



Save-the-Date:
 CanVECTOR's 2021 conference has been rescheduled to November 4-6th, 2021 in Toronto, ON. This is a hybrid event – hosted both in-person and virtually – in collaboration with Thrombosis Canada. We look forward to connecting with all members and colleagues!



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CANVECTOR AT ASH 2020

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

Message from the Directors

Dear CanVECTOR members,

We hope all members and colleagues had safe and pleasant holidays.

As we kick off 2021, we want to take the opportunity to congratulate all members network-wide for their work and successes over the past year. CanVECTOR members were involved in several successful CIHR COVID-19-related grants, high-profile publications, attended and presented at numerous virtual events – including the 2020 CanVECTOR Virtual Conference, ISTH 2020 and ASH 2020 – and pivoted towards important collaborative projects to improve future research capacities. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented unique challenges for all of us, and we are truly amazed at the response from our research community.

This past year, network membership increased to over 200 members. We are particularly pleased to welcome CanVECTOR researchers from new institutions, such as Queen's University (Dr. David Lillicrap, Dr. Kerstin de Wit, and Dr. Maha Othman) and Université Laval (Dr. Eric Boilard and Dr. Marie-Claude Pelland-Marcotte). We have also benefited from vigorous outreach efforts by our Basic Science platform leads to expand their network of research labs at additional sites, with new plans for the coming year.

In September 2020, we launched a new series, [CanVECTOR Thrombosis National Research Seminars](#), to showcase state-of-the-art research. In October 2020, we held our first ever [virtual conference](#) in collaboration with Thrombosis Canada; full CanVECTOR sessions can be found [here](#). Staying connected during the pandemic has been challenging, thus we doubly appreciate the engagement of our members in planning these virtual events. We look forward to seeing our members in person (vaccines willing!) at our next Annual Conference in Toronto, ON from November 4-6th, 2021. Make sure to save the date!

We are also thrilled that Carol West, a network patient partner, has been appointed as the co-lead of the Patient Partners platform for Phase 2! Carol has been an essential contributor to the platform and we thank her for bringing her enthusiasm and leadership to this role.

The network has exciting plans for the coming year, including expansion of the CanVECTOR Adjudication Platform for clinical studies, changes to the Basic Science Studentship awards, a pilot trial competition, renewed calls for platform involvement to offer more opportunities for members, and later in 2021, starting to plan the scientific program of [ISTH 2023](#).

As our community continues to grow and evolve in Phase 2 (2020-2025) of the network, we look to further strengthen collaborations among researchers and research sites through new programming and resources that improve and enhance our collective research capacities.

As always, don't hesitate to reach out if you'd like to get involved in any aspect of CanVECTOR, and thank you for staying connected and

engaged with us during these challenging times. Until next time.

 

Susan & Marc

Trainee Spotlight: Fellowship Awardees

We are pleased to announce the Fall 2021-2022 Research Training Award recipients. The network received several strong applications for the Fall competition. The review committee selected two fellowship award recipients. Congratulations to the awardees and thanks to all who applied.

CanVECTOR's annual training awards would not be possible without the generous support of our partners, including in-kind fellowship funding support from the University of Ottawa Department of Medicine in this competition. Thank you to our partners for the continued support in training the next generation of thrombosis researchers.



Dr. Yan Xu
University of Ottawa

Awarded *CanVECTOR Fellowship*
Supervisor: Dr. Marc Carrier

PROJECT TITLE: Evaluation of Oral Anticoagulant-Related Bleeding Definitions in Orthopedic Surgery Patients

The primary objective of this project is to determine, using current major bleeding and clinically relevant non-major bleeding (CRNMB) definitions in surgical VTE prophylaxis, 30-day post-operative mortality of cases when defined by these bleeding definitions. Secondary objectives are to a) calculate the case agreement between four definitions of CRNMB; b) evaluate rates of wound complications based on the current bleeding definitions, c) assess the association of each definition sub-criterion with post-operative mortality and wound complications, and d) compare healthcare resources associated with cases defined as post-surgical major bleeding and CRNMB.



Dr. Vicky Mai
University of Ottawa

Awarded the inaugural *Clive Kearon CanVECTOR Fellowship*, for the top-rated application in the competition
Supervisor: Dr. Grégoire Le Gal

PROJECT TITLE: Pulmonary embolism in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease exacerbation

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) affects more than 200 million persons worldwide and is projected to be the third cause of mortality worldwide in 2030. COPD exacerbation, defined as an acute increase in respiratory symptoms, occurs at a rate of 0.5 to 3.5 exacerbations/patient/year and is associated with an increased mortality. Although infection is most frequently at the origin of COPD exacerbation, its cause remains unknown in 30% of the cases. More recently, pulmonary embolism (PE) has been suggested as a frequent cause of COPD exacerbation. Also, COPD exacerbation are associated with an increased risk of PE and the mortality rate of PE in the context of COPD exacerbation can reach 50% at one year. However, diagnosing PE in patients with COPD exacerbation is difficult because the confounding symptoms and the absence of validated diagnostic algorithm. Moreover, the real incidence of PE and its consequences are still widely unknown.

The general objective of this proposed research program is to determine the optimal management of potential PE amongst patients with COPD exacerbation.

Three new patient Evidence Summaries are now available! Read the latest:



[Doctor, I take Xarelto or Eliquis or Pradaxa for atrial fibrillation. What is the risk of stopping it before my procedure?](#)

[Doctor, can I take Eliquis® to treat my blood clot caused by cancer?](#)

[How many people in Canada are diagnosed with DVT or PE each year?](#)

Are you a clinical or basic science trainee Interested in getting involved in the development of patient evidence summaries? [Connect](#) with us.



The interim prioritization survey of the James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership (JLA PSP) initiative will be launched in early February! Survey results will be brought for debate and discussion to the final workshop in March 2021. [Learn more.](#)

Dr. Grégoire Le Gal
Co-lead, Clinical Trials
and Shared Platforms
CanVECTOR



Dr. Deborah Siegal
Co-lead, Clinical Trials
& Shared Platforms
CanVECTOR



CanVECTOR Members Leading Multiple International VTE Data and Outcome Standardization Initiatives

A goal of CanVECTOR's Clinical Trials platform is to develop shared resources to facilitate clinical research in venous thromboembolism (VTE). Members have played prominent roles in recent international efforts to standardize data collection and outcomes in clinical VTE research, intended to enhance the quality of data collection and enable comparison and synthesis of results and data sets to efficiently answer important clinical research questions in thrombosis.

In November 2020, [Common Data Elements](#) for Venous Thromboembolism (ISTH VTE CDE) were presented in [The Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis](#) as an official communication from the Scientific and Standardization Committee (SSC) of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH). This culminated a year-long international effort to collaboratively create global common research data standards for VTE clinical research. The project's Steering Committee, including CanVECTOR members Dr. Grégoire Le Gal (Chair), Dr. Lana Castellucci, and Dr. Marc Carrier, oversaw seven Working Groups comprising a team of over 50 international VTE experts. Twelve CanVECTOR members contributed as working group members and many others participated in the public comment period.

Dr. Le Gal, Chair of the VTE CDE Steering Committee, spoke about the importance of this significant undertaking: "As thrombosis researchers, if we speak the same clinical research language, no matter where in the world we're located, it opens the door for collaboration and elevates the quality of our research... It becomes much easier to compare study results, to combine databases without mixing apples and pears, and to address important unanswered clinical questions."

The proliferation of studies including thrombosis outcomes in patients with COVID-19 created another opportunity for CanVECTOR members to collaborate with international colleagues to promote consistency across studies. A toolkit including data elements and endpoints related to venous thrombosis, arterial thrombosis, anticoagulation, bleeding, and associated laboratory tests, was published in [Blood Advances](#) in December 2020. The toolkit, designed to be easy to use by trialists who are not thrombosis specialists, was a product of The ASH Research Collaborative (ASH RC) and the International Society on Haemostasis and Thrombosis (ISTH), led by Dr. Deborah Siegal, and a team consisting of several CanVECTOR members.

“AS THROMBOSIS RESEARCHERS, IF WE SPEAK THE SAME CLINICAL RESEARCH LANGUAGE, NO MATTER WHERE IN THE WORLD WE’RE LOCATED, IT OPENS THE DOOR FOR COLLABORATION AND ELEVATES THE QUALITY OF OUR RESEARCH...”

– Dr. Le Gal



Register and join us for the next CanVECTOR National Thrombosis Seminars session on Wednesday, February 24th at 11am EST featuring Dr. Leslie Skeith, University of Calgary, presenting on VTE and the *Pilot PARTUM RCT*, and Dr. Patricia Maguire, University College Dublin, presenting on *Advances in basic science/translational research in maternal health and VTE*.



Recent Publications – Kudos for Acknowledgement of CanVECTOR Support!

Kearon C, Carrier M, Gu CS, Schulman S, Bates SM, Kahn SR, Chagnon I, Nguyen DT, Wu C, Rudd-Scott L, Julian JA. [Rivaroxaban Compared to Placebo for the Treatment of Leg Superficial Vein Thrombosis: A Randomized Trial.](#) *Semin Thromb Hemost.* 2020 Nov;46(8):977-985. doi: 10.1055/s-0040-1718891. Epub 2020 Dec 23. PMID: 33368114.

Tritschler T, Langlois N, Hutton B, Shea BJ, Shorr R, Ng S, Dubois S, West C, Iorio A, Tugwell P, Le Gal G. [Protocol for a scoping review of outcomes in clinical studies of interventions for venous thromboembolism in adults.](#) *BMJ Open.* 2020 Dec 7;10(12):e040122. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2020-040122. PMID: 33293309; PMCID: PMC7722803.

Baumgartner, C, **Tritschler, T.** [Clinical significance of subsegmental pulmonary embolism: An ongoing controversy.](#) *Res Pract Thromb Haemost.* 2020; 00: 1– 3. <https://doi.org/10.1002/rth2.12464>

Galanaud, J-P, Sevestre, M-A, Pernod, G, et al; for the OPTIMEV-SFMV Investigators. [Epidemiology and 3-year outcomes of combined oral contraceptive-associated distal deep vein thrombosis.](#) *Res Pract Thromb Haemost.* 2020; 4: 1216– 1223. <https://doi.org/10.1002/rth2.12409>

Thank you to all these authors for acknowledging CanVECTOR in your publications.

To view the current CanVECTOR Acknowledgment Policy with examples of how to acknowledge our network, click [here](#).

Basic Science Platform – 2021 Plans

Since the inception of the network, the CanVECTOR Translational / Basic Science platform has been uniquely positioned to fill knowledge gaps that exist on causal mechanisms for venous thromboembolism (VTE) and chronic complications of VTE. Through direct platform support and network funding opportunities, platform members and trainees at McMaster University and the University of British Columbia labs have successfully published several network-related projects to date (Below) and have been able to leverage additional grant funding from the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Collaborative Health Research

Projects (CHRP), and Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

In Phase 2 of the network, the platform, led by co-leads Dr. Edward Conway and Dr. Paul Kim, is poised to further expand upon their success through efforts to enhance the profile of the platform, better support basic science trainees, and expand platform membership.

Starting in 2021, the platform will be holding annual Studentship Award Competitions, which will be held separately from the Research Training Awards (Clinical Fellowship Awards), but still in collaboration with the Training, Mentoring, and Early Career Development

platform. The competition will offer several awards of up to \$10,000 (CAD) in funding, to offer more students across the country funding support and training opportunities.

At the latest network Scientific Steering Committee meeting in November 2020, Dr. Conway indicated that “the goal of the proposed changes is to use the awards as a way to attract renowned basic science researchers in the field of thrombosis and hemostasis across Canada...this will promote collaboration and crossover projects.”

The network has recently seen a significant increase in membership among basic science investigators and

trainees from across the country, including at labs new to CanVECTOR at Western University, University of Calgary, University of Toronto, l’Université de Montréal, and Université Laval.

Additionally, the Translational / Basic Science platform has recently begun a collaboration with the Patient Partners platform. This exciting engagement will provide CanVECTOR basic science researchers with increased access to the patient experience and further enhance the “bench to bedside” approach to the network’s research focus. In the new year with platform policy changes and growth, the network is excited to see what the future has in store for translational and basic science research.

Recent Translational / Basic Science Network Supported Projects

Kim, PY, Di Giuseppantonio, LR, Wu, C, Douketis, JD, Gross, PL. [An assay to measure levels of factor Xa inhibitors in blood and plasma.](#) *J Thromb Haemost.* 2019; 17: 1153– 1159. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jth.14451>

Shaya, Shana & Gani, Dhulfiha & Kim, Paul & Gross, Peter. (2019). [Factor XIII Prevents Pulmonary Emboli in Mice by Stabilizing Deep Vein Thrombi.](#) *Thrombosis and Haemostasis.* 119. 10.1055/s-0039-1685141.

Medeiros SK, Emery B, Bhagirath V, Parpia S, Dwivedi DJ, Dwivedi NJ, Kearon C, Liaw PC. [Does cell-free DNA promote coagulation and inhibit fibrinolysis in patients with unprovoked venous thromboembolism?](#) *Thromb Res.* 2020 Feb;186:13-19. doi: 10.1016/j.thromres.2019.11.030. Epub 2019 Nov 30. PMID: 31838139.

Conway EM, Pryzdial ELG. [Is the COVID-19 thrombotic catastrophe complement-connected?](#) *J Thromb Haemost.* 2020 Nov;18(11):2812-2822. doi: 10.1111/jth.15050. Epub 2020 Sep 18. PMID: 32762081; PMCID: PMC7436532.

CANVECTOR

ASH 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Poster Abstracts

15



Number of **poster abstracts** presented by CanVECTOR members at ASH 2020.

Oral Abstracts

7



Number of CanVECTOR members' abstracts selected for **oral presentations**.

By the Numbers - Social

7.8K



The number of times users on Twitter viewed CanVECTOR's social media activity throughout the conference, including over **346** engagements.

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 2020

ALL-VIRTUAL 62ND ASH ANNUAL MEETING & EXPOSITION
DECEMBER 5-8, 2020

Did you know?

CanVECTOR provides support to its members and to CanVECTOR supported clinical multi-centre projects through unique programming and services that has been a large part of our success as a collaborative research network and of the research conducted by its researchers. Based on reviewers' comments from recent grant competitions, being a CanVECTOR investigator and submitting a CanVECTOR-supported project is viewed very favourably by reviewers and can provide a significant leg-up on the competition when applying for grants. As such, in Phase 2 when CIHR support for our network has ended, a **CanVECTOR Project Fee** is now being applied to all successful CanVECTOR supported grants with budgets >\$50,000.

This Project Fee model is commonly used by other large Canadian research networks. Learn more about the Project Fee [here](#).

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Canadian Venous Thromboembolism
Research Network

Do you have news, accomplishments, or pictures you'd like to share with the CanVECTOR community? Send them to us at info@canvector.ca for the chance to be featured!

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