising and investment returns, and are prepared to temporarily reduce research grants should the unfavorable conditions continue. We remain cautiously optimistic as the first few months of fiscal 2010 show more favorable returns.

SUCCESS
IS WITHIN REACH

A FIVE YEAR PERSPECTIVE

(AS AT MARCH 31, 2009)

Amount In 000's

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
REVENUE					
Donations and Bequests	3,454	4,233	3,650	3,073	1,518
Brazilian Carnival Ball, net	-	-	-	2,634	-
	3,454	4,233	3,650	5,707	1,518
INVESTMENT INCOME (LOSS)	902	1,986	1,842	(163)	(3,131)
EXPENSES					
Fundraising, Administrative and General	635	615	593	705	784
GRANTS					
Grants to University Health Network for research, medical education & patient care programs	1,827	2,608	2,827	2,847	3,053
FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR					
General Fund	-	3	52	218	94
Restricted Fund	2,162	3,600	3,842	4,395	3,271
Endowment Fund	14,400	15,955	17,736	19,007	14,806
	16,562	19,558	21,630	23,620	18,171

The above figures have been extracted from the Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Centre Foundation's audited financial statements as at March 31, 2009. 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

The Foundation would like to acknowledge the following individuals who were honoured through gifts to the Foundation;

Michael Applin	Dorothy Flaherty	Dr. Nizar Mahomed	Sally Roper
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Special Tribute and In Memoriam gifts were made by these generous supporters over the past year;

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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 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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