



University Health Network  
Toronto General Hospital Toronto Western Hospital Princess Margaret Hospital

## MEASURING WHAT MATTERS: ROLE PARTICIPATION IN ARTHRITIS

**ACREU is currently looking to interview people aged 40 years or older who are living with osteoarthritis.** This study looks at how people remain healthy and the impact of life events, health changes and health decisions across the lifespan. We're particularly interested in learning about the experiences of those living with a chronic disease, like arthritis, compared to those who do not have any chronic diseases. We'd also like to better understand ways that health affects people's home and social lives, their close relationships, work/education, and leisure activities. Some of the people we will be talking to will have been diagnosed with arthritis, others will not have arthritis or any other chronic illnesses. The ultimate goal of this research is to help people with chronic physically disabling conditions like osteoarthritis, continue to participate in roles that are important to them.

This study will be run at the Arthritis Community Research and Evaluation Unit (ACREU). ACREU was created in 1991 to carry out research with the goal of reducing the impact of arthritis on individuals, their families, and on the population. ACREU is located at the University Health Network, Toronto Western Hospital and has as its partner The Arthritis Society, Ontario Division.

The study will involve a telephone interview that takes approximately 40 minutes to complete and also a short self-administered questionnaire that we will send you in the mail, which should take about 15-20 minutes. The interview includes questions about your health and also your participation in different activities, such as social activities, hobbies and leisure pursuits, work, education and family relationships.

This study involves a 40 minute telephone interview, followed by a short, self-administered questionnaire that we will send you in the mail. **A date and time for the telephone interview can be arranged that best meets your needs.** We recognize that participating in our research takes up your valuable time. Unfortunately, we are unable to pay participants; however, we would like to offer you an honorarium in the form of \$20 gift certificate to Chapters or Loblaws as a small token of our thanks. We would like to remind you that your participation is **voluntary** and all the information you provide is **completely confidential**.

We will communicate the results of our research to people living with arthritis, The Arthritis Society, physicians, and the Ministry of Health. We will also communicate the results of our work in internationally recognized scientific journals and at national and international conferences.

For more information, please contact Katherine Nichol, the study coordinator at **1-866-724-0003**. We look forward to hearing from all interested individuals.

Sincerely,

Monique Gignac, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist, Division of Health Care & Outcomes Research  
The Arthritis Community Research & Evaluation Unit  
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