ARHP Executive Committee (EC) Highlights
March & May 2017

Dear ARHP Committee Chairs, Committee Members, Representatives to ACR and Foundation Committees, Past Presidents, ACR Officers, and Staff:

Below please find information from our March 30, 2017 and May 4, 2017 conference calls:

Afton L. Hassett, PsyD, provided the President’s Report which covered the following topics:

- The 2017 Executive Committee had 100% contributions to the Rheumatology Research Foundation for the first time!
- Benjamin Smith, PA-C, DFAAPA, was selected as the Advanced Rheumatology Course Scientific Editor. Mr. Smith has assembled his editorial team comprised of Associate Editors Kori A. Dewing, DNP, ARNP, and Atul Deodhar, MD, MRCP.
- Jan Stevens has accepted another position outside Rheumatology but will complete her 2017 terms on the ARHP Executive Committee and ACR Government Affairs Committee. We remain deeply grateful for her years of service.
- Patricia Katz, PhD, will be the ARHP representative to the Rheumatology Research Foundation Partners in Rheumatology: Leadership Summit on June 22-23, 2017 in St Louis, MO.
- To increase communication between the ARHP Executive Committee and our members, a series of articles will be published in The Rheumatologist slated for June, August, September, and October. The first article was co-authored by Dr. Hassett and Mr. Adam (ARHP eLearning Subcommittee article) and submitted for the June issue. The remaining co-articles will be written with Dr. Westby (ARHP Practice Committee article - August), Ms. Stevens (ACR Government Affairs Committee article - September), and Dr. Goode (ARHP Research Subcommittee article - October).
- The ARHP and National Organization of Rheumatology Managers (NORM) officers had a conference call on March 9, 2017. As a first collaborative initiative, it was decided to appoint a NORM-ARHP member on the 2018 ACR Insurance Subcommittee.
- Dr. Hassett introduced Jennifer Horonjeff, PhD, as part of the ARHP representative team to the ACR Strategic Planning Task Force. The other ARHP representatives will be Dr. Hassett, Ms. Mintz, and Mr. Haag. An update was provided including the new mission statement, vision statement, brand promise and key messaging, as well as 20 goals/objectives. The ARHP provided feedback on adding our co-ownerships under various online learning and membership goals, as well as addressing changes within the E4 research goal. The term “rheumatology professionals” used throughout the new strategic plan is appreciated. The Strategic Plan will be presented and approved at the May 11-12, 2017 ACR Board of Directors meeting and then disseminated to membership.
- Dr. Hassett, Dr. Schlenk, and Ms. Mintz will attend the 2017 EULAR Congress in Madrid.

Jan Stevens, BA, ARHP representative to the ACR Government Affairs Committee (GAC), provided an update:

- Described potential impacts on priority issues including the new Medicare physician payment system (MACRA), reducing practice burdens, biosimilars issues, patient cost sharing, and access to care. Their 2017 strategies include the importance of the ACR continuing a nonpartisan and constructive approach to health policy. The committee will join ACR RheumPAC and ACR Board of Directors members on Capitol Hill on May 11, 2017 to advocate for the College.

Elizabeth Schlenk, PhD, RN, presented the following NP/PA Rheumatology Fellowship Task Force updates:

- Developed a draft funding project proposal for the Rheumatology Research Foundation entitled, Mentored NP/PA Education Award for Workforce Expansion. Awards will be to the mentor rheumatologist for an amount of $25,000 to support training. Six awards are proposed for the first year and it is anticipated that more awards could be offered in the future.
• Ben Smith, PA-C, DFAAPA, will be lead author on a manuscript for *Arthritis Care & Research* about development of the NP/PA Rheumatology Curriculum Outline, with Dr. Joan Von Feldt as the ACR BOD shepherd.

• Two abstracts (NP/PA Needs Assessment abstract and NP/PA Rheumatology Curriculum Outline abstract) from the Task Force will be submitted to the 2017 Annual Meeting.

• Mary Wheatley, Executive Director of the Rheumatology Research Foundation, her staff, and Task Force member, Heather Benham, ND, RN, CPNP, will collaborate with the Scientific Advisory Council to develop the RFA for the *Mentored NP/PA Education Award for Workforce Expansion Award*.

• The need for a webinar task force was discussed to help develop webinars/podcasts for:
  - How to Mentor NPs/PAs (for rheumatologists)
  - Mentoring Differences
  - Evaluations

Sandra Mintz, BSN, MSN, ARHP President Elect, presented the following updates:

• The 2018 ARHP committees, subcommittee, task force rosters will be fleshed out during the May 12-13, 2017 ARHP Membership & Nominations Committee meeting with the goal of completing/confirming them by September.

• The 2018 ARHP Program of Work editing has begun and chair edits need to be sent to Mr. Haag by May 22. The 2018 ARHP Program of Work will be reviewed during the June 2-4, 2017 meeting and subsequent conference calls in July, August, and September.

**Collaboration Report**

• Mr. Haag discussed collaboration ideas with the Rheumatology Nurses Society (RNS) Executive Director, Kevin Lyons. They agreed co-sessions and liaisons between ARHP Executive Committee and RNS Board would be great ideas. The ARHP will exhibit at the August 9-12, 2017 RNS Annual Conference. Dr. Hassett, Ms. Mintz, and ARHP Membership & Nominations Specialist Sharon Ross will be in attendance.

• Drs. Hassett, Goode, Westby, Jones, and Ms. Mintz discussed research collaboration with Canadian Arthritis Health Professions Association (AHPA) President Leslie Soever, BScPT, MSc, ACPAC, and AHPA Research Committee chair Raquel Sweezie, PhD. Topics were discussed for 2018 co-webinars and/or co-sessions.

• On April 25, a well-received co-session entitled, *Staying at work: Work assessments and rehabilitative interventions for people with Inflammatory Arthritis*, was presented by Drs. Baker and Gignac (ARHP) and Dr. Prior (BHPR) at the 2017 British Society of Rheumatology/British Health Professionals in Rheumatology Annual Meeting in Birmingham, United Kingdom. A similar session will be held at the ACR/ARHP Annual meeting in San Diego, CA. ARHP officers will meet with BHPR leadership (Drs. Jill Firth and Prior Yeliz) at the 2017 EULAR Congress.

Dr. Hassett made the following announcements:

• Please send ideas and after hour stories from our membership to *The Rheumatologist*, Maura Iversen, Associate Editor.

The next ARHP Executive Committee meeting will be June 2-4, 2014 in Vancouver.

Watch for the next edition of “ARHP EC Highlights!”

Best wishes,

Afton L. Hassett, PsyD, President
Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals