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## THROMBOSIS RESEARCH AND EDUCATION INSIGHTS FROM CANADIAN EXPERTS

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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,

Well, this year has not gone according to plan. As we say goodbye to an unusual Summer and head into Fall, there will undoubtedly be new challenges for the Network and our members. We have been amazed by the hard work of our colleagues since the start of the pandemic and we thank you for your continued engagement in the Network, especially during these difficult times.

As you know, the end of September 2020 will mark five years since CanVECTOR was established, thanks to a generous grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the support of our many academic, for profit and not-for-profit partners. The initial grant came with the stipulation that the network was expected to contribute to enhancing Canada's international scientific and clinical leadership in the field of VTE, and position its community to benefit from future international initiatives. Thanks to your support and engagement over the years, CanVECTOR has surpassed the initial objectives, and we are strategically placed to create continued success and leadership throughout Phase 2 (2020–2025).

To kick off the next phase of the Network, CanVECTOR is pleased to invite you to our first ever Virtual Conference. We will be presenting a series of virtual events in collaboration with Thrombosis Canada starting on World Thrombosis Day (October 13th, 2020) and continuing through October 24th. With programming for physicians, researchers,

trainees, patient partners, and allied health professionals, we hope you will take this opportunity to engage with your CanVECTOR colleagues and others across Canada and internationally. Registration is free for CanVECTOR members (with code **CanVECTOR2020!**). For more information, click [here](#). Also, stay tuned for more information about our next in-person conference, which will take place (fingers crossed) in Toronto, ON, on April 8th and 9th, 2021.

Phase 2 of CanVECTOR is also bringing changes to our leadership. Following a vote last Spring, three new platform co-leads will be joining the Scientific Steering Committee for Phase 2: Dr. Deborah Siegal (Clinical Trials and Shared Platforms), Dr. Paul Kim (Basic Science Platform), and Dr. Lori-Ann Linkins (Knowledge Translation Platform). We are also excited to announce that Ms. Carol West will be the new co-lead of the Patient Partners Platform for Phase 2, and the first patient partner in a co-lead role for CanVECTOR. For the full announcement, please see page 5, and join us in welcoming our new platform co-leads.

As always, don't hesitate to reach out if you'd like to get involved in any aspect of CanVECTOR!

Take care, and stay safe!

*Susan R. Kahn*

Susan & Marc

# Trainee Spotlight: Fellowship and Studentship Awardees

We are pleased to announce the Spring 2020–2021 Trainee Fellowship and Studentship award recipients. The network received several strong applications for the spring competition. The review committee selected two fellowship and three studentship salary award recipients. Congratulations to our new trainees and thanks to all who applied.



**Dr. Erica Kelly**  
Dalhousie University  
Awarded CanVECTOR Fellowship  
Supervisor:  
Dr. Sudeep Shivakumar  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Tumor Thrombus: A Single-Centre Prospective Registry Study



**Mr. Joel Abraham**  
McMaster University  
Awarded CanVECTOR Studentship  
Supervisor:  
Dr. Paul Kim  
**PROJECT TITLE:** The Role of Activated Platelets on Promoting Fibrinolysis in Venous Thromboembolism



**Dr. Ilia Makedonov**  
University of Toronto  
Awarded CanVECTOR – Thrombosis Canada Fellowship  
Supervisor: Dr. Jean-Philippe Galanaud  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Tinzaparin Lead-In to Prevent the Post-Thrombotic Syndrome (TILE), RCT and Management of High Bleeding Risk VTE Patients Without IVC Filter Placement



**Dr. Camille Simard**  
McGill University  
Awarded CanVECTOR Studentship  
Supervisor:  
Dr. Vicky Tagalakis  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Bleeding Complications in Women with Venous Thromboembolism During Pregnancy



**Mr. James Chessum**  
McMaster University  
Awarded CanVECTOR Studentship  
Supervisor:  
Dr. Paul Kim  
**PROJECT TITLE:** The Role of Activated Thrombin Activatable Fibrinolysis Inhibitor (Tafia) on Thrombus Stability in a Murine Model of Venous Thromboembolism

## CanVECTOR Publications

Congratulations to CanVECTOR members Lisa Duffett, Lana Castellucci, and Melissa Forgie on their recent high-profile publication in BMJ, [Pulmonary embolism: update on management and controversies](#). The article particularly notes the involvement of CanVECTOR patient partners in the development of the manuscript: "Three CanVECTOR patient partners were consulted for the preparation of the manuscript and were asked to review a proposed outline of topics to include and provided their contributions and feedback." Kudos on this collaborative effort!

PATIENT PARTNER  
SUZANNE DUBOIS  
PRESENTING AT THE  
CANVECTOR 4<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
IN TORONTO, ON.



**The Fall 2020 Research Start-Up Awards and Research Training Awards competitions are live!** Deadlines for submissions are October 30th and November 6th, respectively. For complete application instructions, visit our [website!](#)



## In Memoriam: Dr. Clive Kearon

**This year, CanVECTOR lost a leader, a colleague, a mentor, and a dear friend.**

Dr. Kearon was an instrumental figure in the development and success of the Canadian Venous Thromboembolism Research Network. He was the inaugural co-lead of the Clinical Trials & Shared Platforms platform, helping to establish and oversee the network's five national Pilot Trials competitions. To many in our community, Dr. Kearon's work with the Training, Mentoring, and Early Career Development platform to promote best practices for pilot trials has been paramount in supporting emerging researchers and in helping to build capacity for research related to venous thromboembolism.

Whether through his academic scholarly positions, as an internationally renowned clinician-scientist, as a leader in thrombosis medicine and research, or simply as a friend and colleague, Dr. Kearon's thoughtful feedback, humour and wit, generosity and humility were greatly appreciated and will be missed by so many.



“THE THING ABOUT CANCER IS... IT NEED NOT STOP YOU FROM DANCING.”

– Dr. Clive Kearon

# COVID-19 VTE-Related Research

Preliminary observational studies from various countries have reported high rates of clinical VTE and arterial thrombosis in COVID patients and evidence of coagulation activation as well as microthrombi in the lungs and other affected organs. There is an urgent need to better understand the pathobiology and the clinical implications of the viral infection that leads to the thrombosis-related morbidity and mortality seen with COVID-19. Many CanVECTOR researchers have stepped up to further investigate the relationship between COVID-19 and VTE. Here are a few examples of new CIHR-funded research:



**Antithrombotic Therapy to Ameliorate Complications of COVID-19 (ATTACC) Trial (NPA Dr. Ryan Zarychanski):** CanVECTOR has partnered with the ICRH-funded Canadian Critical Care Trials Group (CCCTG) on a large international adaptive design RCT of full-dose vs. prophylactic dose anticoagulation in COVID+ hospitalized patients.



**Venous Thrombosis Virtual Surveillance in COVID (VVIRTUOSO) (NPA Dr. Deborah Siegal):** This study will determine the incidence of VTE after hospital discharge in patients with COVID-19 using a prospective virtual VTE monitoring program at 12 sites in Canada and the US.



**COVID-19: Comprehensive biomarker analysis for prediction of clinical course and patient treatment outcomes (COVIDBEACONS) (NPA Dr. Paul Kim):** This study aims to create a comprehensive time course of how COVID-19 causes immunothrombosis, and will identify biomarkers of the inflammatory response, endothelium, coagulation, and fibrinolysis that predict severe disease progression.



**CanVECTOR National Thrombosis Seminars**

**CanVECTOR is launching a new monthly National Thrombosis Seminar!** This will be hosted virtually, with new state-of-the-art presentations every month during the academic year. Click [here](#) for more information.

## CanVECTOR COVID-19 VTE-Related Rapid Response Funding



### Save-the-Date:

CanVECTOR's in-person conference will be hosted in Toronto, ON, on April 8th and 9th, 2021. We look forward to being able to see everyone in person!

In July 2020, CanVECTOR announced a Request for Applications (RFA) for the COVID-19 VTE-Related Rapid Response funding competition. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support research projects to enable CanVECTOR scientists to collect data to improve our understanding of COVID-19 in relation to VTE risk, diagnosis, prevention, management and pathogenesis.

The eight applications CanVECTOR received highlight the immense work that CanVECTOR members have already done to help in the fight against the global pandemic. We thank you for all your efforts! Thank you also to our scientific and patient partner reviewers for their quick turnaround in reviewing the applications. Congratulations to the winners of this rapid response funding competition!



**Primary Applicant:**  
**Ed Conway**

**Co-Applicants:**  
Alex Leatherdale & Kevin Gonzalez

**Awarded:** \$50,000

**Primary Institution:** University of British Columbia, Centre for Blood Research

**PROJECT TITLE:** The Role of Complement in SARS-CoV-2-Triggered Thrombosis



**Primary Applicants:**  
**Tobias Tritschler & Grégoire Le Gal**

**Awarded:** \$50,000

**Primary Institutions:** University of Bern & University of Ottawa

**PROJECT TITLE:** Anticoagulation in Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19: An Individual Patient Data Network Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials

# CanVECTOR Phase 2: 2020–2025

October 2020 marks the end of Phase 1 (2015–2020) for CanVECTOR and the beginning of Phase 2 (2020–2025). We want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our members for the time, talent, expertise, and engagement you've brought to the Network to make it such a success. We are eager to expand on our success from Phase 1, and we look forward to highlighting your successes throughout Phase 2. Take a look below for some recent changes and updates to the network. And as always, if you'd like to be more involved, please reach out to [info@canvector.ca](mailto:info@canvector.ca).

## New Platform Co-Leads

A large part of CanVECTOR's success lies in the careful selection of its directors and platform co-leads so as to ensure a highly qualified leadership team. The selection of the directors and platform co-leads are strategic choices, based on a balance of leadership, experience, expertise, and geographical/academic representation. Following a vote in the Spring, CanVECTOR is pleased to announce the appointment of 4 new platform co-leads to the network.



Basic / Translational Science Platform Co-Lead: **Dr. Paul Kim** received his undergraduate and graduate training at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada, and completed two postdoctoral fellowships at McMaster University

in Hamilton, Canada, prior to joining the Thrombosis and Atherosclerosis Research Institute and McMaster University as faculty in 2014. In 2019, Dr. Kim was awarded CanVECTOR's Emerging Research Leaders Initiative (ERLI) award. He is currently a co-chairman of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis Subcommittee on Fibrinolysis. His research interests include protein biochemistry in fibrinolysis and coagulation.



Clinical Trials and Shared Platforms Platform Co-Lead: **Dr. Deborah Siegal** graduated from Queen's University School of Medicine in 2009 and completed Internal Medicine and Hematology training at McMaster

University. She holds a Master of Science degree in Pharmacology from the University of Toronto and is completing a Master of Science degree in Health Research Methodology at McMaster University. Dr. Siegal was named the first chair of CanVECTOR's trainee research council, and in 2017, she was awarded CanVECTOR's Emerging Research Leaders Initiative (ERLI) award. Dr. Siegal is currently an Associate Professor in the Division of Hematology, Department of Medicine, at University of Ottawa. Dr. Siegal's primary research interest is iatrogenic bleeding complications.



Knowledge Translation Platform Co-Lead: **Dr. Lori-Ann Linkins** is an Associate Professor of Medicine (thrombosis) at McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada. She holds a Master of Science degree in Health

Research Methodology and is a Deputy Editor with the Health Information Research Unit, McMaster. Her research interests include heparin-induced thrombocytopenia and cancer-associated thrombosis. She was editor of the ACCP Guidelines, 9th Edition HIT chapter and is currently a member of the ASH VTE Guidelines HIT Panel.



Patient Partner Platform Co-Lead: **Ms. Carol West** has been a committed member of the patient partner platform council since 2017, and has participated in many CanVECTOR activities, including as a member of the

Scientific Steering Committee and presenting at our annual conferences. As a patient, Ms. West's experience with the diagnosis and treatment of thrombosis ranged from excellent to awful. A fall on a rainy day resulted in a broken kneecap, surgery to wire things together, development of DVT and PE, participation in a clinical trial, and months of finding a new normal, including plane travel for this very frequent flyer. In her business life as the CEO of a non-profit industry organization located in Ottawa, Ms. West provides advocacy and education to members, and has led and participated in many Canadian and international discussions on a range of issues related to trade facilitation, border management and supply chain security. Ms. West believes that CanVECTOR's engagement of patient partners in a meaningful and institutional way has great potential and is excited to add value as the Network's first patient partner in a leadership position.

*"On behalf of the network, we want to also express our gratitude to **Dr. Jeff Weitz**, **Dr. James Douketis**, the late **Dr. Clive Kearon**, and **Jessica Emed**, for the vision, tremendous work, and commitment they brought to their platforms and to our community. Without their efforts, the success and growth of the network wouldn't have been possible," Susan Kahn & Marc Rodger, Network Co-Directors.*



### Our Name has Changed!

Based on feedback from our External Advisory Board (EAB), the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) has voted to change the CanVECTOR name to the Canadian Venous Thromboembolism Research Network (CanVECTOR). This change is more inclusive of the basic science research being done in the CanVECTOR community, and of course, retains our acronym. The [acknowledgement policy](#) has been updated to reflect this name change.

### myCanVECTOR

The new members' portal, [myCanVECTOR](#), is up and running! myCanVECTOR aims to be a home-base for all CanVECTOR members to keep in touch, apply to funding competitions, and download CanVECTOR materials and resources for your studies. This portal is still being updated, and will become more useful in the coming weeks! Here's what you can do:

- Update your profile information by clicking on the "Profile" tab on the left-hand side so CanVECTOR can stay in-the-know about all our members!
- See open award competitions and apply for CanVECTOR awards using the "Awards" tab.
- Moving forward, all award applications will be submitted through the online portal, so be sure you can sign in and access the site well ahead of the due date! All trainees engaged in thrombosis research with CanVECTOR investigators are encouraged to become members so they can apply to funding competitions.
- In the coming weeks, members will be added to Committees on the portal. From there, you'll be able to access information about your committee including documents and information for upcoming meetings.
- General CanVECTOR resources will also be added to the portal so all members can have access to important information and helpful resources!

### CanVECTOR Project Fee

As announced to all members at our 4th Annual Conference, a mandatory [CanVECTOR Project Fee](#) is now being applied to all successful CanVECTOR-supported grants with budgets >\$50,000. The support CanVECTOR provides to its members and to CanVECTOR-supported projects has been a large part of our success as a collaborative research network and of the research conducted by its members. 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.

For full details on the Project Fee, definition of a CanVECTOR-supported project, and guidance on how to include financial support for CanVECTOR services ("Project Fee") in your grant budgets when submitting proposals to funding agencies, please click [here](#).



## CANVECTOR NETWORK

ISTH 2020 VIRTUAL CONGRESS  
JULY 12-14, 2020



### BY THE NUMBERS

40

# of poster abstracts with CanVECTOR members and colleagues involved in the study teams

55

# of CanVECTOR members involved in the poster abstracts

4

# of CanVECTOR members speaking at ISTH / industry sponsored symposiums

#CanVECTORatISTH2020

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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](mailto:info@canvector.ca) for the chance to be featured!

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