Dear CanVECTOR members,

We hope all members and colleagues are well and can enjoy some time off during these summer months.

In this second newsletter of the year, we are proud to report on so many network activities and ongoing efforts while also highlighting some exciting changes to the network, key dates to remember, and opportunities just around the corner for our members.

We recently wrapped up the first year of our new CanVECTOR National Thrombosis Seminar series, which was a big success! The organizing committee developed an outstanding lineup of clinical and basic science speakers - both Canadian and international, covering an impactful curriculum of topics in thrombosis research. All 2020-2021 seminars are available for viewing on our website. We want to thank the organizing program committee and, notably, Dr. Agnes Lee, the committee Chair, for making this inaugural series such an outstanding success.

The network also recently held separate Research Training Award competitions for the first time: Studentships, administered by the Translational and Basic Science Platform, and Fellowships, administered by the Training, Mentoring, and Early Career Development Platform.

We’re happy to announce that the network has awarded two fellowship & eight studentship awards in these two competitions. We are thrilled to support such promising thrombosis research trainees and their projects.

Lastly, we have some changes and a few reminders to report, including a platform name change and our 2021 list of CanVECTOR Abstracts and Presentations at ISTH 2021!

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

Take care, and have a wonderful summer.

Susan & Marc

CanVECTOR is a pan-Canadian, patient-oriented network centered on venous thromboembolism-related research, training, and knowledge translation.
We are pleased to announce the Spring 2021-2022 Research Fellowship Award recipients. The network received several strong applications for this competition. The review committee selected two fellowship award recipients. Congratulations to the awardees and thanks to all who applied.

CanVECTOR’s Fellowship Awards would not be possible without the generous support of our partners, including in-kind fellowship funding support from the University of Toronto Department of Medicine and funding from Thrombosis Canada in this competition.

Dr. Camille Simard
McGill University
**Awarded**: Thrombosis Canada CanVECTOR Fellowship
**Supervisor**: Dr. Vicky Tagalakis
**PROJECT TITLE**: Bleeding Complications in Women with Venous Thromboembolism during Pregnancy.

The primary objectives of this project are 1) To determine the incidence of pregnancy-related bleeding in women treated with LMWH for acute VTE. 2) To determine anticoagulant-specific (type, frequency and dose of LMWH), pregnancy-specific (gestation, induction of labor, mode of delivery, type of anesthesia) and patient-specific (age, parity, comedication, pregnancy-related complications) risk factors associated with antepartum, peripartum and postpartum bleeding. 3) To determine the incidence of all-cause and pregnancy-related bleeding mortality.

Dr. Natasha Rupani
University of Toronto
**Awarded**: CanVECTOR Fellowship
**Supervisors**: Dr. Jameel Abdulrehman | Dr. Rita Selby
**PROJECT TITLE**: Intracranial Hemorrhage in Patients with Primary Brain Tumors Anticoagulated for Venous Thromboembolism.

The primary objective of this project is to compare the risk of any ICH in patients with primary brain tumors with CAT treated with DOACs versus LMWH. Secondary Objectives include: 1) To compare the risk of all major bleeding in patients with primary brain tumors with CAT treated with DOACs versus LMWH. 2) To compare the effectiveness of DOACs to LMWH in preventing recurrent VTE in patients with primary brain tumors.

COMING SOON!
Our 2021 Pilot Trials Competition will launch soon with a Fall application deadline.
Stay tuned for complete details in the coming weeks!
This Spring we held our first Studentship Awards Competition through the Network’s Translational / Basic Science Research Platform. We are pleased to announce that 8 awards have been granted in this competition to students at 5 universities across the country.

This competition would not be possible without the generous support of our partners, including direct funding for this competition from Alexion Pharmaceuticals for a Complement-Mediated Associated Research Studentship Award worth $10,000 (CAD). Thank you to our partners for their continued support in training the next generation of thrombosis researchers.

**Trainee Spotlight: Studentship Awardees**

Amin Zahrai, MSc Student  
University of Ottawa  
**Supervisors:** Dr. Aurélien Delluc | Dr. Marc Carrier  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Anticoagulation in Patients with Cancer-Associated Splanchnic Venous Thrombosis

Erblin Cani, MSc Student  
McMaster University  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Patricia Liaw  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Mechanisms of Hypercoagulation in COVID-19 Patients

Lisa Yamaura, MSc  
University of Calgary  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Prism Schneider  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Hypercoagulability in Patients with Metastatic Bone Disease as Determined by Thromboelastography: A Prospective Pilot Study (TEG MBD)

Justin Clark, PhD Student  
Western University  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Marlys Koschinsky | Michael Boffa  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Evaluating the Role of Lipoprotein[a] in Embolic Strokes of Undetermined Source

Ganeem Juneja, MSc Student  
McMaster University  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Paul Kim  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Investigating the Coagulopathic and Fibrinolytic Pathways that May Promote Venous Thromboembolism in COVID-19 Patients

Henry West, MSc Student  
University of British Columbia  
**Awarded:** Complement-Mediated Associated Research Studentship - Supported by Alexion  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Ed Pryzdial  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Virus Infection-Induced Venous Thromboembolism

Dr. Jaskirat Arora, MD, PhD Student  
McMaster University  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Alison Fox-Robichaud  
**PROJECT TITLE:** The Role of Neutrophil Extracellular Traps in the Decreased Proteolytic Activity of ADAMTS13 in Venous Thromboembolism

Felix Hong, MSc Student  
University of British Columbia  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Hugh Kim  
**PROJECT TITLE:** The Role of Periodontal Disease in Venous Thromboembolism

**Let your voice be heard!**

Did you enjoy the 2020-2021 CanVECTOR National Thrombosis Seminars? Do you have ideas for next year? Please take a few minutes to answer our brief survey!
Dr. Vicky Tagalakis, McGill University, and Dr. Alejandro Lazo-Langer, Western University, are excited to announce that members of the Quality of Care and Effectiveness Platform, which they lead, have elected to change the platform name to Population and Health Services Research Platform.

The platform has a long-standing mission to identify and characterize gaps in venous thromboembolism care, which in turn can inform knowledge translation strategies. The network primarily uses provincial healthcare administrative databases to conduct large-scale population-based studies focused on the effectiveness and safety of known treatments of venous thromboembolism. Some of the platform’s research includes studying the real-world use of direct oral anticoagulants in patient populations often excluded from clinical trials, such as patients with renal insufficiency and patients with cancer.

“We are primarily focused on defining treatment gaps at the population level, but we realize that several of our platform members are conducting important quality improvement research projects that aim to enhance patient safety and improve gaps in care and health services for patients with thrombotic disorders” explains Dr. Tagalakis. For example, Dr. Koolian, a quality improvement researcher from McGill University and a platform member, recently showed unnecessary delays in emergency hip fracture surgery for patients receiving anticoagulants compared to patients without anticoagulants. Her work is leading to immediate improvements in local processes in the perioperative management of anticoagulants in patients presenting with hip fracture to the emergency room.

“Our platform’s new name – Population and Health Service Research – better reflects the research within our platform addressing care gaps at the population level and improving health services at the local setting,” says Dr. Tagalakis.

The platform currently includes 15 members and looks forward to broadening its membership in the coming months to include quality improvement researchers in venous thromboembolism and anticoagulation.

CanVECTOR members interested in getting involved in the platform are encouraged to reach out to the platform at info@canvector.ca here.

CanVECTOR will host its 2021 Annual Conference in collaboration with Thrombosis Canada from November 4-6th, 2021 in Toronto, ON. This year’s conference will be a hybrid event - hosted both in-person and virtually.

The theme of the conference, co-Chaired by Dr. Maha Othman, Queen's University, and Dr. Cynthia Wu, University of Alberta, is Create, Connect, Collaborate: Promoting Excellence in Knowledge & Practice to Prevent VTE. Planning is well underway and we look forward to sharing our exciting lineup of speakers, workshops, and more.

Stay tuned and save-the-date!


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.
55+ poster abstracts with CanVECTOR members on study teams

Dr. Paul Kim selected to present a Master Class session on Biochemistry of Coagulation and Fibrinolysis

2 Late Breaking Abstracts involving 11 CanVECTOR members

Dr. Colin Kretz, Dr. Marc Carrier, & Dr. Alejandro Lazo-Langner selected to present in State-of-the-Art Sessions!

The # of CanVECTOR Members with abstracts & presentations at ISTH 2021

View the complete list of CanVECTOR member presentations and abstracts at ISTH 2021 here.

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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!