Annual Report

"We don't represent the patient voice, we are the patient voice."
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The last couple of years have been trying for most organizations, as we have continued to navigate through the pandemic. But one thing we learned at our organization is that people living with autoimmune and autoinflammatory arthritis diseases are resilient. We have known for some time what it is like to shelter from potential infections, protecting ourselves from illness due to compromised immune systems (those on medications, that is). We've often had to tell family and friends we cannot see them, due to flares instead of regulated to do so. Yes, the new normal for most has often been a 'welcome to my life!' moment for our community - and, as such, AiArthritis has attempted in 2021 to capitalize on the public's new lifestyle to better understand our everyday limitations.

But of course everything did not revolve around COVID-19. While restrictions remained high, in 2021 AiArthritis was able to get back to work, hosting online webinars, learning events, and research programs.

We are hopeful as we move into 2022 that we can begin the outreach into the public that we have hoped to do for some time. Starting as a virtual only organization did bode well for us for many years - and especially as the world went online - but we have so many resources and programs to offer. We are ready for the world to know who we are, what we do, and how we can impact their lives.

For those of you who have watched us grow over this last 10 years, you know how far we have come. But this is just the beginning. Over the next 10 years we plan to triple our staff and volunteers, expand our work into the physical world, and reach 1,000's of people who could benefit from the work we do. Thank you for supporting us and for believing in us. Here's to the next decade!
The Team

In 2021, we expanded our staff and our impact. COVID-19 may have dominated our work, but our peer-led guidance did not waiver.

*We don't represent the patient voice, we *are* the patient voice.* In addition to our core team of five - who are all persons living with AiArthritis diseases, we have an array of volunteers and subcontractors who have helped us maintain our impact to provide resources to patients worldwide. We hope to double our team in 2022 so our programs can reach more people, and in turn, improve more lives.
AiArthritis Impact 2021

COVID-19 continued to affect our community in a variety of ways, but it did not stop our nonprofit from helping millions worldwide!

Education/Awareness

Every year AiArthritis leads efforts in awareness by hosting World AiArthritis Day, which reaches over 60 countries worldwide in the 47 hour online event. We also host Still's Disease Awareness Day, where we create patient-inspired education materials.

Advocacy/Public Policy

AiArthritis elevated our public policy work in 2021 10-fold, signing on to over 100 letters, publications, and co-ops aimed at improving access to therapies for patients - who should be matched to treatments based on their individual needs.

Research

The core focus remains on the individual. They need to be connected to the right medication. The patient and the provider must make these decisions without interference. This is ingrained in our approach. Those patients suffering from atypical diseases and those in subgroups must be kept at the forefront.
Testimonials

I do not know any other nonprofit in the world who gives so much attention to those who struggle to get a diagnosis. In my case, I look fine, my blood work is normal and I have no radiographic evidence of damage. The doctors I had seen didn’t believe anything was wrong with me, but I was suffering. The International Foundation for AiArthritis has helped me find my voice to advocate for my diagnosis, helped me understand what questions to ask and how to communicate better to find the right rheumatologist for me. I have since found a doctor who listens and I’m on my way to getting my quality of life back!

- June, United Kingdom

I have learned so much from the patients who lead the International Foundation for AiArthritis. They not only attend important conferences, they report back what they learned. Even if offered an opportunity to attend such events, my disease limitations make it impossible. I have followed other nonprofits for years, but none have given me this much opportunity to be an insider on their work. I truly feel like I’m there with them and that I am working with them to create solutions that matter to me. I am changing the world, as they say, ‘from my sofa’!

- Rebecca, Lupus, United States of America

There is no more isolating experience than fighting an illness which others don’t understand and, therefore, dismiss. What I have is a full body disease that attacks my joints, tissues, and organs. It affects every aspect of my life... being able to play with my child, my ability to work full time, and when I can’t attend gatherings with family and friends I’m labeled as just lazy or selfish. Awareness may not be able to help me physically, at this point, but if others understood truly what I’m dealing with then at least I could have peace of mind.

- Jamie, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Australia

The doctor told us our child was just experiencing growing pains. ‘Arthritis’ was never considered because he was three years old. Thank goodness we decided to get a second opinion and he was diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) after about six months. He’s been on treatments and doing much better, even able to participate in sports. I know some kids with these diseases aren’t so fortunate.”

- Dave, parent of child with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis
2021 Highlights

COVID-19. In addition to our COVID-19 Hotline and resource center, we hosted several COVID-19 related AiArthritis Voices 360 Talk Shows that featured resources from rheumatologists and lessons learned from American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) conferences.

Public Policy. While AiArthritis has been known for our work in awareness and research, in 2021 we broke out strong into the public policy space. In addition to participating in over two dozen Coalitions, we participated in efforts to advance access to therapies by challenging Pharmacy Benefit Managers and unfair insurance practices.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. COVID-19 shed a light on injustices and health equity issues in healthcare systems worldwide. To address these issues within our own community, AiArthritis aims to focus strongly on helping those whose perspectives are not always considered and, in turn, policies and access to care are affected.

Education & Awareness: The AUTO Ball

We hosted our 1st ever in person event, the AUTO Ball "Charity Talk", in St. Louis, MO. While only 10% of attendees could define AiArthritis diseases at the opening, 100% could by the end!

Research: The Pathway of Patient Engagement

The Pathway of Patient Engagement in Rheumatology Research was launched to identify tools and successes to build from so we can avoid duplication of efforts, improve impact, enhance collaborations, and increase value measurements.
We thank our supporters for your contributions, which enable us to continue creating, developing, and implementing solutions to problems most important to our community. We rely heavily on support from public donations, project grants, and in-kind services to successfully complete the necessary work we do for our community.

**Public Support, Revenue, and Expenses**

**Revenue**
- Public Contributions $20,430
- Program Grants $139,725
- Unrestricted Mission Support $127,621
- Total Cash Revenue **$287,776**
- Volunteer Contributions* $22,750

**Total 2021 Revenue: $310,527**

**Expenses**
- Add Program/Mission Expense $149,431
- Operations and Taxes** $60,412
- Subtotal Expense **$208,843**
- Volunteer Expense $22,750

**Total 2021 Expense: $231,593**

Revenue Over Expense: **$77,934**

Starting year balance: $91,910

End year balance: $169,442

*The International Foundation for Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory Arthritis relies heavily on donated manpower hours to achieve our mission and provide our program services. In 2021, 12 volunteers, including our accumulated over 875 hours of volunteer-contributed services. Based on the Independent Sector’s State Values of Volunteer Time Missouri 2021 rate of $26 per hour we raised an additional $22,750 in financial support, making our total annual revenue $.

**Our staff bills our time to projects with funding. This helps keep our overhead low.**