

## **Executive Summary**

On April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, the Arthritis Community Research and Evaluation Unit hosted a workshop with national and international colleagues with a view to developing a research agenda for arthritis care models using advanced practice rehabilitation professionals. Workshop participants included researchers, educators, physiotherapists and occupational therapists working in extended roles, and other stakeholders such as policymakers, professional regulators, The Arthritis Society, and people with arthritis.

The specific objectives of the workshop were:

1. To identify key research needs in the development, implementation, and evaluation of models of care with advanced practice roles for rehabilitation professionals.
2. To develop a plan to address the priority research issues.

Both oral presentations and small group discussions were used to meet these objectives. There were a number of presentations to provide background information on models of care with extended roles for PTs and OTs from both a Canadian and British perspective. Small group discussion identified research priorities in three theme areas:

### **Theme 1: Development of and Education for Extended Roles**

- Environmental scan of existing educational programs and models of care
- Build the business case for the role (e.g. health human resource shortages)
- Create a vision of the role in varying health settings

### **Theme 2: Evidence of Effectiveness of Extended Roles (Patient, Provider and Program Level)**

- Explore patient and health care provider perspectives of the role
- Explore interprofessional relationships in the models of care and organizational structures
- Measure the impact and value added components of care provided with this role

### **Theme 3: Effectiveness at the Health System Level**

- Develop and collect process measures and common indicators across programs
- Measure cost shifting and cost effectiveness
- Identify key factors for initiating and supporting system change

In order to facilitate progress in this area of research, the participants of the workshop and workshop planning committee formulated the following next steps:

- Dissemination of a workshop report for participants, funders and other stakeholders.
- Develop a list of participants who are interested in future collaboration in research in each of the three theme areas and disseminate to all participants.
- Monitor funding opportunities to move the research agenda forward.