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JointHealth™ launches new web site

Arthritis Consumer Experts is excited to announce the launch of our new website, jointhealth.org. The new site provides the latest information about all aspects of the most common types of arthritis—causes, prevention, medications and other treatments, access to healthcare, and much more.

JointHealth™ also helps bring together the voice of arthritis, giving people with disease the tools they need to speak out on behalf of themselves and the millions of people like them who also live with arthritis.

Because the focus of JointHealth™ is arthritis and the people who live with it, photos of real people who live with disease are featured throughout the site on the masthead. More will come; we welcome photo submissions from real people living with arthritis.

In this issue of JointHealth™ monthly, we take you on a tour of the new site. We hope that the new site inspires you to learn the facts, take control of your disease, and take action for yourself and for every person with arthritis.

JointHealth™ monthly is available in print and online in English and français.



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ACE does not promote any "brand", product or program on any of its materials or its web site, or during any of its educational programs or activities.

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What's in a name?

For years, people with arthritis have found ACE at www.arthritisconsumerexperts.org. Now, with the launch of our new site, you can find us at www.jointhealth.org.

The reason for the name change is simple: up until now, ACE has communicated with our community members primarily through the JointHealth™ family of programs: JointHealth™ monthly, JointHealth™ express, JointHealth™ podcasts, JointHealth™ workshops, and the JointHealth™ arthritis medications guide. These JointHealth™ programs have become known as a trusted source of research-based information and education about arthritis.

With the launch of our new website, it only made sense to call it what it is: jointhealth.org, another great addition to the JointHealth™ group of programs. All of the JointHealth™ programs share a common goal—to improve the lives of people who live with arthritis. At jointhealth.org, you will find the same commitment to evidence-based information presented in easy-to-understand language, and the same dedication to speaking out on behalf of people with arthritis.

JointHealth.org

what's in it for you...

programs

JointHealth monthly

JointHealth™ monthly—Easy-to-read, research-based information for people living with arthritis, their families, health professionals and the public. JointHealth™ monthly is Canada's only monthly consumer-focused newsletter delivered on-line and in-print, in both English and French.

JointHealth express

JointHealth™ express—Canada's leading "breaking news" publication about arthritis delivered right to your inbox as news happens.

JointHealth podcasts

JointHealth™ podcasts—Podcasts featuring interview-style conversations with leading Canadian rheumatologists, arthritis research scientists and people living with arthritis speaking out for others with the disease.

JointHealth surveys

JointHealth™ surveys—Surveys designed to gather the views and opinions of real people living with arthritis in Canada, the United States and Europe.

home



JointHealth™ is committed to bringing you breaking news about arthritis, as it develops. On the home page of the new site, a breaking news box highlights important information about research, treatments, press coverage, events, government activities—if it is important news for people with arthritis, it will be featured here.

about arthritis

Disease spotlights: Easy-to read, comprehensive information about many of the more than 100 different types of arthritis. Each spotlight includes information on warning signs, diagnosis and treatments. Reviewed by medical experts to ensure accuracy, these spotlights are a great source of disease-specific information.

Medication treatments: Medications are often a critically important part of treatment for arthritis. This section of the website includes vital information about the different types of medications often used to treat many forms of arthritis.

Non-medication treatments: This section of the website includes information on many important, non-pharmaceutical forms of arthritis treatment, including diet and nutrition, vitamins and minerals, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy.

arthritis

getting better health

This section of the website includes information on the very best care possible. In an era of doctor shortages, and difficulties in accessing needed treatments, navigating the healthcare system is critical.

There are steps each of us can take to get better healthcare—from recognizing symptoms of arthritis, to getting needed referrals to specialist doctors, to making medication decisions, to building and working with a comprehensive healthcare team. This section of the site guides people with arthritis on their journey through the healthcare system.

resources

Links: The internet can be a valuable resource for information about arthritis, but it can be difficult to know which sources of information to trust. In this section, we provide links to some credible sources of arthritis information.



Books: This section provides information about some of the best books about arthritis available, on topics ranging from exercise and complementary medicine to books on specific types of arthritis.

taking action

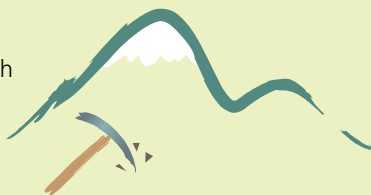
Why take action: More than four and a half million people in Canada live with some form of arthritis. In this section of the website, we answer questions often asked by people with arthritis—why should I take action? What do I have to contribute in the fight against arthritis? Why should my voice be heard?

What we are doing: JointHealth™ and ACE take action every day on behalf of people with arthritis. In meetings with and letters to elected officials, press releases and press conferences, on government and research committees, ACE and JointHealth™ speak out for people with arthritis. In this section, we provide details of some of our advocacy work.

What you can do: Each person with arthritis brings an important perspective on living with disease. People with arthritis have the moral authority to speak out about arthritis treatment and care in Canada, and this section provides tips on ways to do just that.

What others are doing: In this section you will find examples of what other people are doing in the fight against arthritis. These actions include speeches by elected officials and letters to the editor from people with arthritis.

Fact sheets: These point-form one-page fact sheets work as tools for speaking out. They provide the facts to back up the messages our elected officials, and the media, need to hear about arthritis.



action centre

[join us](#)

[speak out](#)

[tell a friend](#)

[tell a politician](#)

Action Centre: The action centre is a convenient one-stop solution for some of the most common requests we receive. Here, people can subscribe to JointHealth™ for free, tell others about JointHealth™, quickly access contact information for elected officials in their province, and easily find email addresses for many of the major and regional newspapers in the country.

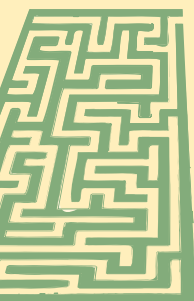
about

Important information about ACE and JointHealth™ can be found in this section, including:

- **Guiding principles & acknowledgements**
- **Staff**
- **Advisory board**
- **FAQs**
- **Privacy policy**
- **Disclaimer**

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media

Press releases: ACE and JointHealth™ are committed to changing the public perceptions of arthritis. To this end, we regularly send out press releases to targeted media outlets and across the country. This section provides access to recent press releases.

Print: This section houses print coverage of recent ACE press conferences and initiatives.

Radio: In this section we provide audio files from radio interviews and coverage.

Television: This section provides video files of recent television news footage.

Web: Online coverage of ACE events is available in this section.



feedback

jointhealth.org has been created to help people with arthritis take control of their disease, and change their experience with arthritis. We invite you to explore the site and tell us what you think about the new additions and improvements. We welcome comments and suggestions. Please email us at feedback@jointhealth.org.

Arthritis Consumer Experts

Who we are

Arthritis Consumer Experts (ACE) provides research-based education, advocacy training, advocacy leadership and information to Canadians with arthritis. We help empower people living with all forms of arthritis to take control of their disease and to take action in healthcare and research decision making. ACE activities are guided by its members and led by people with arthritis, leading medical professionals and the ACE Advisory Board. To learn more about ACE, visit

www.jointhehealth.org

Guiding principles and acknowledgement

Guiding Principles

Healthcare is a human right. Those in healthcare, especially those who stand to gain from the ill health of others, have a moral responsibility to examine what they do, its long-term consequences and to ensure that all may benefit. The support of this should be shared by government, citizens, and non-profit and for-profit organizations. This is not only equitable, but is the best means to balance the influence

of any specific constituency and a practical necessity. Any profit from our activities is re-invested in our core programs for Canadians with arthritis.

To completely insulate the agenda, the activities and the judgments of our organization from those of organizations supporting our work, we put forth our abiding principles:

- ACE only requests unrestricted grants from private and public organizations to support its core program.
- ACE employees do not receive equity interest or personal "in-kind" support of any kind from any health-related organization.
- ACE discloses all funding sources in all its activities.
- ACE identifies the source of all materials or documents used.
- ACE develops positions on health policy, products or services in collaboration with arthritis consumers, the academic community and healthcare providers and government free from concern or constraint of other organizations.
- ACE employees do not engage in any personal social activities with supporters.
- ACE does not promote any "brand", product or program on any of its materials or its web site, or during any of its educational programs or activities.

Thanks

ACE thanks the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada (ARC) for its scientific review of JointHealth™.



Acknowledgement

Over the past 12 months, ACE received unrestricted grants-in-aid from: Abbott Laboratories Ltd., Amgen Canada / Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada, GlaxoSmithKline, Hoffman-La Roche Canada Ltd., Merck Frosst Canada, Pfizer Canada and Schering-Plough Canada, UCB Pharma Canada Inc. ACE also receives unsolicited donations from its community members (people with arthritis) across Canada. ACE thanks these private and public organizations and individuals.

Disclaimer

The material contained in this newsletter is provided for general information only. It should not be relied on to suggest a course of treatment for a particular individual or as a substitute for consultation with qualified health professionals who are familiar with your individual medical needs. Should you have any healthcare related questions or concerns, you should contact your physician. You should never disregard medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read in this or any newsletter.



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