



Canadian Orthopaedic Association



Annual Report 2021

The Canadian Orthopaedic Association Annual Report

Welcome Message from COA Leadership

Dear COA Members,

We are pleased to present the COA Annual Report for 2021. We can all agree that this year was another challenging one, with many obstacles to overcome within our specialty.

Orthopaedic surgeons have risen to the occasion and cared for patients, colleagues, and communities to the best of their abilities. We are united as we continue to push through and advocate for the profession.

At the end of each year, it is vital to take stock of what we have accomplished together and what we hope to achieve in the coming months. We are proud to share our collective successes on behalf of the COA and our affiliated subspecialty societies. Your membership is essential to keep advocacy, policy and educational opportunities going, and we hope for your continued engagement and commitment in 2022.

We can't wait to see you at the Annual Meeting from June 8-11 in beautiful Quebec City.



Cynthia Vezina
Chief Executive Officer



Dr. Kishore Mulpuri
President

2021 in Numbers

Member Statistics

1171

active members
total

1012

active members
in Canada

159

active members
outside Canada

379

associate
members

210

research affiliate
members

370

senior members

10

committees and
working groups

8

subspecialty
societies

Advocacy & Education

12

interviews

19

pieces of national and
regional media pickup

4

meetings with government
authorities

5

educational events

56

CME hours offered

9

affiliate events
accredited by the COA

Engagement

3

provincial
orthopaedic meeting
collaborations

5

international
meeting
collaborations

14

reCOAnnect sessions

2021 Annual Meeting Highlights

Program Chair, **Dr. Kelly A. Lefavre**'s hard work on delivering an educational program that was relevant, diverse, current and high quality is recognized by both the leadership and membership. Her ability to transition from what was initially planned as an in-person event, to a hybrid, to an eventual fully virtual meeting while staying true to the key principles and priorities of the program are to be commended.

Thank you for participating in the [2021 Annual Meeting](#) held from June 19-22.

The Numbers

- **1006** Registrants
- **78.53%** Ratio of Attendance
- **21** Paper Sessions
- **11** General Sessions and Symposia
- **13** Subspecialty Symposia
- **244** Posters
- **553** Total Presenters
- **21** Sponsors & exhibitors

Most Abstracts Submitted

- Hip
- Paediatrics
- Sport Medicine
- Trauma

What Was New in 2021

- Meeting Highlights Session - Featuring top research papers across all subspecialties
- General symposia selected from proposals submitted by members
- CORS Guest Society Session with the Canadian Society for Biomechanics
- High Performance Skills Workshop
- Panel Discussion with 12 Past Presidents spanning 4 decades of leadership



Dr. Kelly A. Lefavre
2021 Annual Meeting Program Chair

Evaluation Survey Results

96%
were satisfied with
the program

97%
said the program
represented professional
orthopaedic diversity

New Initiative Highlights

ReCOAnnect

Under Dr. Mohit Bhandari's Presidency, the COA launched ReCOAnnect, a virtual tour to meet with surgeons and residents across the country from various practice settings. Through ReCOAnnect, the COA leadership is able to remain engaged with the orthopaedic community and offer support throughout the pandemic. To date, Dr. Bhandari, Mulpuri and Hiemstra, along with Cynthia Vezina met with over 300 surgeons and residents from over 20 sites across the country. These efforts will continue into 2022.



Fast Track Care

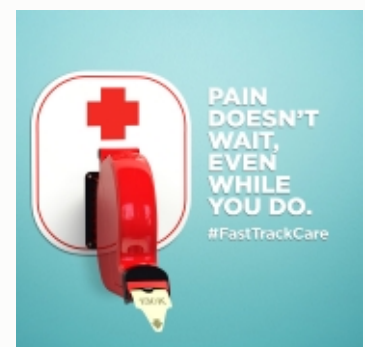
"When you're in pain, elective surgeries aren't 'elective'."

Fast Track Care was developed in 2020 by Mobilize Canada, a coalition made up of the COA, the Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation, and the orthopaedic industry members of Medtech Canada. The campaign focused on outreach in Ontario and British Columbia while providing resources and advocacy tools to surgeons and their patients across the entire country. The initiative uses simple one step resources to empower surgeons, patients and allies to engage with provincial governments to:

- Bring awareness to orthopaedic wait lists further exacerbated by COVID-19
- Remove the misconception that 'elective' orthopaedic procedures are optional or lifestyle surgeries
- Advocate for the prioritization of orthopaedic procedures amid the pandemic
- Emphasize that Canada has the human resource capacity to ramp up procedures

Campaign Stats to Date:

- **6,053,407** total campaign impressions
- **438** letters sent to political officials
- **18,245** website visits on [FastTrackCare.ca](https://www.fasttrackcare.ca)
- **10** media interviews with **17** pieces of coverage
- **3** government relations meetings



Diversity in Leadership Scholarship

The COA, in partnership with DePuy Synthes, is committed to promoting access to leadership opportunities to develop and support underrepresented groups within the Canadian orthopaedic community.



In 2021 we launched the Diversity in Leadership Scholarship for its second iteration, where applicants may receive up to \$500 CAD to attend a leadership course or conference of their choice. The scholarship is open to all of the COA membership, including residents, fellows, active surgeons and allied health professionals.

2021 Winners Included:

- Melinda Fowler - PLI Course : Leading High Performance Culture
- Jennifer Purnell - Harvard Medical School's: Career Advancement and Leadership Skills for Women in Healthcare
- Laura Morrison - International Conference on Residency Education "Developing and Leading People: A Leadership Masterclass"
- Mary Sun - PLI Course: Leadership Begins with Self-Awareness
- Annalise Abbott - Association of Women Surgeons Annual Conference



Dr. Melinda Fowler

Testimonials

“The Diversity in Leadership Scholarship gave me an amazing opportunity to attend a PLI leadership course: Leading High Performance Culture. I’m very thankful for the support of the COA to continue building my leadership skills while training as a resident.”-Dr. Melinda Fowler

“Thanks to the Diversity in Leadership Scholarship, I had financial support to participate in the Harvard Medical School ‘Career Advancement and Leadership Skills for Women in Healthcare’ Course...this course was full of invaluable lessons that I will be able to take with me as I enter practice.”-Dr. Jennifer Purnell

2021 Service Awards Recipients

The COA's Annual Service Awards recognize members who have distinguished themselves through their exemplary contributions, influence and commitment to improving the Canadian orthopaedic community. Awarded each year at the COA Annual Meeting, the Service Awards are high honours bestowed on a member by the Canadian Orthopaedic Association.

President's Award for Excellence

The President's Award for Excellence recognizes overall excellence in the advancement of orthopaedic research, education, health-care organization, advocacy, and standards of care. It is awarded for commitment and contributions to the overall profession.

The 2021 Presidential Award for Excellence was awarded to Drs. Jean-François Joncas, Quebec Orthopaedic Association President, and Jeremy Hall, Ontario Orthopaedic Association President.

This year's recipients have gone beyond the call of duty in their positions of provincial leadership. Throughout a tumultuous year of uncertainty, they remained focused leaders and advocated for the prioritization of orthopaedic procedures in their respective provinces.



President's Award for Excellence
Dr. Jeremy Hall
OOA President



President's Award for Excellence
Dr. Jean-François Joncas
QOA President

Service to the COA Award

The Service to the COA Award recognizes outstanding service and contributions to the Canadian Orthopaedic Association and its members. It is awarded for exceptional engagement and active participation in COA events, programs and projects, leadership, and in advancing the COA's Mission.

The 2021 Service to the COA Award was presented to Jamie Williams, formerly of Zimmer Biomet. Jamie's extensive career spans decades within the orthopaedic industry. Through his leadership at Zimmer Biomet, Jamie developed, implemented and drove two of our profession's biggest and most impactful advocacy campaigns.

Both the 2004 Canada in Motion campaign advocating for timely access to orthopaedic care, and the current Fast Track Care campaign advocating for the prioritization of orthopaedic procedures, are born from Jamie's vision and commitment to orthopaedic patient care.

Jamie's commitment to the COA was also evidenced in Zimmer Biomet's support of the COA's educational programs and events, and fostered collaborations between the COA and the orthopaedic industry.



*Service to the COA Award
Jamie Williams*

COA Membership

Membership within the COA is offered to orthopaedic professionals throughout their career. In addition, various categories of membership are available to orthopaedic residents, fellows, practicing surgeons, and researchers.

What can the COA do for you?

Access and Collaborate

- Unite with your colleagues from across the country
- Share best practices and learn from affiliated partner societies
- Reduced or waived membership fees during training and early practice
- Reduced Annual Meeting registration fees
- Post or find a job for free on the COA Job Board
- Free access to myorthovidence.com

Learn and Teach

- Priority access to the Annual Meeting
- Exclusive webinars and educational programs
- In-kind support for research projects
- Access to COF research grants and awards
- International fellowships
- Leadership scholarship opportunities

Publish and Present

- Publishing opportunities in COA Bulletin
- Get the word out with the COA Dispatch
- Reduced annual subscription to various publications
- Presentation opportunities

Advocate and Train

- Engage with Health Ministries and the Royal College
- Media and government relations training
- Indigenous Cultural Safety Training for healthcare workers
- Start a campaign to improve access to orthopaedic care and practice
- Pitch or write a Position Statement to help your colleagues nationwide
- Get CME accreditation for events, workshops and special seminars
- Leadership opportunities to help your career trajectory



“The COA brings Canada’s orthopaedic community together, highlighting research and innovation, supporting our residents in training, promoting our practice and providing us with a common voice.”

Dr. Ujash Sheth - Active Member

“Being a member has allowed me to keep connected to friends, trainees and colleagues across Canada. The COA is a very open-minded, inclusive and supportive association and I have truly enjoyed participating in different activities and meetings.” -

Dr. Marie-Eve Lebel - Active Member”

Canadian Subspecialty Societies

The COA is proud to be directly affiliated with a variety of national subspecialty societies. Membership within these specialty interest groups include numerous benefits and services including:

- Quarterly e-newsletters where members can promote courses and events in their centre, request participation in a research survey
- Networking opportunities with colleagues from across the country
- Present research at the Subspecialty Day at COA Annual Meetings
- Easy access to a designated web space on the COA main web site
- Leadership opportunities within committees and executive teams
- Research collaboration opportunities

Various groups offer additional benefits including research grants and awards, discounted publishing or subscription fees to partner journals, and presentation and authorship opportunities.

Visit our affiliated subspecialty society web pages

Affiliated Subspecialty Society Highlights

Arthroscopy Association of Canada (AAC)

- 2 Paper Sessions and 2 Symposia at the COA Annual Meeting
- Granted 4 Research Awards during the COA Specialty Day
- Accredited 7 fellowship programs for the academic year
- Conducted an Advocacy Survey of the membership
- Published the AAC Position Statement on Exercise for Knee Osteoarthritis
- 7% increase in membership

Canadian Arthroplasty Society (CAS)

- 2 Paper Sessions and 2 Symposia at the COA Annual Meeting
- Implemented new Terms of Reference and a Standard Research Policy
- Organized 1st CAS Case Discussion Night for Arthroplasty fellows and residents
- Conducted the second iteration of the CAS COVID-19 survey
- Issued CAS membership certificates to members in good standing
- Rebranded their logo

Affiliated Subspecialty Society Highlights

Canadian Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (COFAS)

- 1 Paper Session and 1 Symposium at the COA Annual Meeting
- Hosted a Business Meeting
- Granted 3 COFAS Resident Scholarships
- Produced a listing of Foot & Ankle Residency Training in Canada

Canadian Orthopaedic Limb Lengthening Association (COLLA)

- Limb lengthening session at the COA Annual Meeting

Canadian Orthopaedic Research Society (CORS)

- 2 Paper Sessions, 2 General Sessions at the Annual Meeting
- Hosted the Canadian Society for Biomechanics as the Guest Society
- Refined their membership structure
- Approved 6 research surveys for distribution to the COA membership
- Awarded Founder's Medal to Dr. Philip Boyer and his team from the SHSC in Toronto

Canadian Orthopaedic Trauma Society (COTS)

- 2 Paper Sessions and 2 Symposia at the COA Annual Meeting
- Multiple COTS presentations and papers at the OTA Annual Meeting
- Hosted virtual meetings and in person networking events
- 3 journal publications
- Recognized at various national and international affiliate society events

Canadian Paediatric Orthopaedic Group (CPOG)

- 3 Paper Sessions and 1 Symposium at the COA Annual Meeting
- Granted 4 Research Awards during the COA Specialty Day
- Hosted a Fireside Chat and a Journal Club for members
- Launched the CPOG Research Initiative in partnership with the COF

Canadian Shoulder and Elbow Society (CSES)

- 1 Paper Session and 1 Symposium at the COA Annual Meeting
- Implemented the use of case-sharing app, SURG, among the members
- Hosted a Business Meeting
- Participated in 24-hour online Global Shoulder Arthroplasty course

The Wrist and Elbow Society of Canada (WECAN)

- 1 Paper Session and 1 Symposium at the COA Annual Meeting
- Hosted a Business Meeting and a Research Meeting
- Ran Year 2 of the Arthrex-WECAN Grant Competition

New Leadership Representatives for 2021

A thank you and congratulations to those who were nominated into volunteer leadership mandates in 2021. We truly appreciate your commitment and support to these committee's, especially during a challenging time in healthcare.

Board of Directors

- Ted Tufescu, Treasurer
- Diana Isa, Atlantic Representative
- Andrei Manolescu, Prairies Representative
- Glen Richardson, CPD Chair
- Marcia Clark, Finance & Audit Chair
- Mario Lamontange, CORS President
- Sarah Hébert-Seropian, Julien Caron, CORA Presidents

Finance & Audit Committee

- Jason Werle

COA Global Surgery Committee (COAGS)

- Supriya Singh, Chair

Affiliate Society Representatives

- Paul Beaulé, AAOS Board of Councilors
- Sukhdeep Dulai, Bone & Joint Journal

Continuing Professional Development Committee

- Markku Nousiainen, Vice Chair
- Lisa Phillips, Western Canada
- Stéphane Pelet, Shoulder & Elbow
- Debra Bartley, Paediatrics
- Jeremie Larouche, Spine
- Matthew Menon, Trauma

Nominating Committee

- Mohit Bhandari, Chair
- Jennifer Leighton, Atlantic
- Marie Gdalevitch, Quebec
- Michelle Ghert, Ontario
- Anthony King, Prairies
- Andrea Veljkovic, British Columbia

Membership Committee

- Bryan Flynn
- Curtis Myden

Communications Committee

- Thierry Pauyo

Practice Management Committee

- Alan Woo



What's Coming Up in 2022

The coming year is one of development, opportunity and a brand-new look. A revised Mission and 3-year strategic plan will be launched in 2022 along with a rebuilt governance and head office staff best positioned to support and lead. Our website, brand and logo are getting a refresh to better reflect what the COA means to its members and to the orthopaedic community.

Building off what we learned this past year through engagement and collaborations, the COA is investing in national lobbying efforts, educational programs for every learning style, and access to leadership training opportunities in 2022.

We are excited to welcome the orthopaedic community back to an in-person Annual Meeting at the Quebec City Convention Centre from June 8-11. For more info about the meeting, safety measures and important dates, visit our website. Make your plans to join us at this homecoming event and experience a moment in COA history at Dr. Laurie Hiemstra's inauguration as the Association's first female president on June 10. We can't wait to share the next year with you.



Dr. Laurie Hiemstra
President Elect



Dr. Pierre Guy
2nd President Elect

Thank you

A special thanks to our sponsors and partners who supported us throughout 2021.



As well a special thank you to the affiliate associations, societies and organizations who supported COA's initiatives throughout the past year.