



Save-the-Date

CanVECTOR will host its **2022 Annual Conference** in collaboration with Thrombosis Canada in Toronto, ON on **October 14-15, 2022** at The Westin Harbour Castle.

Stay tuned for registration and program details.

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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 are well and adjusting to this time of transition across many of our research institutes. Many of us had gotten used to a "new normal" and now find ourselves trying to navigate hybrid working environments. While there is certainly no shortage of change to adapt to, we strive for CanVECTOR to deliver consistent offerings that our network has come to depend on.

In this first newsletter of the year, we wanted to take this opportunity to share some important behind-the-scenes developments, discuss the importance of network leadership in our own time of transition, and share a few key dates and opportunities for members!

As you know, the Network is seeking our next CanVECTOR Co-Director as Marc Rodger is stepping down in Summer 2022. See our Q&A with Marc about the importance of leadership in networks and why members should get involved!

We've also been fortunate enough to develop some wonderful new partnerships. We highlight some of these new collaborations involving many of our networks platforms.

As new members continue to join from across the country, we also capture some of the ways to get involved in the network.

We've nearly wrapped up our second year of our CanVECTOR National Thrombosis Seminar series with two seminars remaining. Members are encouraged to attend and/or view the recordings of these outstanding seminars. It's an incredible offering, and we are so thankful for the organizing committee, speakers, and moderators involved in making this happen.

We are also looking for CanVECTOR Social Media Ambassadors, and we note a few upcoming deadlines!

As always, we welcome your involvement in network activities - don't hesitate to reach out to our team! With ISTH confirming in-person activities at this year's Congress, our hope is to see many of you this summer - in the flesh!

Take care

Susan R. Kahn

Susan & Marc

LEADERSHIP IN RESEARCH: Q & A WITH DR. MARC RODGER, CANVECTOR CO-DIRECTOR



Dr. Marc Rodger has been at the helm of the CanVECTOR network, alongside co-Director Dr. Susan Kahn, since the network was established in 2015 with a Community Development Grant from CIHR. Originally, the VECTOR group was an unfunded and informal collaboration between a handful of clinical VTE investigators.

Thanks to the vision and commitment of its leaders, the network secured peer-reviewed funding, established many academic and industry partnerships, expanded scope to include basic/translational and population/health services research, and has become a thriving network of 249 members.

Dr. Rodger is passionate about the importance of global VTE research collaboration to efficiently answer important research questions. He headed the formation of INVENT, an international network of national VTE research networks.

In summer 2022, Dr. Rodger, now the Chair of the Department of Medicine at McGill University, will be stepping down from his role as co-Director of CanVECTOR. We spoke with Dr. Rodger about both his leadership and the importance of research networks.

CanVECTOR: You've helped establish both a national (CanVECTOR) and international (INVENT-VTE) VTE research network. What motivated the development of these networks in the thrombosis research landscape?

Marc Rodger: Power of collaboration! Barritt and Jordan in the 60s were able to show that heparin saved lives compared to no heparin in a 35 patient single center RCT. Today we seek small, but important, effect sizes that require sample sizes often in the thousands in a complex/highly regulated environment. Networks and networks of networks offer a path to getting these important studies done.

CanVECTOR: As CanVECTOR has developed over the years, have there been any significant barriers or hurdles to growth, buy-in, sustainability, etc?

Marc Rodger: Anything worth doing will require effort, persistence and tenacity. We have overcome many hurdles but CanVECTOR grew with each challenge and is now a well-oiled, fine-tuned and premier network that is the envy of many other budding networks.

CanVECTOR: As a co-Director with Dr. Susan Kahn since 2015, can you talk about the importance of

leadership in research networks? What has made your co-directorship with Dr. Kahn so successful?

Marc Rodger: Dr Kahn is a generous, detail-oriented and persistent force in addition to being a world VTE leader - I'm not sure what I brought to the table but I think the results of our team-work speak for themselves. We have built a multi-faceted network powerhouse (KT, patient partnership, adjudication platform, seminars, annual conferences, etc.) through the strength of leadership, dedicated platform leads/SSC and a hugely talented group of network support crew (Caleb, Nicole, Charlotte and Jessie).

CanVECTOR: CanVECTOR is currently holding an election for a new co-Director. What would you say to any network member who is considering putting their name forward?

Marc Rodger: It's a lot of fun! You get to give and interact with a lot of smart thrombosis nerds. It is a great leadership growth opportunity.

CanVECTOR: Lastly, what's next for you?

Marc Rodger: I won't be going far - I'll have more time to dedicate to INVENT and my day job running the Department of Medicine at McGill and the McGill University Health Center.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS REMINDER

We're looking for our next [CanVECTOR Co-Director!](#)

Apply by April 4th! | [Learn more.](#)

COLLABORATIVE GRANT SUCCESSES

As the Network continues to establish itself as an important driver of VTE research in Canada, we are often approached to collaborate with partners on unique projects that ultimately serve to meet our objectives as a National VTE Research Network.

We are thrilled to share with you four new collaborations which have successfully secured funding from various funding competitions.

Project: Empowering patient ambassadors to champion research outcomes that are a priority for people who have lived experience with venous thromboembolism.

Objective: To appoint patient partners as Knowledge Translation (KT) ambassadors for the [VTE-COS study](#); Using patient experiences and storytelling in KT strategies.

Project Lead: CanVECTOR Patient Partner Co-leads Carol West and Dr. Lisa Duffett; Suzanne Dubois, Dr. Gregoire Le Gal, & Dr. Alfonso Iorio

Collaborators: [Outcome Measures in Rheumatology](#) (OMERACT Group)

Awarded: [SPOR EMPOWER Grant](#) (\$25K)



Project: The Life-Threatening Illness National Group (LifTING) Research Training Platform: Spanning Boundaries Between Research and Care.

Objective: The platform will provide mixed (virtual and in-person), structured, and flexible curricula for diverse groups of healthcare professionals and patients/families who want to engage in research on life-threatening diseases associated with critical care illness.

Project Lead: Canadian Clinical Care Trials Group (CCCTG)

CanVECTOR Collaborators: Dr. Sudeep Shivakumar and Dr. Leslie Skeith (Grant Co-applicants)

Awarded: CIHR



Project: Co-creation of a framework to engage patients in preclinical laboratory research.

Objective: Addressing the gap in pre-clinical patient engagement by developing a framework to engage patient partners in preclinical laboratory research.

Project Lead: Dr. Manoj Lalu and Dr. Dean Fergusson (Ottawa Hospital Research Institute)

CanVECTOR Collaborators: Carol West, Dr. Paul Kim, & Dr. Ed Conway (Knowledge Users)

Awarded: [SPOR EMPOWER Grant](#) (\$25K)



Project: Barriers and Facilitators to Venous Thromboembolism Research Participation in Underrepresented Ethnoracial Groups.

Objective: Bringing together key stakeholders to identify barriers and facilitators to inclusion of ethnographically diverse individuals in VTE-related clinical research.

Project Lead: Dr. Yan Xu

CanVECTOR Collaborators: Patient Partner Platform support

Awarded: TOGETHER Social Accountability Grant from the University of Ottawa



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & DEADLINES

Whether you're a trainee in need of research funding support, an investigator seeking study expansion funding, or a member looking for new ways to get involved, there are several current & upcoming activities:

Spring 2022 Fellowship Awards

- Apply for up to \$50K
- For MDs aiming to become clinician scientists and investigators in venous thromboembolism (VTE)
- **New:** Deadline extended to April 25, 2022

[LEARN MORE](#)

Spring 2022 Studentship Awards

- Apply for up to \$10K
- For graduate students enrolled in MSc and PhD programs with an interest in conducting VTE-focused research developing VTE-related methodology expertise
- **New:** Deadline extended to April 25, 2022

[LEARN MORE](#)

INVENT-VTE Network

Spring 2022 Kickstarter Awards

- Apply for up to \$20K
- Funding intended to facilitate international collaboration in clinical VTE research by enabling start-up activities that are not covered by primary funding.
- Apply by May 2, 2022

[LEARN MORE](#)



Thrombosis Canada has once again partnered with the network to offer a Thrombosis Canada-CanVECTOR Fellowship Award in our Spring 2022 competition.

All applicants in the Spring 2022 fellowship competition will be considered for this award!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOCIAL MEDIA AMBASSADORS!



We're looking for **1-2 Social Media (Basic Science & Clinical Research) stars** to help disseminate research, engage with our online community, and raise the Network's profile & social media game!

If you're interested in participating in this light commitment role, **send us a quick direct message on [Twitter](#) by April 11, 2022!**

CLOT+ PUBLICATION RATINGS



If you are registered on CLOT+, you can sign up for alerts to enable you to rate articles that may become [Evidence Summaries!](#) It's a great way to stay on top of the emerging thrombosis and anticoagulation literature!

Not on CLOT+? [Register here](#)- it's easy and free!

CLINICAL TRIALS & SHARED PLATFORMS BULLETIN

Platform Co-Leads: Dr. Deborah Siegal & Dr. Grégoire Le Gal | **Working Group:** Dr. Tobias Tritschler; Nicole Langlois

Since CanVECTOR's inception, the Clinical Trials & Shared Platforms platform has been instrumental in supporting the development of pilot studies to inform the design and conduct of full randomized controlled trials. Given the generous support of our partners, the platform has funded 10 pilot studies including the most recent winner of the 2021 Pilot Trials Competition: Thromboprophylaxis during Systemic Therapy for Genitourinary Cancer (VTE-GU Pilot) - Co-led by Dr. Luke Lavallée and Dr. Marc Carrier of the University of Ottawa.

Pilot data can be reassuring to funders and grant reviewers and help to secure large-scale funding for collaborative multicenter trials. There are several recent CanVECTOR success stories of pilot trials that facilitated CIHR-funded trials. We eagerly await the results of the COBRRA, TRIM-Line, PEITHO-3, and SAVER RCTs.

The platform is also focused on initiatives aimed at global standardization and quality improvement in VTE research:

Diversity

- The platform is involved in efforts to improve ethnoracial diversity and inclusion in VTE research. Dr. Yan Xu recently received a TOGETHER Social Accountability Grant from uOttawa to start this work. He applied for a CIHR planning grant to organize and hold a symposium with multiple stakeholders to gain insights into Barriers and Facilitators to Venous Thromboembolism Research Participation in Underrepresented Ethnoracial Groups

Standardization of Outcomes (VTE-COS)

- VTE-COS is a multi-methods study with dedicated participation and leadership of patient partners (thank you, Carol and Suzanne). We're proud of the animated videos in [English](#) and [French](#) that were created to explain the study to potential patient participants. Trainees were instrumental in completing two scoping reviews of outcomes reported in quantitative and qualitative venous thrombosis research (manuscripts submitted). Currently we're holding qualitative interviews with patients, caregivers, and professionals to ask which VTE treatment outcomes they consider to be the most important. In the next stage, we'll be looking to CanVECTOR members to have their say.

VERDICT Adjudication

- Four CanVECTOR studies are now using VERDICT for web-based adjudication of study outcomes and four others are preparing to start soon. VERDICT was developed by VTE researchers for VTE researchers: we've recently responded to feedback from VERDICT users, resulting in upgrades to meet our goal to streamline the adjudication process and facilitate independent, standardized, and consistent outcome determination for VTE and anticoagulant studies. In January we welcomed Chuks Okeibunor for a 6-month business internship in partnership with the INVENT-VTE Network and Mitacs, to help us make VERDICT even better.

Data and Safety Monitoring Boards (DSMBs)

- We're starting to explore potential strategies and partnerships to facilitate creation of DSMBs for VTE studies, standardize DSMB tools and processes, and increase capacity of investigators and patients to participate as DSMB members.

NATIONAL THROMBOSIS SEMINARS - SAVE-THE-DATE



We are hosting the next edition of the [2021-2022 National Thrombosis Seminar](#) series focused on **Patient Engagement in VTE Research** on April 7th at 1-2pm EST featuring Dr. Lisa Duffett & Ms. Carol West - Co-Leads of CanVECTOR's Patient Partners Platform.

[Register to attend!](#)

Missed a seminar? All seminar recordings are now available for viewing on the [website!](#)



CANVECTOR MEMBER PUBLICATIONS (MARCH 2022)

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](#).

Delluc A, Ghanima W, Kovacs MJ, Shivakumar S, Susan S, Kearon C, Rodger MA et al. Prevention of post-thrombotic syndrome with rosuvastatin: A multicenter randomized controlled pilot trial (SAVER). *Thromb Res.* 2022 Mar 19;213:119-124. doi: [10.1016/j.thromres.2022.03.014](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.thromres.2022.03.014).

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Forte S, De Luna G, **Abdulrehman J,** et al. Thromboprophylaxis Reduced Venous Thromboembolism in Sickle Cell Patients with Central Venous Access Devices: A Retrospective Cohort Study. *J Clin Med.* 2022 Feb 23;11(5). pii: jcm11051193. doi: [10.3390/jcm11051193](https://doi.org/10.3390/jcm11051193).

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Hasse S, Julien AS, Duchez AC, **Boilard E** et al. Red blood cell-derived phosphatidylserine positive extracellular vesicles are associated with past thrombotic events in patients with systemic erythematous lupus. *Lupus Sci Med.* 2022 Mar;9(1). pii: 9/1/e000605. doi: [10.1136/lupus-2021-000605](https://doi.org/10.1136/lupus-2021-000605).

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TRAINEE FUNDED PROJECT PUBLICATIONS!

Sharma, N, Haggstrom, L, Sohrabipour, S, Dwivedi, D.J. and Liaw, P.C. (2022). Investigations of the effectiveness of heparin variants as inhibitors of histones. *Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis.* Accepted Author Manuscript. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jth.15706>

Xu Y, Gomes T, Wells PS, Sholzberg M et al. Evaluation of definitions for oral anticoagulant-associated major bleeding: A population-based cohort study. *Thromb Res.* 2022 Feb 24;213:57-64. doi: [10.1016/j.thromres.2022.02.018](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.thromres.2022.02.018).

PARTNERSHIP CORNER - LEO PHARMA

CanVECTOR is proud to highlight our longstanding partnership with [LEO Pharma](#).

LEO Pharma has been a loyal and continuous partner of the network since our beginnings in 2015. It is an organization that prioritizes patients' quality of life, safety, and the training of tomorrow's experts in the field of VTE. In addition, they extended their support internationally when they began to partner with the INVENT-VTE Network in 2018.

LEO Pharma has helped CanVECTOR reach new heights thanks to their collaborative spirit and practical recommendations, brought forward through their voice on our External Advisory Board.

The CanVECTOR Network appreciates what we've accomplished together with LEO and looks forward to many more years of productive partnership.



CANVECTOR MEMBERSHIP

146

Clinical Investigators /
Physicians

44

Basic & Translational Science
Investigators

41

Research personnel (Coordinators,
Multi-Centre Coordinator, Admin)

45+

Basic Science & clinical trainees

9

Trained Patient Partners

249

Total # of **CanVECTOR**
Members

[View the complete list of members.](#)



Do you know someone who wants to join CanVECTOR?

Simply have them complete a [membership form](#) and the CanVECTOR administration will follow-up shortly



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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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