With lots of initiatives underway for ACR’s division of ARHP, we are excited to share first quarter “Highlights” of collaborations, member benefit initiatives, and staff transitions to keep you informed.

Thank you to the Rheumatology Research Foundation (RRF), who collaborated with ARHP in launching the *Mentored Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Award for Workforce Expansion*. This award provides financial support for tailored NP/PA training to those new to the field of Rheumatology. As part of ACR’s strategic plan, ARHP is working to increase the supply of rheumatology healthcare providers to meet the needs of patients with rheumatic disease across the United States. Watch for application details coming this Fall with awards up to $25,000 to be distributed in 2019 to the participating practice/physician for support of the NP/PA. And, if you have a friend or colleague who could benefit from this award, please encourage them to apply by visiting the RRF website!

ARHP is happy to report AC&R accepted the manuscript, *A Core Curriculum to Facilitate the Expansion of a Rheumatology Practice to Include Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants*. Congratulations to the ARHP NP/PA Rheumatology Task Force for producing this manuscript.

ARHP’s e-Learning Subcommittee has been hard at work on three massive initiatives:
1. The review and re-launch of the Advanced Rheumatology Course (ARC) planned for release this Fall will incorporate updated content and interactivity into its online modules;
2. The development of eleven ARC eByte products has been started; and
3. Initiating Phase II of ARHP’s NP/PA Curriculum Mapping has begun.

Take a ride with Dr. Iaian McInnes, EULAR President Elect and Ben Smith, PA-C, FAAPA, ARHP’s ARC & eByte Scientific Editor, for ARHP’s Keynote Address, *2030: a Rheumatology Odyssey* at the October ACR/ARHP Annual Meeting. Planning for this TED style talk began in the 1st quarter between EULAR and ARHP’s leadership. The result is an exploration of the future of rheumatology from the distinct perspective of the healthcare team members themselves and that of the patients they serve.
In addition, the ARHP Annual Meeting Program Subcommittee finalized the details of the Clinical Focus Pre-course on *Hot Topics in Immunology* and they look forward to seeing you there!

We appreciate ALL ACR and ARHP member volunteers giving their time to ensure quality educational materials are available to advance the knowledge of Rheumatology as a specialty.

The Membership and Nominations Committee has kept focused on ways to better meet the needs of members and expand the reach of ARHP;

- The new membership categories will be rolled out with the implementation of ACR’s new Association Management System this summer.
- In response to the approved new membership categories, the Rules of Procedures have undergone revision and are currently under final review. Plan to see these brought to the ACR BOD for formal approval shortly.
- With the recent creation of an ARHP Master Award, we encourage those eligible to apply.
- Ever wonder what non-member’s think? Well we do too, so the Membership Task Force Subcommittee has been drafting two mission critical surveys: one targeting non-members who have never been members and one focused on past members. Survey data will be used to formulate ARHP’s future membership recruitment efforts. The Task Force has also crafted questions for use in a second phase that will roll into a future ACR needs assessment survey for use in developing retention strategies.
- Review of current membership materials has been the focal point of many within ARHP and with the assistance of ACR’s Marketing and Communication Division, watch for something NEW coming soon!
- Cultivating and securing future leaders is essential. The long and detailed nomination process is just now wrapping up with recommendations being sent to ACR for review and consideration for appointment to ACR Committees.

During this same time, ARHP’s Practice Committee updated the case study on the *Transition to from Pediatric to Adult Rheumatology Patient*. The Committee has also continued to round out its work on the series, the “Role of . . .” by finalizing the newest compliment “The Role of a Primary Care Physician” which can be found posted as a resource on www.rheumatology.org. Up next will be “The Role of the Child Life Specialist.”

In staffing updates, the ARHP continues to be supported by Ramona Hilliard (Online Education) and Sharon Ross (Membership) but has also added some new faces.

- Esther White joined the ARHP as a contract Administrative Assistant in March. She will handle membership customer service/data entry.
- Bryant Armstrong also joined ARHP to assist with the Advanced Rheumatology Course revisions and re-launch as well as eByte product development currently in production.
• During this period, we bid a fond farewell to David Haag who served as the Executive Director for 17 years. We wish him good luck in his new adventures and phase in life!! Thank you, David!!

• In March, Tami Brehm, CAE, transitioned in as ARHP’s new Executive Director. We are happy to have her on board and look forward working with her.

We thank you for your patience and support during this time of transition. As the division staff settles in, they look forward to forging new relationships and opportunities with each of you in the months ahead.

ARHP Executive Officers,

Sandra Mintz, MSN, RN, President
Hazel L. Brelan, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, President-Elect
Janet Poole, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Secretary
Afton L. Hasset, PsyD, Immediate Past President