

## 2017 ARThritis Soirée Raises a Record Breaking \$390,000 for Arthritis Research Canada

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Vancouver, BC – May 19, 2017) Last night's 5<sup>th</sup> annual ARThritis Soirée was a record breaking evening for Arthritis Research Canada. The Roof at the Hotel Vancouver was awash in purple as the signature cocktail event unfolded and an incredible \$390,000 to advance leading edge arthritis research was raised. Thanks to the collective and generous efforts of many sponsors, guests, donors, a stellar volunteer team and dynamic hosts Fred Lee from CBC, Vancouver Courier and The Province's Man About Town, and Robin Gill, Global National's weekend anchor and British Columbia correspondent - for making the evening such a resounding success!

The ARThritis Soirée brings together those who share a passion and appreciation of art and a desire to support arthritis research. With this year's theme of music, guests were treated to a performance by the amazing and talented, world-renowned violinist Jenny Bae who took the stage along with members of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. In what was her first-ever Canadian performance, Bae spoke to guests about her own family's experience with arthritis and acknowledging the cause as being very important. She went on to say "supporting a cause that touches so many lives in Canada and around the world gives me great satisfaction".

ARThritis Soirée Chair Naz Panahi, "I am truly grateful to each of the generous sponsors, donors and guests who contributed in making the 2017 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. Arthritis affects more than 5.2 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 research".

These remarks were echoed by Dr. John Esdaile, Scientific Director of Arthritis Research Canada who shared with guests several examples of how donor dollars are providing for breakthroughs in arthritis research in the areas of prevention, diagnosis and treatment, and addressing quality of life issues. Arthritis Research Canada needs champions, Dr. Esdaile expressed to guests, we need you to invest in arthritis research. With one in six Canadians currently affected by arthritis the need for arthritis research has never been greater". From the results of the evening fundraising efforts, it is clear the team of arthritis research champions is growing.

Arthritis Research Canada is the largest clinical arthritis research centre in North America and headquartered in Richmond, British Columbia. The scientific team of 70 are currently conducting over 75 research studies to find answers and save lives and build a future where people living with arthritis are empowered to triumph over pain and disability.



### **Arthritis Research Canada**

Arthritis Research Canada is the largest clinical arthritis research centre in North America. Our mission is to transform the lives of people living with arthritis through research and engagement. 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.

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