The International Foundation for Autoimmune and Autoinflammatory Arthritis (AiArthritis) focuses its efforts on a small group of diseases that are either autoimmune or autoinflammatory (of the immune system) that include inflammatory arthritis. AiArthritis is not only patient-led, we are the only organization global in scope and whose leaders are part of the community with our peers, participating daily in online communities and disease-related groups. We are respected leaders, teachers, mentors, and friends to our peers. Through our work we empower more patients to take an active role in their healthcare and in efforts to increase global awareness, affect policy issues, and support research efforts. We do this through a 6-step problem-solving process that aims to bring as many patient voices to the table as possible (not only the same people every time), alongside other stakeholders - as equals - so together we can solve issues that impact education, advocacy, and research.

TO VIEW OUR AiARTHRITIS ADVOCACY TRACKER, EVENT ATTENDANCE, AND ORGANIZATION LETTERS/COMMENTS, PLEASE VIEW THIS FOLDER

TO VIEW ALL THE LETTERS WE SIGNED ON TO, PLEASE VIEW THIS FOLDER
2022 Priorities: Precision Medicine/Biomarkers, Research Advocacy*, Biosimilars, Utilization Management, Value Measurements/HTA/QALY, Support for Innovation, Transparency/PBMs, Accumulators, Access to Care

AiArthritis Organization Highlights

- **New Coalitions**: AiArthritis joined ISPOR and the California Chronic Care Coalition and was invited to be on the Patient Advisory Board for Innovation and Value Initiative (IVI). [View all the Coalitions we belong to here.](#)

- **Connecting patients to grant review opportunities**: Every year AiArthritis is invited to nominate patients to participate as new* grant reviewers for the General Dynamics Information Technology Department of Defense (DOD) Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs ([CDMRP](#)) scientific peer review process. By tapping into our large, diverse population, we gave **four patients** the opportunity to participate in this program designed to determine efficacies and also shape future directions in medicine. *Patients cannot have any prior experience reviewing grants.*

- **AiArthritis joined the Clinical Trials Transformation Initiative (CTTI) new Working Group**: Using Disease Progression Modeling to Advance Trial Design and (Regulatory) Decision Making, which we believe is important to our work to use research to influence public policy (Research Advocacy).

- **Speaking Engagements**: Tiffany Westrich-Robertson was booked to speak at the NY BIO conference (virtual) as an autoimmune patient expert on biomarkers/precision medicine, the Rheumatology Nurses Society about patient-nurses and increasing public policy participation with the help of Patient Organizations, and was selected to speak (later in the year) about QALYs/Value Measurements at the Healthcare Advocate Summit in New Orleans, LA.
Advocacy Activities in Q1

Meetings, Conferences, and Webinars

View all events in Q1 AiArthritis attended, which covers issues on Innovation, Health Equity, QALY, Medicare/Medicaid, Utilization Management, Accumulators, Rare Disease, and PBMs. We regularly participate in these activities to educate ourselves - and the patient community - on important issues and help patients get involved alongside our organization to address them.

When able, we invite select members of our patient community to attend webinars with us, even those designed for patient organizations only (where we are given materials to share to educate our community). We then meet with these patients and inquire if the information was clear and what could we improve on to ensure other patients understand the issue and are more inclined to participate.

Sign on Letters

In the first quarter, AiArthritis signed on to 32 letters supporting initiatives involving Utilization Management, Accumulators, PBM Transparency, Rare Diseases, Telehealth, Access to Medications, and COVID-19, and others.

AiArthritis also participated in developing the final version of ‘Value in the States Principles’, signed jointly by many global high-profile organizations. You can view this document here.

Additionally, in January, AiArthritis provided comments and direction to the ACR regarding the development of their Integrative Guidance for Rheumatoid Arthritis. Our comments can be found here. Additionally, five of the twelve patient reviewers (all with
rheumatoid arthritis) chosen for the subsequent phase are in some way affiliated with our organization (Programs Manager, volunteers, Co-Hosts of our AiArthritis Voices 360 Talk Show).

**AiArthritis Letters.** In direct support of two pieces of pivotal legislation moving through the California Assembly in the First Quarter, **AiArthritis submitted letters of support for CA AB 2352**, the Patient Choice and Expansion (Price) Act, along with **CA AB 2942**, Lowering Patient Costs at the Pharmacy Counter (Prescription Drug Affordability) Act.

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In the first quarter, AiArthritis mainly used our Twitter platform to tweet about legislative issues, totaling more than 15,000 impressions.