



Canadian Scleroderma Research Group

FEBRUARY 2005

NEWSLETTER

VOL 3, NO 1

MARK IT IN YOUR CALENDAR



The 2005 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) will take place in Mont Tremblant, Quebec, Canada, from **March 2-5**.

Note that the next meeting of the CSRG will take place during the CRA Conference in Mont-Tremblant, on

Thursday March 3rd, 2005

Charivari room

19H30-21H00

The 2005 Scleroderma Foundation National Conference will be held in Boston!

The Scleroderma Foundation will hold the 2005 National Conference on **June 18-20**, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 575 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, Mass.

The 2005 Annual Meeting of the European The European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) will be held in Vienna, Austria

from **June 8-11**.

The 2005 Annual General Meeting of the Scleroderma Society of Canada will be held in Toronto, ON, on **October 1st**, at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North, 600 Hwy 7 E, Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 1B2.

The 2005 Annual Scientific Meeting of the ACR/ARHP will be held in San Diego, CA, from **November 12-17**.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

- ✧ Thanks to David Paquin (Clinical Project Manager), Jason Singh (Clinical Data Manager) and a great team of data management people, the GEREQ database is now functioning very efficiently.
- ✧ During the holidays, a team of dedicated people in Montreal entered data on 70 patients in our web-based database.
- ✧ Sites will be trained in the next few weeks to enter their own data into the database.

AS OF FEB 4, 2005...

- ✧ One hundred and fifteen (**115**) patients have been enrolled in the CSRG registry.
- ✧ Thirteen (13) centers have obtained ethics approval (EA) and are enrolling patients:
 - Dr Abu-Hakima, Calgary, AB
 - Dr Baron, Montreal, QC
 - Dr Bell, Toronto, ON
 - Dr Docherty, Moncton, NB
 - Dr Jones, Edmonton, AB
 - Dr Khraishi, St John's, NL
 - Dr LeClercq, Calgary, AB
 - Dr Markland, Saskatoon, SK
 - Dr Mathieu, Montreal, QC
 - Dr Pope, London, ON
 - Dr Robinson, Winnipeg, MB
 - Dr Smith, Ottawa, ON
 - Dr Sutton, Halifax, NS
- ✧ Thanks to the great work of many of our group members, on January 15, we sent our application to the CIHR to receive a New Emerging Team Grant. Lets hope for the best!



LOOKING CLOSER AT OUR DATA...

(N=66)

SSc and Depressive Symptoms...

- Depressive symptoms are quite common among patients with SSc.
- More than one third of our patients are likely to have clinically relevant depression.
- It is therefore crucial that professionals treating SSc patients identify those with higher levels of depressive symptoms and refer them for further psychological evaluation.
- Disability, pain and shortness of breath were shown to predict levels of depression.
- Decreasing disability and treating pain and shortness of breath could prevent high levels of depressive symptoms in SSc.

SSc, Gastro Intestinal (GI) Symptoms and Quality of Life...

- Patients with SSc report poor health related quality of life, both on a physical and psychological level.
- GI symptoms are common in SSc and are associated with significantly poorer mental health.
- Assessing and treating GI manifestations in SSc could help improve the quality of life and psychological wellbeing of patients suffering from SSc.

Canadian Rheumatology Association Annual Meeting

Mont-Tremblant, QC, March 2-5, 2005

- ✓ The next meeting of the **Canadian Scleroderma Research Group** will be held in Mont-Tremblant, QC (Thursday March 3, Charivari room, 19H30-21H00).
- ✓ The CSRG will also be getting together after the CRA Meeting, on **Saturday March 5 2005**, starting at **2 PM**, for a training session on skin scoring and that, with the precious help of a few patients. Lunch will be served starting at **12H30** in room A216, Jewish General Hospital, 3755 Côte Ste-Catherine Rd, Montréal, QC (514-340-8231).
- ✓ One abstract submitted by the CSRG will be presented at the CRA Meeting.

EULAR

Vienna, Austria, June 8-11, 2005

On the 3rd of February, the CSRG submitted the following abstracts to the 2005 Annual Meeting of the EULAR:

- PRELIMINARY STUDY OF THE PREDICTORS OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION DISEASE ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE II (WHODAS II) IN PATIENTS WITH SCLERODERMA (SSC)
- PRELIMINARY STUDY OF THE VALIDITY OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION DISEASE ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE II (WHODAS II) IN PATIENTS WITH SCLERODERMA (SSC)
- THE VALIDITY OF THE MEDICAL OUTCOMES STUDY SHORT FORM VERSION 2 (SF 36V2) IN PATIENTS WITH SCLERODERMA (SSC)
- PREDICTORS OF THE MEDICAL OUTCOMES STUDY SHORT FORM 36 VERSION 2 (SF 36V2) IN PATIENTS WITH SCLERODERMA (SSC)
- PRELIMINARY STUDY OF THE VALIDITY OF TWO ESTIMATES OF COMORBIDITY IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS (SSC)
- LUNG VAS HAS INCREMENTAL CONCURRENT VALIDITY OVER THE HAQ-DI AS AN OUTCOME MEASURE EVALUATING SCLERODERMA LUNG DISEASE
- A SIMPLE HIGH RESOLUTION COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY, OF THE LUNGS, SCORING SYSTEM CORRELATES WITH PULMONARY FUNCTION IN SCLERODERMA PATIENTS
- ANTI-CHROMATIN ANTIBODIES IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS (SSC)
- PREDICTORS OF DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS (SSC)
- GASTROINTESTINAL MANIFESTATIONS AND HEALTH RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS (SSC)

WE SHOULD KNOW AT THE END OF MARCH IF THEY ARE ACCEPTED.

OUR TEAM

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COLLABORATORS:

Mr. Robert Buzza, President,
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Dr. Andrew Hirsch, Respiriologist
Dr. Caroline Pukall, Psychologist
Dr. Lawrence Rudski, Cardiologist
Dr. Russell Steele, Statistician

If we can make a jet fly at 7,000 mph,
surely we can do something for patients with scleroderma!!!!!!



NASA's X-43A Scramjet Breaks Speed Record

NASA's X-43A research vehicle screamed into the record books again Tuesday, demonstrating an air-breathing engine can fly at nearly 10 times the speed of sound. Preliminary data from the scramjet-powered research vehicle show its revolutionary engine worked successfully at nearly Mach 9.8, or 7,000 mph, as it flew at about 110,000 feet.

NASA, Nov. 16, 2004



Feel free to let us know about any events or information that could be of interest for other members of our team.

Thank you!
Suzanne S. Taillefer