

Fourth Annual ARThritis Soirée Raises Over \$285,000 for Arthritis Research Canada

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Vancouver, BC – May 27, 2016) By raising more than \$285,000 last night, the ARThritis Soirée in benefit of Arthritis Research Canada was deemed a great success! Guests enjoyed a wonderful evening that included fabulous champagne, wine, hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auctions and an amazing display of skill and precision with this year's chosen art form, the *art of fencing*. As Arthritis Research Canada's annual signature event, the ARThritis Soirée brings together business and community leaders, philanthropists, doctors, scientists, health care professionals, donors, and others who share a passion and appreciation of art and a desire to support arthritis research.

With one in six Canadians currently affected by arthritis and that number set to rise dramatically, the need for arthritis research has never been greater. With donor support, Arthritis Research Canada is making important progress in understanding the causes of arthritis and addressing the issues that impact the lives of people, both young and old who are living with this disease.

Arthritis Research Canada is the largest clinical arthritis research centre in North America and headquartered right here in British Columbia. Led by world-renowned rheumatologist, Dr. John Esdaile, ARC's scientific team of 70 are creating a future where people living with arthritis are empowered to triumph over pain and disability. Each of the three centres in BC, Alberta and Quebec are leading research in arthritis prevention, early diagnosis, treatment and quality of life issues.

ARThritis Soirée Chair Naz Panahi: "I am truly grateful to each of the generous sponsors, donors and guests who contributed in making the 2016 ARThritis Soirée such a success. With so many great causes needing our support, it was incredibly heartwarming to see the support and commitment to arthritis research. This disease affects more than 4.6 million Canadians, yet receives only 3% of available research dollars in Canada. Elevating the level of awareness about arthritis is needed to substantially increase the funding to support arthritis research. Our most heartfelt thanks to those who give to and help advance such an important cause."



Front left to right: Naz Panahi, ARThritis Soirée Committee Chair with Dr. John Esdaile, Scientific Director, Arthritis Research Canada. Host Fred Lee on stage in the Grand Ballroom, The Vancouver Club. Hristo Etropolski and Alex Terziyski of Rising Stars Fencing Club entertain guests.

For more information about the event and high resolution images, please contact:
Kevin Allen, Marketing and Communications – Arthritis Research Canada (ARC)
604.207.4010 or kallen@arthritisresearch.ca