I am very pleased to write an introduction to this issue’s Joint Communiqué. It has been, and continues to be, my pleasure to serve the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) as its President.

The highlight of the job truly is the interaction with the Executive (comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and Past-President), the voting Board members and the committee chairs (who may or may not be voting Board members).

The committee structure is key to the functioning of the CRA executive. This structure came into full force under the reign of our illustrious Canadian Rheumatology Association Journal (CRAJ) Editor, Glen Thomson, when he was CRA President in 1998. Most of the issues which come to the attention of the Executive are dealt with by the various committees.

Under the guidance and leadership of the chairs, matters are assessed and studied, and recommendations to the Executive are put forth. The committee chairs are chosen by the President and are generally leaders in the profession with an interest and expertise appropriate to the committee which they chair. The chairs choose the members of their committee.

As you will see from the articles that follow, the CRA is served well by its Board and the committee chairs. These are very busy people that somehow find the time to do this important work for our Association.

As President, on behalf of the Association, I thank you.

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