

## Hello Member!

Discover CanVECTOR's new online portal.

THE CANVECTOR MEMBER PORTAL WILL GO LIVE THIS SPRING. IN THIS ISSUE, WE SHOW YOU ITS FEATURES AND HOW TO USE IT!

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## Hello CanVECTOR Family,

**Spring has arrived!** The season brings warmer temperatures but also a lot of drizzle (isn't that right, West Coasters?). Nevertheless, we won't let that rain on our parade! We recently received glowing feedback from an international reviewer for the Pilot Trials Competition who said, when it comes to VTE research, "Canada [CanVECTOR] definitely punches above its weight".

Well, we couldn't agree more. Have a look at the 3 pilot studies we will award funds to this year (on page 3). On top of this, we are investing in our legacy of research excellence by building capacity through young investigators. One noteworthy example is Dr. Kerstin de Wit, who was awarded 2 grants for her research work on pulmonary embolism diagnosis in the Emergency Department; one of these was the new CAEP-CanVECTOR grant. You can learn more about Kerstin and her work on page 4.

The spring season is invigorating and reminds us of renewal, with new excitement, projects and possibilities! It is thus no coincidence that there are NEW CanVECTOR initiatives on the horizon!

Our Executive team has been diligent in continually seeking new partnerships and are hopeful to welcome new partners to our fold, as well as renew existing ones. This work will help ensure that our Network can grow and continue for many years to come.

A new event coming this June, aimed specifically at trainees and early career investigators, is the Trainee Research Boot Camp (page 3). This will be a comprehensive day of learning, interacting and networking for CanVECTOR's young talent.

Lastly, our website's new and highly anticipated Member Portal has been launched: find out how to use it on page 2. CanVECTOR is now not only a research network, but our own academic and social network, too! As you'll see, there are many features on the Member Portal that will enable greater connections, collaborations and camaraderie among us. Maybe it won't catch on like Facebook has, but we can always hope (you can even choose a Portal profile picture!).

Enjoy the Spring season, and see you on the Portal!

Susan and Marc

*Susan R. Kahn*

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

# How to Use the Member Portal

The Member Portal is an online portal that is a safe and secure place to publish and share news, all types of documents, and to meet and connect with fellow members. Each member will be sent a link to create a password for their account and receive their username. Once that is done, you can LOG IN at: [www.canvector.ca/members/member-portal](http://www.canvector.ca/members/member-portal)



## HOME

This is the Portal's landing page once you have logged in.

On this page, you will find a preview of your personal profile and shortcuts to:

- Edit your Profile
- Find a Colleague
- Find a Document

**Your Profile**

**Charlotte Guzman, MHA**  
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[EDIT PROFILE](#)

**VOTE IN THE MONTHLY POLLS IN THIS SECTION, TOO!**

How much do you love our new portal

Not much       I Like it  
 It's OK       So much!

[SUBMIT](#)



## DOCUMENTS

This is the Portal's document repository. Frequently requested and useful documents are stored here.



Documents shared on the Portal will be organized in folders. You will only have access to folders you have the permission to view, which depends on your role in CanVECTOR.



### CAN'T FIND EVERYTHING YOU NEED?

We are still collecting and uploading documents including Investigator's CVs, licenses, and training documents.

**IF YOU ARE AN INVESTIGATOR, WE WILL BE IN CONTACT TO REQUEST YOUR DOCUMENTS.**



## USERS

This is the Portal contact directory. You can find information on each CanVECTOR member here.


Search Parameters

Name

City

User Type

[Search](#)



**LOOKING FOR MEMBERS IN WINNIPEG?  
WONDERING WHO ALL OF OUR TRAINEES ARE?**

You can search the directory by name, location, or role. Feel free to simply scroll through the list, too!



## IN THE LOOP

This is the Portal page for announcements and kudos with respect to members' academic and personal lives.



### LISTEN UP – WE NEED YOUR NEWS!

We will announce awards, academic appointments, grants, comings & goings, and personal news.



# News & Events



The results of our 2nd Pilot Trials Competition are in! We are glad to announce that we will be funding three new pilot studies this year. The Clinical Trials platform is grateful to the four external reviewers (from the USA and Europe) who provided detailed and insightful feedback to all applicants.

- Dr. Noémie Kraaijpoel (with Drs. Marc Carrier, Alejandro Lazo-Langner, and Nick van Es, Harry Büller, Jamie Dossett-Mercer (Patient partner))'s study PLATO on Tumour-educated platelets to detect cancer in patients with unprovoked venous thromboembolism
- Dr. Rick Ikesaka (with Drs. Sudeep Shivakumar, Cynthia Wu, Marc

Carrier, and Jamie Dossett Mercer (patient partner))'s pilot study TRIM-Line assessing the feasibility of a randomized controlled trial investigating primary thromboprophylaxis with rivaroxaban in patients with malignancy and central venous catheters

- Dr. Deepa Suryanarayan (with Drs. Cynthia Wu, Marc Carrier, and Eddy Lang; and Dwip Prajapati, Steve Doucette and patient partner to be recruited)'s pilot study to assess the feasibility of an RCT on apixaban versus low molecular weight heparin for the treatment of catheter-related thrombosis in cancer patients

We are holding our first Trainee Research Boot Camp on Friday, June 16th in Montreal, QC. This will be a full-day boot camp with interactive sessions, led by experienced researchers. Dr. Ryan Perry, Assistant Scientific Director of the CIHR Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health, will be in attendance to share his expertise with our trainees and early career investigators.

The 2nd CanVECTOR Annual Conference will be held on November 10-11th, 2017 in Toronto, ON at the InterContinental Hotel on Front Street. Please note that the event is by invitation only. Invitations will be sent out soon, by end of spring or early summer, along with the draft program. As an added bonus, our meeting will be followed by the Thrombosis Canada Annual Conference in the same venue on Saturday, November 11th!

## Project Updates

### THE RESULTS ARE OUT!

Two multicentre CanVECTOR studies were recently published:

- Read about CATHETER 2, led by Dr. Michael Kovacs (a cohort study of 70 cancer patients with central line associated DVT in the upper extremity treated with rivaroxaban)

→ Published in Thrombosis Research – April 2017 [available online here](#)

- Read about REVERSE II, led by Dr. Marc Rodger (a validation study of the Men continue and HERDOO2 rule to predict the risk of recurrent VTE; enrolled 2785 participants with unprovoked major VTE)
- Published in BMJ – March 2017 [available online here](#)

**STUDY:** SSPE

**PI:** Marc Carrier

**STATUS:** Active, recruiting patients

**NUMBER OF STUDY SITES:** 8 CanVECTOR sites and 9 in France, 1 in Switzerland, and 2 in the Netherlands

**PATIENTS RECRUITED:** 152 of 300 expected.

**STUDY OBJECTIVES:** The main goal of this study is to find out if it is safe to not treat very small blood clots in the pulmonary arteries (subsegmental pulmonary embolism or SSPE)

**INTERESTING NEWS:** The study has reached the important milestone of being half-way there. Keep up the momentum to reach the finish line!

**STUDY:** RASET

**PI:** Clive Kearon

**STATUS:** Active, recruiting patients

**NUMBER OF STUDY SITES:** 11 CanVECTOR sites (listed on clinicaltrials.gov) [3 in start-up phase of study]

**PATIENTS RECRUITED:** 61 of 600 expected

**STUDY OBJECTIVES:** This is a Phase III, randomized, placebo controlled, blinded, parallel two arm, multicentre trial that is comparing rivaroxaban 10mg daily with placebo in patients

with symptomatic leg Superficial Vein Thrombosis (> or = 5cm) that otherwise would not initially be treated with anticoagulant therapy. The primary outcomes of the study are "treatment failure" to assess efficacy, and "bleeding" to assess safety, after 90 days.

**INTERESTING NEWS:** The study is actively seeking new Canadian sites! Please get in touch if you would like to learn more about the study and join our team (Clive [kearonc@mcmaster.ca] or Lisa [ruddl@mcmaster.ca])

**STUDY:** APPLE

**PI:** Leslie Skeith and Marc Rodger

**STATUS:** Submitted to Health Canada for approval

**NUMBER OF STUDY SITES:** The pilot trial will recruit in Ottawa and Hamilton

**PATIENTS RECRUITED:** The estimated recruitment for the pilot study is 24 women with confirmed antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) and a history of past pregnancy loss

**STUDY OBJECTIVES:** The purpose of this pilot trial is to determine the feasibility of conducting a multicenter randomized full trial evaluating antepartum prophylaxis with aspirin (ASA) versus low-molecular weight heparin (LMWH) plus ASA in women with confirmed APS and a history of late or recurrent early pregnancy loss.

**INTERESTING NEWS:** This project is led by a CanVECTOR Fellow and it was funded in CanVECTOR's first open pilot trial competition.

# Member Spotlight: *Have You Met Kerstin?*

## 1. Full name?

Kerstin de Wit. Until recently I worked under my maiden name, Kerstin Hogg. I still publish as Kerstin Hogg which creates some confusion. I haven't decided what to do about this yet.

## 2. Where is your hometown?

I live in Burlington, and consider Burlington/Hamilton my home. I feel a particular affinity with Hamilton because I love the history of this area, the old buildings and the atmosphere. I grew up near Aberdeen in Scotland, trained in Edinburgh, and worked in Edinburgh, Sydney (Australia) and Manchester (England) before moving to Canada.

## 3. Why did you want to get involved with the CanVECTOR Network?

CanVECTOR is a real opportunity for Thrombosis researchers, particularly new Canadian researchers like me. The network gives me access to seasoned Thrombosis researchers from across Canada, and allows me to network.

## 4. You were recently awarded the PSI Graham Farquharson Knowledge Translation Fellowship! CanVECTOR is glad to have provided you a letter of support for this. Can you tell us more about your project and what you hope to discover?

I work as both an Emergency Physician and a Thrombosis Physician. Between 2001 and 2004, I ran a diagnostic study for my Doctorate thesis which analyzed new bedside tests for pulmonary embolism (PE) in a UK emergency department. The biggest challenge was standardizing the investigation of PE in the emergency department. Today in Hamilton Health Sciences, standardizing the investigation of PE in the emergency department is still an unsolved problem. It seems to me that the evidence-based methods for diagnosing PE were derived and validated for the most part by Thrombosis physicians. There are many reasons why these methods may not fit with the emergency department model.

This fellowship will enable me to identify the barriers to using tools such as the Wells score, PERC rule and D-dimer in Canadian emergency departments, and facilitate a more integrated approach which fits with Canadian emergency department processing.

## 5. What would you do for a career if you weren't a clinician-researcher?

I would have studied languages and been an interpreter in another country.

## 6. What are your top 3 life highlights?

Number 1: Marrying my Canadian husband Stephan  
Number 2: (sad but true) Becoming a Canadian Thrombosis staff physician after training in Emergency Medicine in the UK.

Number 3: Running a 3:31 marathon.

## 7. If you were a superhero, what would your super power be and why?

That's easy: I would be able to



tell who does and does not have pulmonary embolism at 10 paces.

## 8. Tell us something about yourself that might surprise us.

I grew up in the countryside of Northern Scotland. My elementary school had 26 students. I was in the largest class of 8 students. There were 2 classrooms and 2 teachers. On Wednesday afternoons, the sewing teacher would visit. The girls spent the afternoon sewing and the boys played football. My sewing skills were never very good.

## CONNECT WITH US:



@canvector



CanVECTOR Network



Like Us on Facebook: CanVECTOR Network



Canadian Venous Thromboembolism  
Clinical Trials and Outcomes Research Network

The Network News is published three times a year.

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

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