

Agreement signed between CAPA and The Arthritis Society

By: Anne Dooley

The President of CAPA, Ann Qualman, and the CEO of The Arthritis Society (TAS), John Fleming, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines the respective rights and obligations of both organizations, and defines the nature of their relationship and the expectations of each.

The process of writing and negotiating the document was long. Many drafts passed back and forth with suggestions for content and wording coming from both sides. CAPA negotiations were handled by President, Ann Qualman, Vice Presidents, Anne Dooley and Jean Légaré, and significant input from the CAPA Steering Committee. John Fleming acted as the principle negotiator for TAS, with input from the TAS National Board and TAS Senior Management. Said Ann Qualman, "It's been a great deal of work, but the CAPA Steering Committee is generally pleased with the results."

Any MOU covers certain housekeeping items, and this one is no exception. A budget will be submitted by CAPA each year for funds to be used by CAPA and its committees, the cost of allocated TAS staff support to CAPA, appropriate insurance coverage, and professional development. CAPA agrees that it will not engage in a fund raising campaign or seek sponsorship for its general activities. However, this does not prevent CAPA from accepting unsolicited contributions such as sponsorships for conference attendance.

While CAPA is funded by TAS and frequently collaborates with TAS on projects, CAPA retains its distinct and unique identity, and determines its own objectives and strategic plan. CAPA will also continue to partner with, mentor and participate in activities with other organizations to achieve our objectives to improve the lives of people living with arthritis. The MOU will be posted on the CAPA web pages for all to read.