

Active Living with Arthritis Podcast #7

Arthritis and Employment Part 1: Resources for Employed People with Arthritis and Other Rheumatic Conditions

Show Summary

Arthritis is the most prevalent musculoskeletal condition in adults—and is the single greatest cause of chronic pain and disability among Americans. Work loss, a type of participation restriction specifically tied to work performance and employment, can be substantial among persons with arthritis and can have enormous impact on those affected. Listen as Dr. Saralynn Allaire, renowned disability researcher with a background in vocational rehabilitation, helps clarify what resources you have to help you navigate your arthritis-related disability.

Show Outline

Welcome

Active Living with Arthritis Podcast

Mission: To bring you evidence-based information related to arthritis and rehabilitation.

Organization: The Center for Enhancing Activity and Participation among Persons with Arthritis (ENACT)

Located at Boston University's College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences: Sargent College.

Mission: "To enhance the lives of people with arthritis through research, training and community-based activities. ENACT strives to change the paradigm for arthritis research and intervention from a focus on disease and limitation to a focus that emphasizes active living and participation."

Host: Karen Jacobs, EdD, OTR/L, CPE, FAOTA. Clinical Professor of Occupational Therapy at Boston University.

Guest: Dr. Saralynn Allaire, ScD, CRC-R

Composer: Sara Crandall, DPT

Faculty mentor: Julie J. Keysor, PT, PhD

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[Disability Resources for Employed People](#)

Disability Websites:

Resource: Government website for disability services, including workplace accommodations/support and reasonable accommodations.

<http://www.disability.gov>

Resource: Americans with Disability Act (ADA) homepage

<http://www.ada.gov>

Resource: National Network of ADA Centers (DBTAC) American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Technical Assistance Program. This government funded program helps people and employers find out if they, or their employees, are eligible for the ADA and whether a job accommodation is likely to be considered reasonable.

<http://www.adata.org> DBTAC 1-800-949-4232 (toll free/ TTY)

Resource: Job Accommodations Network (JAN)- This government funded agency helps people and employers learn about what job accommodations could help them, or their employees, do their work better.

<http://www.jan.wvu.edu> 1-800-526-7234 V/TTY

Resources: The Massachusetts Easter Seals Society offers computer evaluation for people with disabilities and health conditions

<http://ma.easterseals.com>

National Agencies:

Resource: National agencies for disease-specific support. Find your local chapter!

Arthritis Foundation

<http://www.arthritis.org>

Scleroderma Foundation

<http://www.scleroderma.org>

Lupus Foundation

<http://www.lupus.org>

Multiple Sclerosis Society

<http://www.nationalmssociety.org>

Check back soon for the next podcast! Next month's topic is: *Arthritis and Employment Part 2: When and How to Tell People at Work about Your Arthritis or other Rheumatic Condition*

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Additional Resources

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

<http://www.eeoc.gov> TTY: 1-800-669-6820

U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

<http://www.dol.gov> TTY: 1-877-889-5627

Work At Home/ Telework as a Reasonable Accommodation

<http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/telework.html>