



**American
Autoimmune**
Related Diseases Association, Inc.



aarda.org



ANNUAL REPORT **2021**

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CONTACT AARDA



www.aarda.org



(586) 776-3900



19176 Hall Rd, Ste 130
Clinton Twp, MI 48038

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OUR MISSION

The American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association (AARDA) is dedicated to the eradication of autoimmune diseases and the alleviation of suffering and the socio-economic impact of autoimmunity through initiating, fostering, and facilitating collaboration in the areas of education, public awareness, research, and patient services in an effective, ethical, and efficient manner.

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MESSAGE FROM MOLLY MURRAY

I am grateful for the collective autoimmune community and all that is being done for people living with autoimmune disease, their families and care team, and the scientific and medical teams who are working to find better treatments, and ultimately, cures. Despite this year's significant challenges brought on by the pandemic, this community has come together to support patients and families like never before. I am proud of what we are accomplishing together and the constant innovation taking place across autoimmune awareness, advocacy, education, and research. We look forward to continued collaboration to create a better tomorrow for the autoimmune patients we serve.

Molly Murray, President & CEO

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS IN FISCAL YEAR 2021

INDIVIDUAL, CORPORATE, AND FOUNDATION DONORS

Contributions \$20,000 & over

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AbbVie Inc.
Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation INC
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Contributions \$5,000 through \$19,999

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Raising money for a Cure - Gracie Reed fundraiser

Contributions \$1,000 through \$4,999

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Elizabeth Niemeyer
Raising awareness in honor of Cara Lian Lebedda fundraiser
James and Rita Peterson
Caleb Powers
Purple Butterfly Gift Fund
Quad Cities Community Foundation
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Women of Health Occupations Promoting Education

Contributions \$250 through \$999

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Contributions \$250 through \$999 Cont'd

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Janis Reinschmidt
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iMD Health
River Ridge Corporate Center
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Payroll Campaigns, Matching Gifts & Online Giving

Ally Financial Inc. Corporate Citizenship
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Charities Aid Foundation of America
Charity on Top Foundation Inc.
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Give inLieu Foundation
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Make My Donation Inc.

My Tribute Gift Foundation, Inc.
Network for Good
Onehope Foundation
Shell Oil Company Foundation
The Blackbaud Giving Fund
The Wonderful Company Foundation Inc.
Trustees of American Express Foundation
United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut
United Way of Central New Mexico
United Way of Greater Philadelphia & Southern New Jersey
Verizon Matching Gifts
Walt Disney Company Foundation Employee Matching Gifts Program

Other Contributors and Friends

Space does not allow us to include the names of all persons and organizations who gave their financial support to AARDA, but we say "Thank You" again as we give this recognition in honor of their generosity.

Memorials and Tributes

Since it is our policy not to release amounts given for these contributions, we take this opportunity to express our appreciation again to all the kind donors. Every contribution has been acknowledged to the donors, to those persons honored, and to the families of those held in memory.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING FISCAL YEAR 2021

ADVOCACY

Let My Doctors Decide

AARDA continues to lead [Let My Doctors Decide](#) (LMDD), a national partnership of leaders across health care working in support of a simple goal: treatment decisions should always be made by patients and trusted health care professionals, not insurance companies or pharmacy benefit managers. LMDD launched a [Drop the Barriers](#) campaign that calls out the top 10 barriers to care that patients experience, including a patient-focused [explainer video](#). AARDA and LMDD continues to leverage this unique message, driven by a task force of patient and provider groups, to shine a spotlight on the barriers patients face daily.

National Briefing

In July, AARDA hosted *Barriers to Improved Health In the Era of COVID-19: Advocates and Providers Speak Out*, where patient advocates, providers and health care experts discussed the harm posed by access restrictions.

National Coalition of Autoimmune Patient Groups (NCAPG)

The NCAPG has significantly grown the past year, adding over 10 new organizations that increase representation of autoimmune disease states across the globe. This year, the NCAPG met with congressional offices, members of the CDC COVID-19 Response Team, and leading researchers in Long COVID. The growth and impact of the NCAPG magnifies the voice of patients living with autoimmune disease and addresses key issues of importance to people living with autoimmune disease and their families.




AWARENESS

AARDA continues to lead the way in public awareness for autoimmune and related diseases. In March, we celebrated Autoimmune Disease Awareness Month. This year, we were honored to team up with clean beauty maven Indie Lee and patient influencers to raise widespread awareness about what it means to live with an autoimmune disease. The grassroots campaign, Faces of Autoimmunity, featured the journeys of people living with autoimmune disease. We are grateful to Indie's team and the inspiring patients, partners, and contributors that emphasized the message that no patient is alone on their journey.

EDUCATION

The long-anticipated approval of the first COVID-19 vaccines brought hope to many people living with autoimmune disease across the globe. At the same time, with misinformation and feelings of uncertainty ever rising, AARDA mobilized a team of experts to ensure that autoimmune patients and their families had access to the latest information on COVID-19 vaccines. In February, AARDA debuted a first-of-its-kind newscast, COVID-19 Vaccines and Autoimmunity, featuring perspectives from the CDC's COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force, patient advocates, and renowned physicians and researchers. The urgent need for real-time information was clear by the thousands of individuals that tuned in from across the globe. As new information on the COVID-19 vaccine became available, AARDA kept the autoimmune community up to date through speaking engagements, publications, social media, and our [COVID-19 Resource Page](#).





RESEARCH

Noel Rose Scientific Colloquium

AARDA hosted the 15th Noel Rose Scientific Colloquium on May 1, 2021, bringing together high-level researchers from different specialties to discuss the intersection of COVID-19 and autoimmunity. Participants heard directly from leading autoimmune experts, who shared how their past work on autoimmune diseases helped them pivot to study, understand, and generate hypotheses on how to combat the novel coronavirus. Experts agreed that there is a high degree of overlap between the study of autoimmune diseases and COVID-19 and affirmed their commitment to both a collaborative and holistic approach to the study of autoimmune diseases and COVID-19. As a direct result of the colloquium, a research paper was published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation (JCI), The intersection of COVID-19 and autoimmunity.

Inflammation & Immunophysiology: An Exploration of Pathophysiology Webinar Series

AARDA partnered with the American Physiological Society (APS) and InsideScientific to bring a series of six webinars to thousands of global participants in the scientific community, covering fundamental principles, late-breaking research, and novel discoveries in the field of inflammation and immunophysiology. The series included live lectures from leading researchers around the world and “Technology & Methods” sessions focused on laboratory innovations and fundamental methods central to immunology and inflammation research and related models of disease.

RA Research Results Funded by the Virginia T. Ladd Young Investigator Program

Dr. Tarun Sharma, a rheumatologist from the Allegheny Health Network in Pittsburgh, is a recipient of a research grant from the Virginia T. Ladd Young Investigator Program. Dr. Sharma's research looked at the best strategy for tapering treatment with biologics and non-biological RA medications to treatments with less risk in well-controlled RA patients to maximize the wellbeing of the patient has been a long-standing concern for both physician and patient. The practice-based study was conducted over a two-year period. The study shed light on the chances of a flare of RA with different tapering strategies and attempts to predict which patients might be good candidates for medication tapering. The study results concluded that tapering of both biologics and non-biologics together led to higher odds of flares. However, Dr. Sharma found that in cases where a flare occurred, resuming the previous treatment regimen led to disease control within 2-3 months. The findings help both physician and patient decision making by being better informed and able to participate in shared decisions regarding what is the most suitable long-term therapy strategy for individual patients with RA.

We congratulate Dr. Sharma and all Virginia T. Ladd Young Investigator Program awardees for their excellent investigation in autoimmune disease, and we encourage other young investigators to focus their research in this growing area where there is much opportunity and new discoveries waiting to be explored.



The Board of Directors,

American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association

Clinton Township, Michigan

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association (a nonprofit organization) which comprise the statement of financial position as of September 30, 2021, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audit, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association as of September 30, 2021, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Gordon Advisors, P.C.

April 25, 2022

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES



**American
Autoimmune**

Related Diseases Association, Inc.

For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	2020 TOTAL
Revenue and Other Support			
Contributions	\$ 2,645,294	\$ 634,124	\$ 3,279,418
Paycheck Protection Program grant	123,400		123,400
In-kind goods and services	482,143	0	482,143
Fundraising income - net of expenses of \$0	3,398	0	3,398
Other income	2,285	0	2,285
Interest income	2,463	0	2,463
	3,258,983	634,124	3,893,107
Net assets released from restrictions	586,924	(586,924)	0
Total Revenue and Other Support	3,845,907	47,200	3,893,107
Expenses			
<i>Program services</i>			
Education	966,873	0	966,873
Public awareness	2,217,156	0	2,217,156
Research	191,194	0	191,194
Total program services	3,375,222	0	3,375,222
<i>Supporting services</i>			
Management and general	104,058	0	104,058
Fundraising	61,708	0	61,708
Total supporting services	165,766	0	165,766
Total Expenses	3,540,988	0	3,540,988
Change in Net Assets	304,919	47,200	352,119
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$ 912,080	\$ 364,786	\$ 1,276,866
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 1,216,999	\$ 411,986	\$ 1,628,985

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

	PROGRAM SERVICES			TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	SUPPORTING SERVICES		TOTAL
	Education	Public Awareness	Research		Management and General	Fundraising	
Wages	\$ 265,002	\$ 347,709	\$87,757	\$700,468	\$31,018	\$25,740	\$757,226
Professional fees	28,646	21,914	7,097	57,657	10,916	1,755	70,328
Postage/shipping	4,877	1,131	277	6,285	195	620	7,100
Public relations	92,117	1,603,883	0	1,696,000	0	0	1,696,000
Legal	95,383	0	29,348	124,731	28,840	0	153,571
Consulting services	52,841	32,325	18,530	103,696	5,483	5,483	114,662
Grant writing	4,486	2,941	9,354	16,781	0	0	16,781
Printing/stationery	3,919	2,815	0	6,734	619	778	8,131
Office supplies	1,590	1,586	0	3,176	145	51	3,372
Operating supplies	7,530	4,697	88	12,315	285	246	12,846
Dues/subscriptions	14,360	30,711	16,779	61,850	2,997	2,030	66,877
Filing fees	1,454	1,454	0	2,908	1,418	1,454	5,780
Planned giving	6,432	6,348	0	12,780	1,456	6,197	20,433
Rent	51,157	38,757	861	90,775	5,340	4,651	100,766
Equipment maintenance	1,545	983	0	2,528	140	140	2,808
Telephone	4,613	4,661	292	9,566	360	237	10,163
Insurance	1,212	1,212	367	2,791	1,312	1,212	5,315
State/national meetings	0	1,258	985	2,243	245	0	2,488
Travel	0	1,777	0	1,777	380	0	2,157
Depreciation	1,301	1,301	1,301	3,903	1,301	1,301	6,505
Payroll taxes	20,898	23,098	5,499	49,495	2,199	3,300	54,994
Insurance - Health	18,191	15,118	3,342	36,651	1,806	1,594	40,051
Fundraising - Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Board expenses	622	216	76	914	4,494	0	5,408
Events	333	333	0	666		333	999
Professional training	1,473	2,318	261	4,051	153	226	4,430
Grants	0	0	5,000	5,000	0	0	5,000
Repairs/maintenance	500	500	500	1,500	500	500	2,500
Utilities	1,023	1,023	0	2,046	87	44	2,177
Miscellaneous	64	68	67	199	188	62	449
Retirement plan contributions	967	2,232	3,413	6,612	93	559	7,264
Website	284,337	34,787	0	319,124	1,198	3,195	323,517
Advertising/development	0	30,000	0	30,000	890	0	30,890
Total Expenses by Function	\$ 966,873	\$ 2,217,156	\$ 191,194	\$ 3,375,222	\$ 104,058	\$ 61,708	\$ 3,540,988
Less expenses included with revenues on the statement of activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total expenses included in the expense section on the statement of activities	\$ 966,873	\$ 2,217,156	\$ 191,194	\$ 3,375,222	\$ 104,058	\$ 61,708	\$ 3,540,988