



SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE AND ADMINISTRATION TEAM AT THE 4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 17TH & 18TH 2019, TORONTO.

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CanVECTOR is a pan-Canadian, patient-oriented, Community Development Program centered on venous thromboembolism-related research, training, and knowledge translation.

Message from the Directors

Greetings and Happy New Year!

As we kick-off a new year (and a new decade!), we are grateful for the continued support and incredible contributions from all our CanVECTOR members. We're confident that the coming year will bring even more ground-breaking VTE research in Canada and across the world thanks to our hard work and innovation. We have exciting plans for the network in the coming years and we look forward to facilitating and promoting your research.

In late 2019, we hosted our most successful Annual Conference yet in Toronto. Photos from each of our four Annual Conferences have been uploaded to our CanVECTOR [website](#). Check out how our network has grown over the years!

Planning has already begun for the 5th Annual Conference – **save the date for October 22nd and 23rd 2020 in Toronto, ON!** This year we'll be hosting the Annual Conference jointly with Thrombosis Canada. Deals will be offered to CanVECTOR members to attend both events, so keep an eye on your inbox for more information. If you're interested in helping to plan the conference, please email info@CanVECTOR.ca.

We're also excited to announce that the new year will bring a new CanVECTOR members database: **myCanVECTOR**, which will replace the Members Portal currently available on the CanVECTOR website. We are hard at work to make this new database functional and useful for CanVECTOR members. Features will include: CanVECTOR funding

applications and review processes, document storage, access to CanVECTOR templates, network policies and procedures, and more. Members will be invited to access the new database shortly.

In late 2019, we submitted our Year 4 Progress Report to CIHR's Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health (ICRH). This was an enormous undertaking that required input from all CanVECTOR members and especially the platform co-leads. We want to extend a sincere thank you to all members who submitted their publications, which are an important way to measure the impact of our network. Our full list of publications and presentations ran to 26 pages! To see the final report, login to the Members Portal [here](#).

Finally, your very own CanVECTOR co-director Dr. Marc Rodger has recently begun a new position as Chair of the Department of Medicine of McGill University and Physician-in-Chief of the McGill University Health Centre. Welcome to Montreal, Marc, and congratulations on this prestigious appointment! See full details of the announcement on page 3.

As always, don't hesitate to drop us a line if you want to get involved in any aspect of CanVECTOR.

Until next time!

Susan R. Kahn

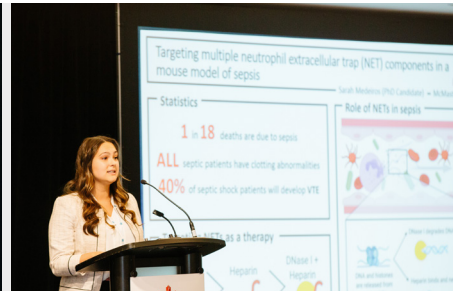


Susan and Marc

A look back at the 4th Annual Conference!



We kicked off our meeting with welcome remarks from our conference co-chairs, Dr. Deborah Siegal and Dr. Colin Kretz, and a keynote from Dr. Geoffrey Barnes.



CanVECTOR trainee research was highlighted in the 3-Minute Project Competition and the Selected Oral Abstract Presentations.



CanVECTOR members participated in sessions and workshops throughout the conference.



The 4th Annual Conference adjourned with a reception to thank our partners and recognize the successes of CanVECTOR trainees.



Patient Partner Suzanne Dubois presented during the Platform Updates session.



SAVE THE DATE!

THE 5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 22ND AND 23RD, 2020 IN TORONTO.

Do you want to be involved in planning the conference program? Give us a shout at info@canvector.ca

Trainees Spotlight: Fall 2019 Research Start-Up Competition Awardees

We are pleased to announce our Fall 2019 Research Start-Up Competition Award Recipients! The Research Start-up Awards are a network award competition intended to help trainees achieve their research objectives through start-up funds for a research project or pilot work to strengthen their research. Congratulations to the awardees and thanks to all who applied.



Dr. Lauren Andrew
University of Calgary
Supervisor: Dr. Leslie Skeith
PROJECT TITLE: Understanding Patients' Perspectives and Barriers to Participating in Postpartum Clinical Trials: A Qualitative Substudy of The Pilot PARTUM Trial.



Dr. Lindsey Gerstein
McGill University
Supervisor: Dr. Maral Koolian
PROJECT TITLE: A Practical Comparison of a PE Diagnostic Approach: Is All Wells in the World?



Dr. Keerat Grewal
University of Toronto
Supervisor: Dr. Kerstin de Wit
PROJECT TITLE: Venous Thromboembolism in Patients Discharged from the Emergency Department with Ankle Fractures: A Population-Based Cohort Study.



Dr. Erin Helson
University of Calgary
Supervisor: Dr. Deepa Suryanarayan
PROJECT TITLE: Single-center Retrospective Observational Study Evaluating the Incidence, Appropriateness, and Cost Effectiveness of Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia (HIT) Assay Use in Adult Patients Admitted to Tertiary Care Hospitals in Calgary.



Dr. Steven Roy
University of Calgary
Supervisor: Dr. Leslie Skeith
PROJECT TITLE: Chemical Stability of Direct Oral Anticoagulants in Environmental Conditions Outside of the Manufacturer Suggested Temperature Range.



Ms. Cindy Shen
McGill University
Supervisor: Dr. Houman Khosravani
PROJECT TITLE: Characterization of Unfractionated Heparin Infusion Use at a Comprehensive Stroke Centre.



Dr. Camille Simard
McGill University
Supervisor: Dr. Maral Koolian
PROJECT TITLE: Standardized Direct Oral Anticoagulants Prescription for Treatment of Acute Deep Vein Thrombosis in the Emergency Department: A Quality Improvement Initiative.



Dr. Daniel You
University of Calgary
Supervisor: Dr. Prism Schneider
PROJECT TITLE: Thrombelastography-Defined Duration of Hypercoagulability Following Pelvis and Acetabular Fractures.

CanVECTOR Kudos



Congratulations to **Dr. Marc Rodger** on starting a new position as Chair of the Department of Medicine of McGill University and Physician-in-Chief of the McGill University Health Centre.

Dr. Rodger served for the last decade as Chief and Chair of the Division of Hematology at the Ottawa Hospital (until June 2019). As McGill Chair, Dr. Rodger will oversee one of the largest departments in the Faculty of Medicine, whose members are located at the MUHC, the Jewish General Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital Center and several community hospitals. As MUHC Physician-in-Chief, Dr. Rodger will oversee the Medical Mission, including the Department of Medicine's 15 general and specialty divisions at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal General Hospital, Lachine Hospital and Montreal Chest Institute.



CanVECTOR's co-director **Dr. Susan Kahn** was recently named to the [Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health \(ICRH\)](#) Institute Advisory Board. Members of the IAB

provide support and guidance to the Scientific Director, Dr. Brian Rowe, in aligning Institute activities with the Institute's goals of supporting outstanding research, enhancing research capacity, building national and international partnerships, and advancing circulatory and respiratory health in Canada and around the world. Congratulations Dr. Kahn!



Congratulations to **Dr. Deborah Siegal** for being awarded the [2020 ASH Scholar Award](#) to support her research to "improve anticoagulant use after GI bleeding". This is part of Dr. Siegal's [Post-Bleed](#)

[Management of Antithrombotic Therapy \(PANTHER\)](#) project, funded through the Heart and Stroke Foundation / CanVECTOR ERLI Award.

Congratulations to **Dr. Jeff Weitz** for being honoured at the recent ASH Conference with [The Ernest Beutler Lecture](#) award that recognizes major translational advances. Dr. Weitz's lecture, Blood Coagulation: From Molecular Mechanisms to Treatment of Thrombosis, discussed the bench-to-bedside development of novel anticoagulants for the treatment of venous thromboembolism. And a big thank you to Dr. Weitz for his acknowledgement of CanVECTOR during his lecture!

Trainees Spotlight: Fellowship and Studentship Awardees

We are pleased to announce the 2020-2021 Trainee Fellowship and Studentship award recipients. The network received several strong applications this past fall. The review committee selected one thrombosis fellow and two graduate students to receive these salary awards. Congratulations to the awardees and thanks to all who applied.



Joseph Shaw
University of Ottawa
Awarded CanVECTOR Fellowship
Supervisor: Dr. Marc Carrier
PROJECT TITLE: Global Assessment of Hemostatic TGA Indices Following the Use of Prothrombin Complex Concentrates for Major Bleeding or Urgent Surgery in Patients Treated with Factor Xa Inhibitors: GAUGE - A Prospective Observational Cohort Study.



Neha Sharma
McMaster University
Awarded CanVECTOR Studentship
Supervisor: Dr. Patricia Liaw
PROJECT TITLE: Exploring the Effectiveness of Vasoflux, a Non-Anticoagulant Heparin, as an Inhibitor of Neutrophil-Derived Procoagulant Molecules.



Ying (Crystal) Ding
McMaster University
Awarded CanVECTOR Studentship
Supervisor: Dr. Peter Gross
PROJECT TITLE: An *In Vivo* Thrombin Activity Assay to Determine the Relationship between Prothrombin Levels and Thrombosis

Recent CanVECTOR Publications

Another CanVECTOR-funded project has been published in *Thrombosis Research*, "[Does cell-free DNA promote coagulation and inhibit fibrinolysis in patients with unprovoked venous thromboembolism?](#)" This was a translational study to explore biochemical mechanisms of thrombosis in a large cohort of patients with unprovoked VTE. Congratulations to Dr. Patricia Liaw, Sarah Medeiros (CanVECTOR-funded trainee), and CanVECTOR colleagues Dr. Vinai Bhagirath, and Dr. Clive Kearon.



Dr. Patricia Liaw presented during the Platform Highlights Session at the CanVECTOR 4th Annual Conference

Congratulations to Dr. Fatimah Al-Ani and her CanVECTOR colleague Dr. Alejandro Lazo-Langner on their recent publication in *Thrombosis and Haemostasis* titled "[Development of a Clinical Prediction Rule for Venous Thromboembolism in Patients with Acute Leukemia](#)".

Kudos to Dr. Teresa Cafaro, Dr. Camille Simard, Dr. Vicky Tagalakakis, and Dr. Maral Koolian for their recent publication "[Delayed time to emergency hip surgery in patients taking oral anticoagulants](#)" in *Thrombosis Research*. The CanVECTOR Network is proud to be included so prominently. Thank you!

Congratulations to Dr. Clive Kearon and his CanVECTOR colleagues (Dr. Kerstin de Wit, Dr. Sameer Parpia, Dr. Sam Schulman, Dr. Marc Afilalo, Dr. Andrew Hirsch, Dr. Grégoire Le Gal, Dr. Alejandro Lazo-Langner, Lisa Rudd-Scott, Dr. Shannon Bates, and Jim Julian) for their recent publication in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, "[Diagnosis of Pulmonary Embolism with d-Dimer Adjusted to Clinical Probability](#)".

Thank you to all these authors for acknowledging CanVECTOR in your publications. To see the recently revised CanVECTOR Acknowledgment Policy, go to Member Portal > CanVECTOR Documents, or click [here](#).

Get to Know CanVECTOR

Our membership is always growing. In this segment, we'd like to introduce you to a recent addition to the CanVECTOR network.

Dr. Houman Khosravani is a stroke physician at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto and the medical director of the in-patient unit. He is also a clinician in quality & innovation and an assistant professor of medicine, in the division of neurology, department of medicine, University of Toronto. Dr. Khosravani's interests are quality improvement at different levels of care relevant to hyper-acute stroke management and inpatient stroke services. At the level of hyperacute stroke care, his focus is on improvement of door-to-needle times for thrombolysis. He is also working on understanding

and improving factors that are relevant to a successful thrombectomy program in a comprehensive stroke center.

Dr. Khosravani joined CanVECTOR in August 2019, and participated in the 4th Annual Conference in October, along with his students Courtney Wong, Cindy Shen, and Peter Pham. Together, they are working on characterizing the utility (and pitfalls) of unfractionated heparin infusion in stroke patients.



Do you know someone who wants to join CanVECTOR? Simply have them complete the new member form [here](#) and the CanVECTOR administration will follow-up shortly.

The Patient's Perspective: James Lind Alliance Partnership

Close to 200 people have contributed to setting VTE research priorities – thank you for your input!

The [VTE Priority Setting Partnership \(PSP\)](#) is an initiative of the CanVECTOR network in partnership with the James Lind Alliance. The goal of the VTE PSP is to engage with patients, caregivers and clinicians to identify uncertainties about the prevention, diagnosis, management and long-term impact of VTE and its associated treatments on patients, caregivers, and their families. These uncertainties will be used to guide future research.

Health research topics have traditionally been chosen by researchers or scientists and may not always reflect the needs of people living with a particular condition. People living with VTE, their loved ones and their health care team are experts in living with blood clots and have questions of their own that need to be heard.

Our process to develop better research questions based on real experiences is adapted from the James Lind Alliance, an organization in the United Kingdom that brings together patients, caregivers and clinicians to identify and prioritize the Top 10 unanswered research.

We began with gathering questions, through surveys of patients, clinicians and caregivers for their top questions related to VTE. Next, we are merging and categorizing these questions into common themes and checking them against existing research evidence to see if these questions are already answered. The shortlisted questions will be reviewed and finalized by a group of patients and clinicians from across Canada. The final shortlist will be delivered to an in-person workshop where patients, clinicians, and caregivers review and rank the proposed questions into a top 10 prioritized list. The top 10 prioritized list will be shared publicly and used to guide future patient-oriented research.

So far, we have received feedback from 197 respondents and a preliminary analysis shows approximately 557 discrete questions related to long-term management, cancer, diagnosis, and quality of life, among others. Final priority setting is on track for May 2020.



JAMES LIND ALLIANCE ADVISER AND CHAIR OF THE STEERING GROUP TOTO GRONLUND AT THE CANVECTOR 4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN TORONTO.

CanVECTOR Network on ClinicalTrials.gov

As of September, 2019, CanVECTOR Network can be listed as a collaborator on ClinicalTrials.gov. So far, we have 5 studies that have listed the network as a collaborator. This is an important way to measure and track the impact of the network. Thank you to these study investigators and dedicated research coordinators and managers for acknowledging the CanVECTOR Network as a collaborator. Keep up the great work!

- [Comparison of Bleeding Risk Between Rivaroxaban and Apixaban for the Treatment of Acute Venous Thromboembolism \(COBRRA\)](#)
- [Comparison of Bleeding Risk Between Rivaroxaban and Apixaban \(COBRRA Pilot\)](#)
- [WAVe Study – Weight Adjusted Dalteparin for Patients Over 90 kg With Acute Cancer Associated Venous Thromboembolism](#)
- [Pilot PARTUM Trial: Postpartum Aspirin to Reduce Thromboembolism Undue Morbidity](#)
- [VTE Prevention Following Total Hip and Knee Arthroplasty \(EPCATIII\)](#)



Poster Abstracts

20

Poster abstracts were presented by CanVECTOR members at ASH 2019.



By the Numbers - Social

11,000

The number of times users on twitter viewed CanVECTOR's social media activity throughout the conference, including over **200** engagements.



Ernest Beutler Lecture and Prize

DR. JEFFREY WEITZ

CanVECTOR Translational / Basic Science Research Co-Lead

One of two *Ernest Beutler Lecture and Prize* Recipients for achievements in clinical science / translational research.



Oral Abstracts

6

CanVECTOR members abstracts were selected for Oral presentations.



Member Representation

40+

Network members were involved in this year's conference through oral & poster presentations, education programs, special-interest sessions, training activities, and more.

NETWORK SUCCESS AT ASH 2019

ORLANDO, FL. | DECEMBER 7-10, 2019

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