

BONE AND JOINT RECEIVES 2013 CIHR-IMHA KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION AWARD

Recognized for establishing national models of care and building research capacity

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research's Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (CIHR-IMHA) is pleased to announce that Bone and Joint Canada (BJC) is the recipient of the 2013 CIHR-IMHA Knowledge Translation Award. Ms. Eve Adams, Member of Parliament for Mississauga-Brampton South and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, presented the award at the opening reception of the Arthritis Alliance of Canada's Conference and Research Symposium.

"On behalf of our Government, I congratulate Bone and Joint Canada for receiving this important honour," said Parliamentary Secretary Adams. "Your leadership has improved both the care and management of musculoskeletal conditions and enhanced the quality of life of many Canadians."

BJC was formed in 2002 to represent Canada in the International Bone and Joint Decade launched by the World Health Organization in 2000 as a global partnership to reduce the impact of musculoskeletal health conditions. BJC received the award in recognition of its outstanding contribution over the last ten years in engaging stakeholders, building research capacity, sharing best practices, and developing and implementing national models of care for hip and knee replacement and hip fracture.

"We are pleased to recognize the outstanding work of Bone and Joint Canada with this award," said Dr. Hani El-Gabalawy, Scientific Director of CIHR-IMHA. "They are an important partner and have contributed greatly in moving research into action and fostering the development of young researchers in the field of musculoskeletal health."



The CIHR-IMHA Knowledge Translation Award honours and supports exemplary knowledge translation efforts and activities of an exceptional individual, team or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to increasing the application of research findings, improving the health of Canadians, health services and products or strengthening the health care system.

Bone and Joint Canada wants to acknowledge the work that has taken place across the country, in all of the provinces, to implement the changes needed to improve access and quality of care for patients. It is this hard work and commitment that has been demonstrated by all the BJC membership working in orthopaedics that has led to this award.

Bone and Joint Canada is committed to supporting the ongoing work to improve care for hip and knee replacement and hip fracture patients as well as using the learnings on system design to improve access and efficiency for other orthopaedic surgical populations. BJC looks forward to continuing to build the relationship with their members including those working in clinical, administrative and policy roles.

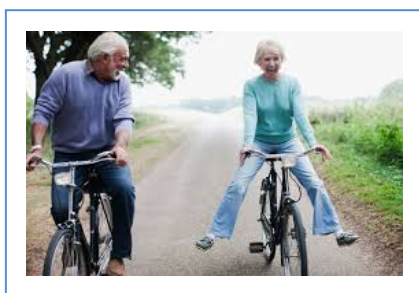
INJURY PREVENTION AND MANAGING MUSCULOSKELETAL CONDITIONS IN THE PRIMARY CARE SECTOR

BJC exists as a *'knowledge to action'* organization, with its primary mandate to improve the MSK health of Canadians through a process of knowledge exchange to facilitate adoption of best practices and promote efficient health service delivery. BJC received the CIHR KT award for the development and implementation of national projects in hip and knee replacement and hip fracture in which the change management strategy that was developed by BJC was extremely successful in implementing clinical, operational and system improvements. The phases of the strategy were Phase 1: engage stakeholders including clinicians, researchers and policy-makers in each province, Phase 2: use the network to develop a model of care, Phase 3: develop a National Model of Care and accompanying Toolkit that includes best practice guidelines for the continuum of care for patients and Phase 4: work with the provinces in local implementation initiatives.

BJC has identified significant opportunities to use this strategy to prevent injuries and to improve care in the primary care sector to manage pain and disability associated with musculoskeletal conditions.

Low Back pain

Low back pain is a common problem among adults affecting up to 80% of people at least once in their lifetime. As the costs are significant, work has been undertaken in a number of provinces to improve care in the primary care sector to prevent inappropriate use of diagnostic imaging and referral to surgeons. By leveraging this work BJC has identified the opportunity of improving patient outcomes by developing and implementing a coordinated approach to the appropriate management of low back pain patients across the continuum with a particular focus on providing care in the primary care sector. This work will address the improvements required in the following areas: clinical standards, system design, education and policy and aligns with the Council of Federation's mandate to reduce the use of inappropriate diagnostic imaging.



Osteoarthritis

BJC has been undertaking a stakeholder engagement to identify the current trends in the management of osteoarthritis care across Canada. In the context of early arthritis in the knee or hip joints the biggest contributing factors are weight and sports injuries and research shows that there are successful treatments, specifically the use of exercise. BJC will be working with the experts in OA programs across the country to identify how together we can implement operational changes to help improve early OA care.

Injury prevention

Sporting injuries are one of the main factors that lead to the future development of OA. There is an injury prevention program called the FIFA 11+ that reduces injury rates in youth soccer players by up to 70%. BJC is working with the Ontario Soccer Association to implement this program in 150 youth soccer clubs in Ontario.