



SAVE-THE-DATE

CanVECTOR will host our **2024 Annual Conference** in collaboration with Thrombosis Canada from **October 25-26th, 2024** in Toronto, ON!

Stay tuned for complete details & the launch of the Abstract Competition.



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

PLATFORM NEWS:

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- CLINICAL TRIALS
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EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

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 that you have all had a good start in 2024. Although the pandemic is mostly behind us, there are still many adjustments to be had across many of our research institutes as we navigate the hybrid working environments and the increase in online undertaking of, pretty much, everything!

As we in CanVECTOR continue to strive to deliver consistent offerings that our network has come to depend on, we are also becoming adept at embracing change and growth. 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, and share a few key dates and opportunities for members!

As you know in 2024 we have welcomed new Knowledge Translation platform Co-Leads, Dr. Siraj Mithoowani and Dr. Zachary Liederman! We've also been fortunate enough to develop some wonderful new partnerships which highlight collaborations involving many of our network's platforms.

As our membership grows with new members from across the country, we continue to focus on our commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) with our network activities. Publicly, our EDI statement has been added to our website as an assertion to this commitment.

We are starting our 4th year of our CanVECTOR National Thrombosis Seminar series which has shown great success in attracting interest and attendance. Members are encouraged to continue 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.

As always, we welcome your involvement in network activities and your feedback.

Don't hesitate to reach out.

Until next time.

Grégoire & Susan

TRAINING, MENTORING, & EARLY CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Platform Co-Leads: Dr. Miriam Kimpton & Dr. Sudeep Shivakumar

Since its inception, the Training, Mentoring, and Early Career Development platform has been steadfast in supporting emerging researchers and building capacity for research related to venous thromboembolism. This year is no different, where ten of CanVECTOR's clinical and basic science trainees have been supported with research start-up awards through the platform. We are also pleased to announce that two clinical fellows, Dr. Alejandro Godoy from McMaster University and Dr. Gareth Ryan from University of Calgary were awarded CanVECTOR fellowship funding in the Fall 2023 competition (*see more below*).

TRAINEE COUNCIL

In addition, our training program continues to address the unmet needs of our trainees and to facilitate early career launch for our junior scientists. Thus, we welcome Dr. Amye Harrigan as our 2024 Trainee Council Chair and encourage all trainees to attend trainee council meetings to discuss their unmet needs and share their ideas on how we can support them better.

Finally, we would like to update our members of the available opportunities for funding and training programs from the CanVECTOR network and from the LifTING/Sepsis research training program partner.

FELLOWSHIP COMPETITION UPDATE

Beginning in 2024, the platform will hold only one fellowship competition each calendar year, which will take place in the Fall. Keep an eye on emails and announcements in September 2024 for the next competition.

LIFTING/SEPSIS RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM (RPT)

CanVECTOR is a proud partner of Sepsis Canada's Life-Threatening Illness National Group (LifTING) Research Training Program.

Funded by CIHR, the program offers **FREE** health research training programs for participating trainees that focus on sepsis and life-threatening illnesses. Trainees have access to virtual interactive sessions & online content accessible via a unique user-friendly platform on a wide range of research skills, including anti-oppressive practices, interdisciplinary teamwork, as well as mentorship and networking opportunities, training awards & hands-on experiences, & annual in-person symposium

Call for Trainee Applications



LifTING/Sepsis RTP Programs are now open to interested trainees! [Learn more](#)

Deadline: April 19th, 2024

Call for Practicum Opportunities



Interested in a practicum opportunity (i.e., a chance to observe or participate in real research activities related to life-threatening illnesses, including sepsis)? Trainees are funded for their work/time to complete their practicum. [Learn more](#)

SAVE-THE-DATE: NATIONAL THROMBOSIS SEMINARS

March 28, 2024 - 12:00 - 1:00pm ET

Register to attend the next edition of the National Thrombosis Seminar series focused on **Catheter-Directed Thrombectomy and ICU Care of PE** featuring Ali Omar Abualsaud, MD & Jed Lipes, MD - McGill University

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



TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT: FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES

We are pleased to announce the Fall 2023 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.



Alejandro Godoy, MD - McMaster University

Supervisors: Dr. Noel Chan & Dr. Vinai Bhagirath

PROJECT TITLE: Hip Fracture Surgery ThromboEmbolism Prevention Randomized controlled trial (HIPSTER)

Designed to provide the necessary evidence for guidelines, the HIPSTER RCT will be a non-inferiority trial comparing direct oral anticoagulant (DOAC) with low-molecular-weight heparin (LMWH) for thromboprophylaxis in patients with hip fracture.

A Pilot RCT will be conducted to examine the feasibility of recruitment, randomization, implementation of the protocol across 4 Canadian sites, and follow-up of participants.



Gareth Ryan, MD - University of Calgary

Supervisor: Dr. Prism Schneider

PROJECT TITLE: Novel Use of Thromboelastography to Assess Hypercoagulable State in Patients with Long Bone Fractures and Traumatic Brain Injury

The primary objective of this project is to define the duration of hypercoagulability following femur or tibia fractures in patients with concomitant traumatic brain injury using serial TEG (thromboelastography) analysis, and to compare this hypercoagulable state to patients without traumatic brain injury.



INVENT-VTE Network: Dragons' Den Competition 2024

Our partner INVENT is now accepting applications to present at the 2024 Dragons' Den Competition at ISTH 2024 in Bangkok!

CanVECTOR members are eligible & invited to pitch their International clinical trials for a chance at a \$40K (CAD) top prize. [Learn more](#)

CLINICAL TRIALS & SHARED PLATFORMS

Platform Co-Leads: Dr. Deborah Siegal & Dr. Leslie Skeith

The [Pilot Study Funding Competition](#) is held every fall and aims to build research capacity related to VTE and to enable CanVECTOR scientists to collect pilot data that will inform the conduct of larger multicentre clinical trials and increase the ability to attract external peer-reviewed funding.

Meet the Research Team:

Jameel Abdulrehman, University of Toronto

Amye Harrigan, Dalhousie University

Camille Simard, McGill University

Sue Pleasance, Dalhousie University

Katrina Hueniken, University of Toronto

Vicky Tagalakakis, McGill University

Sudeep Shivakumar, Dalhousie University

Jessica Zambito (Patient Partner)

Amy Pareja (Patient Partner)

T-REX HMB PILOT STUDY AWARDED 2023 PILOT FUNDING

Congratulations to the study team whose application was highly rated by independent reviewers and awarded \$99,893 in the 2023 Pilot Study Funding competition.



More than two thirds of pre-menopausal individuals started on anticoagulation for VTE will experience heavy or excessively frequent menstrual bleeding

#ClotTop10 Priority

How should bleeding be managed in a person taking an anticoagulant medication?

TRANEXAMIC ACID TO DECREASE HEAVY MENSTRUAL BLEEDING IN INDIVIDUALS ANTICOAGULATED FOR VENOUS THROMBOEMBOLISM PILOT STUDY

Why do the Study:

Tranexamic acid is a medication that is commonly used to prevent or treat bleeding. It is widely available at low cost and taken as a pill. In individuals not on blood thinners, tranexamic acid reduces blood loss from menstrual cycles by half without concerning side effects.

Unfortunately, no studies have looked at the use of tranexamic acid in individuals on blood thinners for blood clots. Currently, we do not know if it is effective in individuals on blood thinners, or if it increases the risk of clotting in individuals with recent blood clots.

Research Question:

In pre-menopausal individuals anticoagulated for VTE, does tranexamic acid (TXA) compared to placebo decrease heavy menstrual bleeding?

Pilot Trial Aim:

To assess the study participation rate (feasibility) and resources needed to conduct a full-scale RCT.

The Pilot Study:

The study will enroll participants over a one year period at three centres in Canada:

- Toronto General Hospital in Toronto,
- Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre in Halifax
- Jewish General Hospital in Montreal.

The pilot will help to plan the full trial by measuring:

- the number of eligible and recruitable patients
- participant adherence to study drug
- participant compliance with study procedures
- rates of loss to follow up or drop out

PATIENT PARTNERS

Platform Co-Leads: Carol West & Dr. Lisa Duffett

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PATIENT PARTNERS

The Patient Partners platform is pleased to welcome 3 new Patient Partners to our group: Amber Lapshinoff, Ming Wong, and Alvin Shapiro.

Amber is based just outside of Calgary, Alberta, while Ming is based in St. Catherine's, Ontario. Both attended their first Patient Partner Council meeting in December 2023. Alvin is the most recent Patient Partner to come onboard, and is based in London, Ontario.

We are so glad to welcome them to our group.

Our new recruits demonstrate the power of a referral, as they came recommended from network members. Please keep our Patient Partners platform in mind when recruiting or seeing patients; we want to continue to grow and diversify our group. Remember that anyone can recommend a patient to us. **We thank you for your recommendations!**

As a reminder, an ideal candidate is a patient who is:

- Naturally inquisitive
- Open to sharing their thoughts and opinions, but listening too
- Able to see beyond themselves and generalize to the experience of others



INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH PATIENT PARTNERS ON YOUR STUDY?

We encourage investigators to start the process of engaging with Patient Partners as early as possible in the life cycle of their project.

CanVECTOR has developed guidelines for making requests to work with our Patient Partners. Please refer to our [Guidelines for matching Patient Partners with Projects or Studies](#). Depending on interest, we aim to match 2 Patient Partners per project or study.

RESEARCH COORDINATORS WORKING GROUP (RCWG)

March 21, 2024 - 1:30 - 2:30pm ET

The RCWG hosted their first meeting of the year on March 21st with a special focus on "**Research Ethics Board (REB) Applications - An Overview**" - led by Jennifer Brinkhurst - OHRI.

Watch the [recording](#)!

[RECORDING](#)



TRANSLATIONAL / BASIC SCIENCE RESEARCH

Platform Co-Leads: Dr. Edward Conway & Dr. Paul Kim

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS: SPRING 2024 STUDENTSHIP AWARDS

The Translational & Basic Science Research Platform is pleased to announce that we are now accepting applications for the Spring 2024 Studentship Awards.

CanVECTOR Graduate Studentships offer support to candidates who are enrolled in an MSc or PhD program and are interested in conducting VTE-focused research. Administered by CanVECTOR's Translational / Basic Science Platform.

Quick Notes: Spring 2024 Studentship Awards

- Studentship awardees may receive a maximum of \$10,000 (CAD).
- CanVECTOR Graduate Studentships offer support to candidates who are enrolled in an MSc or PhD program and are interested in conducting VTE-focused research.
- **Application deadline:** Monday, May 13, 2024.

[LEARN MORE](#)

BASIC SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM - WINTER 2024

The platform hosted the Winter 2024 Translational & Basic Science Symposium in January, showcasing CanVECTOR funded trainee research with a special presentation by Prof. Jayachandran Kizhakkedathu - University of British Columbia, on **Novel Thrombosis Inhibitors Without Bleeding Risk**.

Watch the [recording](#) & stay tuned for details about the next symposium.

[RECORDING](#)

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION STATEMENT



We're proud to share CanVECTOR's new [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(EDI\) statement](#), reflecting our steadfast commitment to fostering an inclusive environment across our network.

This statement reaffirms our dedication to championing diversity and ensuring equitable opportunities for all individuals within our community.

CanVECTOR aims to cultivate a culture where every voice is valued, respected, and empowered, driving innovation and meaningful change in VTE research and care.

MEMBERSHIP HUB: UPDATING USER PROFILES



We recently launched a **Membership Hub** to help members better connect and collaborate, access member resources, and more.

If you have not yet, please activate & update your profile. [Connect with us](#) if you have not received a link.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

Platform Co-Leads: Dr. Zachary Leiderman & Dr. Siraj Mithoowani

LATEST CLOT+ EVIDENCE SUMMARIES

The Clot+ team have published three new Evidence Summaries:

- Doctor, should I wear compression stockings as well as take blood thinners to prevent blood clots after surgery? (January 2024)
- Doctor, do the newer blood thinners work for children and adolescents and are they safe? (December 2023)
- Doctor, I have an inherited blood clotting disorder and recurrent miscarriages. Will heparin injections prevent miscarriage of my next pregnancy? (October 2023)



ATTENTION TRAINEES: If you're interested in participating in the development of an Evidence Summary, please connect with us at info@canvector.ca.

POPULATION & HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

Platform Co-Leads: Dr. Alejandro Lazo-Langner & Dr. Vicky Tagalakis

The platform is pleased to announce that the platform is supporting an exciting new project led by Dr. Camille Simard, McGill University.

PRECONCEPTION EXPOSURE TO COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY AND RISK OF PREGNANCY LOSS AND CONGENITAL ANOMALIES: A POPULATION-BASED COHORT STUDY



Principal investigators: Joel Ray, Camille Simard

Co-Investigators: Vicky Tagalakis, Aurélien Delluc, Andrea Simpson

Diagnostic imaging has become an indispensable tool for disease diagnosis, prognosis and surveillance; yet, it remains a major source of ionizing radiation exposure in humans. Moreover, the use of computed tomography (CT) has risen significantly in the past three decades.

The female ovary appears to be highly sensitive to radiation effects. In women of reproductive age, the ovary contains a fixed number of follicles which decline with advancing age and are not amenable to regeneration. Damage to the follicular environment prior to its fertilization may conceivably have consequences for embryonic sustainability or mutagenesis after fertilization.

Our study will be using healthcare databases housed at ICES to evaluate whether female exposure to CT ionizing radiation in the years preceding conception increases her associated risk of a future miscarriage or fetal congenital anomaly.

If you're interested in learning more about this study or getting involved in the platform, please connect with us at info@canvector.ca.

PARTNERSHIP CORNER: FELLOWSHIP AND STUDENTSHIP PROGRAM FUNDERS

CanVECTOR's Fellowship and Studentship competition are among the Network's first successes and are now part of our cornerstone activities. CanVECTOR has been recognized in enhancing capacity in VTE expertise across Canada and accomplishing this is key to our mission and vision.

We have been supporting the VTE research projects of Fellows and students for almost a decade! This would not have been possible without our longstanding academic partners, whose support and teamwork has been invaluable.

We want to acknowledge and thank:

- The Departments of Medicine of:
 - Dalhousie University
 - McMaster University
 - University of Ottawa
 - University of Toronto
 - McGill University
 - Université Laval
 - Université de Montréal
 - Université de Sherbrooke
- Schwartz/Reisman Emergency Medicine Institute (SREMI)
- Thrombosis Canada
- McGill University
- Lady Davis Institute
- Ottawa Hospital Research Institute

As far as we've come, there remains Canadian academic institutions that CanVECTOR has not officially partnered with.

If your institution is not currently on our list and you'd like to introduce the Fellowship and/or Studentship program there, please contact Charlotte Guzman at info@canvector.ca.



IF YOU'RE
INTERESTED IN
PARTNERING WITH
CANVECTOR,
CONNECT WITH US



SAVE-THE-DATE: CLINICAL INVESTIGATION GROUP (CIG) MEETING

April 20, 2024 - 4:00 - 5:00pm ET

Join us for the next CIG meeting featuring a special presentation by Dr. Susan Kahn titled: **When the RCT you are leading keeps you up at night: how to mitigate unexpected problems (with 2 real-life examples)**.

Following the presentation, we will review the 2nd Quarter CanVECTOR Study Updates. All members with an interest in clinical trials are invited and encouraged to attend.



[REGISTER](#)

CANVECTOR MEMBER PUBLICATIONS: 2024

Di Nisio M, Lee AY. Direct oral anticoagulants: The new standard of care for cancer associated thrombosis. Eur J Intern Med. 2024 Mar 8;S0953-6205(24)00095-5. doi: 10.1016/j.ejim.2024.03.005.

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Chiang P, Robert-Ebadi H, Perrier A, et al. Pulmonary embolism risk stratification: external validation of the 4-level Clinical Pretest Probability Score (4PEPS). Res Pract Thromb Haemost. 2024 Feb 15;8(1):102348. doi: 10.1016/j.rpth.2024.102348. eCollection 2024 Jan.

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Al-Tourah L, Mithoowani S, Lim W, et al. The incidence of major bleeding in adult patients with urogenital and gynecological cancer being treated with direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs): a systematic review. J Thromb Thrombolysis. 2024 Mar 1. doi: 10.1007/s11239-024-02956-5.

Othman M, Nemeti G, Solow M, et al. Hematologic characteristics and coagulopathy in pregnancy with COVID-19 succeeding the first wave: a multicenter retrospective cross-sectional study. Res Pract Thromb Haemost. 2024 Feb 5;8(1):102339. doi: 10.1016/j.rpth.2024.102339. eCollection 2024 Jan.

Tera Y, Suh YJ, Fainchtein K, et al. Assessing hypercoagulability and VTE risk using thromboelastography and Khorana score in women with cancers receiving chemotherapy. Am J Hematol. 2024 Feb 29. doi: 10.1002/ajh.27273.

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Zhang Y, Bissola AL, Treverton J, et al. Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia: Clinicopathologic Features and New Perspectives on Anti-PF4 Antibody-Mediated Disorders. J Clin Med. 2024 Feb 9;13(4):1012. doi: 10.3390/jcm13041012.

Davis S, Goodacre S, Horner D, et al. Effectiveness and cost effectiveness of pharmacological thromboprophylaxis for medical inpatients: decision analysis modelling study. BMJ Med. 2024 Feb 21;3(1):e000408. doi: 10.1136/bmjmed-2022-000408. eCollection 2024.

Athale U, Halton J, Gayowsky A, et al. Development and validation of thromboembolism diagnostic algorithms in children with cancer from real-world data. Pediatr Res. 2024 Feb 22. doi: 10.1038/s41390-024-03082-x.

Strilchuk AW, Hur WS, Batty P, et al. Lipid nanoparticles and siRNA targeting plasminogen provide lasting inhibition of fibrinolysis in mouse and dog models of hemophilia A. Sci Transl Med. 2024 Feb 21;16(735):eadh0027. doi: 10.1126/scitranslmed.adh0027. Epub 2024 Feb 21.

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Weitz JI, Tanko LB, Floege J, et al. Anticoagulation with osocimab in patients with kidney failure undergoing hemodialysis: a randomized phase 2 trial. Nat Med. 2024 Feb;30(2):435-442. doi: 10.1038/s41591-023-02794-7. Epub 2024 Feb 16.

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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](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

EVENTS

March 21 - 1:30pm ET

- **Meeting:** Research Coordinators Working Group
- **Topic:** Research Ethics Board (REB) Applications (An Overview)

[RECORDING](#)

March 28 - 12:00pm ET

- **Meeting:** National Thrombosis Seminars
- **Topic:** Catheter-Directed Thrombectomy and ICU Care of PE

[REGISTER](#)

April 30 - 4:00pm ET

- **Meeting:** Clinical Investigation Group Meeting
- **Topic:** When the RCT you are leading keeps you up at night: how to mitigate unexpected problems

[REGISTER](#)

October 25 - Toronto, ON

- **Meeting:** Annual Conference
- **Topic:** Coming Soon!

[SAVE-THE-DATE](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

INVENT-VTE: Network Dragons' Den Competition

- Pitch your thrombosis trial at ISTH 2024 for a \$40K top prize or \$20K runner-up prize & network endorsement.
- Apply by April 8th

[LEARN MORE](#)

CanVECTOR Studentship Awards

- Trainees enrolled in an MSc or PhD program conducting VTE-focused research are invited to apply for up to a \$10K in research funding.
- Apply by May 13

[LEARN MORE](#)

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The Network News is published twice annually