

ARAD NEWSLETTER

Australian Rheumatology Association Database

July 2008

Once again the ARAD project team would like to thank ALL participants for their contribution to ARAD. The continued support from individuals with arthritis (rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, juvenile arthritis and psoriatic arthritis) is essential in being able to determine the long term benefits and safety of new biologic drugs for Australian patients.

If you no longer complete questionnaires for ARAD, we thank you for your participation so far. Should you wish to recommence, please contact your state coordinator (details overleaf) so we can send you another questionnaire and update your details.

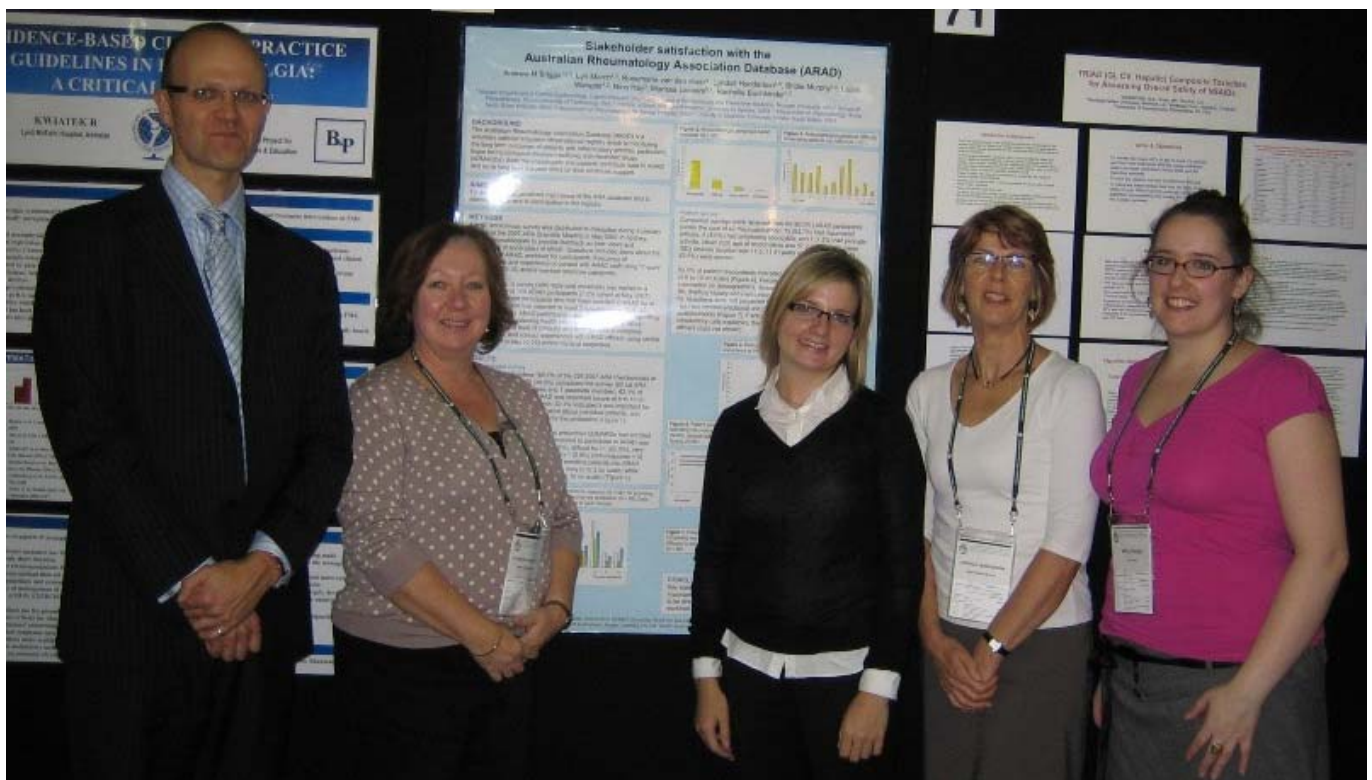
Recent developments in ARAD

Internet survey

A special thank-you to those participants who took part in the recent internet survey. We aimed to find out who, given the opportunity, would be interested in completing their questionnaires online. About half said they would use the internet to complete ARAD questionnaires and about a third said they would rather continue with paper questionnaires. As a result we will go ahead and make the questionnaire available online. However, those who would prefer to complete paper questionnaires can still do so.

ARA 2008 conference report - memories of Adelaide!

The 2008 ARA conference was held between 17-24th May 2008. Over 200 rheumatologists from around Australia met at the Adelaide Convention Centre for a super scientific program. ARAD was well represented and it was clear that rheumatologists increasingly value the ARAD resource. The next conference is in Wellington, New Zealand in May 2009.



ARA Conference Adelaide 2008 (L to R): John, Rosemarie, Bridie, Lyndall, Molly

ARAD is growing

There are over 2,300 people participating in ARAD, under the care of 185 rheumatologists across Australia. In addition to those taking biological drugs therapy, ARAD is now inviting individuals with inflammatory arthritis, who are not receiving biologic therapy ('Control' patients), to join the register.

We have also recently expanded our recruitment process to allow patients to enrol directly into ARAD. Further information about this is available on the ARAD page of the Australian Rheumatology Association website.

www.rheumatology.org.au/rheumatologists/aradatabase.asp

Anyone with inflammatory arthritis, who is interested in participating and has been diagnosed by a rheumatologist, can download a 'Participant: Expression of Interest' from there.

Funding and resources

We are very grateful to our funders. ARAD receives funding from the Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Monash University, Cabrini Health as well as educational grants from Abbott, Amgen, Wyeth and Roche pharmaceutical companies. Educational grants have previously been provided by Aventis and Schering Plough.

Kid's corner

The number of children in ARAD has now increased to 98! Well done! Your contribution is very important to us!

Quirky facts

Thanks to everyone who sent us a quirky fact! Did you know that they are building a skyscraper in Dubai that actually rotates! Even more unusual is that as it rotates it generates its own electricity to power the building. Environmentally friendly as well! It should be finished by 2010.

Send in your **Quirky Fact** to: ARAD, C/o Cabrini Institute, Cabrini Hospital, 183 Wattletree Rd, Malvern, 3144

Beijing Olympics

Tens of Australian athletes will compete in the Beijing Olympic Games. One athlete to watch is Kyle Davis, a 19 year old table tennis player from Werribee in Victoria. Kyle went to University High School in Melbourne and learnt to love his sport playing against his brother. He has had great preparation in the lead up to Beijing but whether he will be able to beat the Chinese at their national sport remains to be seen. Good luck Kyle! Check out the Olympics website: <http://www.olympics.com.au/>.

Our Staff

Please contact us through your relevant State Co-ordinator if you have any questions:

Bridie Murphy

State Coordinator: VIC, SA
(03) 9508 1652

bridie.murphy@med.monash.edu.au

Rosemarie van den Haak

State Coordinator: NSW, ACT
(02) 9113 2982

rosemarie.vandenaar@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Lyndall Henderson

State Coordinator: WA, QLD, TAS, NT
(02) 9926 8579

lyndallh@med.usyd.edu.au