



CCORT PULSE

CCORT OBJECTIVES

- Improve the quality of cardiovascular care in Canada
- Work with local, provincial and national partners on policy-relevant research projects & knowledge exchange
- Train future leaders of cardiovascular outcomes research in Canada
- Make a measurable impact on the CV health of Canadians through research that changes clinical practice, health policy & patient outcomes

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CCORT's 7th annual National Meeting held in Toronto

Record attendance of 60+ scientists, statisticians, clinician researchers, and students from across Canada, marked CCORT's annual national meeting held in May. Team members came together to discuss project updates, work plans and strategies to support the continued growth and success of CCORT II's outcomes research program.

Keynote speakers included Dr. Eldon Smith, University of Calgary, and Dr. Mark Tremblay, Statistics Canada.

As the Chair of the Canadian Heart Health Strategy Steering Committee, Dr. Eldon Smith described the creation, implementation, and goals of the CHHS as it plans its inaugural year of developing a cardiovascular health strategy for Canadians. Dr. Smith emphasized that CV disease is a growing public health issue, in need of the attention of Canadian policy makers. Ensuring CV disease becomes a focus of Canadian decision makers is a key goal of the CHHS.

www.chhs-scsc.ca



Members of CCORT meet in Toronto in May

The Canadian Health Measures Survey will record direct physical measures (n =5,000) and yield abundant information about the health of Canadians. Dr. Mark Tremblay, the Senior Scientific Advisor on Health Measurement at Statistics Canada provided an interesting presentation about its creation, implementation status, challenging logistics and related research opportunities. www.statcan.ca/chms

CCORT would like to thank both Dr. Eldon Smith and Dr. Mark Tremblay for taking the time to address the national meeting participants and for sharing their experience and insight.

International Scientific Advisory Committee

Four prominent cardiac researchers recently became the inaugural members of CCORT's newly created International Scientific Advisory Committee:

- Dr. Harlan Krumholz, Yale University
- Dr. John Spertus, Mid America Heart Institute
- Dr. Eric Peterson, Duke University
- Dr. Daniel Levy, Framingham Heart Study

This committee will provide strategic advice and feedback specifically with regard to CCORT's research agenda and its future direction within the changing cardiovascular outcomes research landscape. CCORT welcomes the opportunity to work with these highly regarded researchers, and is looking forward to interacting with the new advisory committee.

CCORT/GENESIS Student Event in Montreal

CCORT and GENESIS students from across Canada attended the 7th annual CCORT student workshop in July. Hosted by Dr. Louise Pilote in Montreal, 14 students and 4 investigators took part in the 1 1/2 day event that provided students the opportunity to discuss their research projects and receive feedback from some of Canada's leading cardiovascular outcomes researchers.

The event was well received by all in attendance and continues to be a venue that strengthens student research at CCORT.

Special thanks to Dr. Louise Pilote and Jasmine Poole for hosting a successful event.



CCORT/GENESIS students gather in Montreal



Canadian Cardiovascular Outcomes Research Team

Improving the Quality of Canadian Cardiovascular Care



CCORT PROFILE—Fiona Shrive, PhD

Dr. Fiona Shrive, currently a research fellow at the University of Calgary, joined the CCORT student program in 2002/03 as a doctoral fellow. This was followed by a post-doctoral fellowship in 2006/07.

As a CCORT student, Fiona collaborated with lead CCORT investigators, co-authored 2 CCORT Atlas papers published in the Canadian Journal of Cardiology, and interacted with CCORT scientists and staff from across Canada.

Fiona's immersion in cardiovascular research as a CCORT student enabled her to work towards her goal of becoming a researcher, with a specific focus on the economic evaluation of population rates of cardiac procedures.

In this setting she has been able to "flex her research muscles." Her research involves the development of technically challenging economic models, advanced statistical techniques and also incorporates fundamental epidemiology. Fiona is very excited about her post-doctoral work!



CCORT makes the rounds

PUBLICATIONS

Bradshaw PJ, Ko DT, Newman AM, Donovan LR, Tu JV. Validation of the Thrombolysis In Myocardial Infarction (TIMI) risk index for predicting early mortality in a population-based cohort of STEMI and non-STEMI patients. *Can J Cardiol* 2007; 23(1):51-56.

Stukel TA, Fisher ES, Wennberg DE, Alter DA, Gottlieb DJ, Vermeulen MJ. Analysis of observational studies in the presence of treatment selection bias: effects of invasive cardiac management on AMI survival using propensity score and instrumental variable methods. *JAMA* 2007; 297(3):278-285.

McAlister FA, Tu JV, Newman A, Lee DS, Kimber S, Cujec B et al. How many patients with heart failure are eligible for cardiac resynchronization? Insights from two prospective cohorts. *Eur Heart J* 2006; 27(3):323-329.

Putnam W, Bower KN, Cox J, Twohig P, Pottie K, Jackson L et al. Quality indicators for cardiac care: national standards in a community context. *J Health Serv Res Policy* 2006; 11(1):5-12.

Austin PC, Tu JV. Comparing clinical data with administrative data for producing acute myocardial infarction report cards. *J R Statist Soc* 2006; 169(1):115-126.

Alter DA, Chong A, Austin PC, Mustard C, Iron K, Williams JI et al. Socioeconomic status and mortality after acute myocardial infarction. *Ann Intern Med* 2006; 144(2):82-93.

NEW and NOTABLE

Michelle Mattern recently joined CCORT, Toronto, as a Project Manager for the Primary Care/EMR project. Michelle has a PhD in Biology and most recently was an undergraduate lab manager at York University, Toronto.

Jessie Stamplecoski has joined CCORT, Toronto, as a Helpdesk Analyst. Jesse hails from Ottawa, where he gained valuable training and experience in IT, call centres and the Canadian Armed Forces.

FAREWELL

Nemir Al Azzawi, who began working with CCORT as a programmer, joined the TTC in May to pursue a focus on GIS. During his 5 years with CCORT, Nemir maintained the website and supported many projects including EFFECT. We thank Nemir and wish him well.

Magda Melo, a CCORT Project Manager, took on a new post at Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute in June. We wish Magda continued success.

CCORT Calendar

August 19-22, 2007

ISPE Conference
Quebec City, Quebec



October 20-24, 2007

Canadian Cardiovascular Congress 2007
Quebec City, Quebec

Contact: Conference Secretariat
cardiocongress@intertaskconferences.com

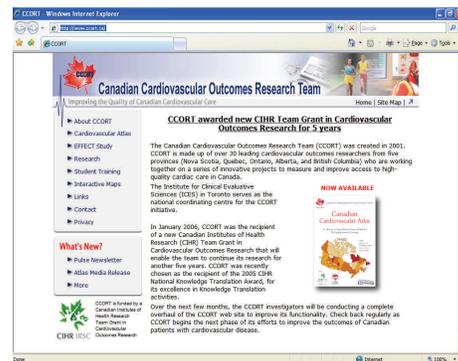
January 2008

Annual CCORT Student Competition Opens
www.ccort.ca/StudentTraining.asp

What's New at www.ccort.ca

CCORT recently launched a new version of the website to reflect the transition and growth from CCORT I to CCORT II.

Visit www.ccort.ca to view the recent changes.



EFFECT Study Update

Phase II of the EFFECT study is making steady progress with over 1/3 of the data collection completed. While we still have some ways to go, we are moving forward and gaining momentum.

Sincere thanks to our nurse abstractors, our 103 participating hospitals, and all those involved in making this unique study possible!