



Funded by a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Team Grant in Cardiovascular Outcomes Research

CCORT PULSE

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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
- Strive to have a measurable impact on the CV health of Canadians through research that changes clinical practice, health policy & patient outcomes

This issue

Release of Atlas	1
CIHR Team Grant	1
National Meeting	1
Globe and Mail Interview	1
CCORT Students	2
Making the rounds	2
New and Notable	2
What's New?	2

Send newsletter comments or contributions to tara.oneill@ices.on.ca

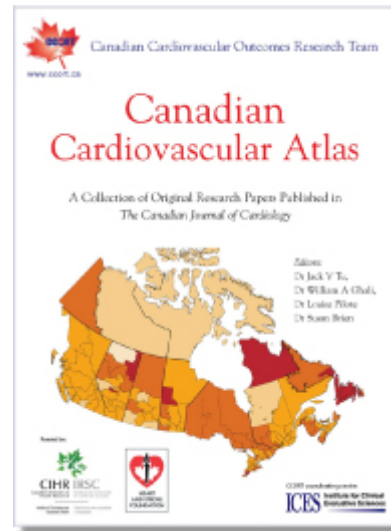
For information regarding CCORT contact Tara O'Neill tara.oneill@ices.on.ca

Funding provided by:



Hot off the Press: CCORT Canadian Cardiovascular Atlas

Released in July, 2006 this comprehensive, multimedia compendium includes the 24 individual Canadian Cardiovascular Outcomes Research Team Atlas papers, the CCORT/ Canadian Cardiovascular Society Acute Myocardial Infarction & Congestive Heart Failure Quality Indicator papers, a colour coded master data table and an interactive CD of related data, maps and tables. While the papers were initially published over a three year period in the Canadian Journal of Cardiology, requests for the complete collection led to the creation of the recently released compendium. The CCORT CV Atlas, the first cardiovascular atlas of its kind in Canada, is being distributed free of charge to over 1,500 clinicians, government officials, policy makers across Canada and is also freely available on the CCORT web site. Distribution of the Atlas has been supported through funding awarded to CCORT from the 2005 Canadian Institutes of Health Research National Knowledge translation award.



Tu JV, Ghali WA, Pilote L, Brien S. [eds] CCORT Canadian Cardiovascular Atlas. Pulsus Group Inc. and Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, Toronto, 2006.

To obtain your copy of the Atlas, please visit www.ccart.ca/Atlas.asp

50
The number of authors involved in the Atlas

East-to-West Gradient
CV health tends to follow an east-to-west gradient with risk factors & mortality rates improving as one moves from eastern Canada to western Canada

40
The number of colour coded maps in the Atlas

CCORT Launches Next Phase with CIHR Team Grant

CCORT, initially funded through CIHR's Interdisciplinary Health Research Team grant competition (2001-2005), recently obtained a CIHR Team Grant in Cardiovascular Outcomes Research (April 2006). New areas of research will include Primary PCI, Drug Policy, Cardiac Procedures and Primary Prevention.

Toronto in the Spring—6th Annual CCORT National Meeting

Over 50 scientists, statisticians, clinician researchers, students and policy makers from across Canada gathered in Toronto in May to strategize and establish work plans for the next phase of CCORT's research agenda. Five key project areas were discussed with project teams presenting their initial work plans.

Guest speakers included Wendy Thompson, Canadian Public Health Agency, and Doug Kavanagh, Net Medical.

CCORT is delighted to announce a number of new investigators who have joined its team including:

- Derek So, University of Ottawa Heart Institute
- Thao Huynh, McGill University Health Centre
- Roger Baskett, Dalhousie University/Maritime Heart Centre
- Michael Love, Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre/ Dalhousie University
- Nancy Walton, Ryerson University, School of Nursing



Members of CCORT meet in Toronto during the annual national meeting. May 2006

Jack Tu: One on One with Andre Picard

Globe & Mail Health Reporter Andre Picard interviewed Dr. Jack Tu in October to discuss the recently released CCORT CV Atlas compendium, CCORT and its future plans. Dr. Tu described the important role of outcomes

research in helping to understand what works in the real world as compared to the more ideal world of clinical trials. To read the Globe and Mail interview, please visit www.ccart.ca



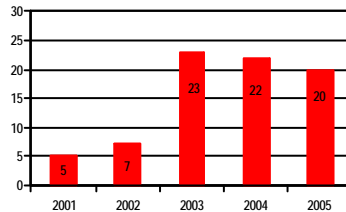
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CCORT STUDENTS: A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

A fundamental objective of CCORT is to train the next generation of CV outcomes researchers. Forty three students have participated in CCORT since its inception, including 8 post doctoral fellows, 4 PhD students, 4 MSc and 27 summer students from across Canada. The high level of productivity of the CCORT students is indicated in our publications, where 30 of 81 CCORT peer reviewed publications had a CCORT student as the lead author—Remarkable!

NB Annual CCORT Student Competition Opens January 2007

See www.ccort.ca/StudentTraining.asp for more information.



CCORT Student Day—Montreal

Six CCORT students joined peers from the GENESIS project for the annual Student Research Day on July 24, 2006. Our capable host, Dr. Louise Pilote, led the day where the students had an opportunity to present their research projects to CCORT/GENESIS Scientists, obtain feedback and interact with their peers from across the country.

CCORT makes the rounds

PUBLICATIONS

Putnam W, Nicol K, Cox JL, Twohig PL, Pottie K, Jackson LA, Burge FI. Quality indicators for cardiac care: National standards in the community context *J Health Serv Res Policy* 2006;11 (1):5-12.

Bhatia RS, Tu JV, Lee DS, Austin PC, Fang J, Houzi A, Gong Y, Liu PP. Outcome of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction in a population based study *N Engl J Med* 2006 Jul 20;355 (3):260-9.

PRESENTATIONS

Therese Stukel. "Analysis of Observational Studies in the Presence of Unmeasured Treatment Selection Bias: Effects of Invasive Cardiac management on AMI Survival" Dept of Statistics, University of Waterloo, ON, Oct 26, 2006.

Jack V. Tu. "Opportunities for Improving AMI outcomes in Ontario" Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre Schulich Heart Centre Research Day, Vaughan Estates, Toronto, ON, Nov 8, 2006.

NEW & NOTABLE

Magda Melo joined CCORT as a project manager in May, 2006. Magda has a Bachelors degree in Pharmacy (University of Lisbon, Portugal) and a MSc in Epidemiology (McGill University). Magda spent two years in the ICES Drug program prior to joining CCORT.

Maria Chiu is currently an analyst in the Cardiovascular program at ICES. Prior to joining ICES in May 2006, she worked as a Research Associate in the Division of Preventive Oncology, Cancer Care Ontario. Maria received her Honours Bachelor of Science in Human Biology and Mathematics and a Masters of Science in Epidemiology from the University of Toronto.

Dr. Douglas Lee, a cardiologist at University Health Network (Toronto), recently returned to CCORT after completing a post-doctoral fellowship at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's Framingham Heart Study. Doug recently became an ICES scientist. His primary interest is in outcomes of heart failure and cardiovascular disease, cardiac device therapies for HF, and HF risk factor epidemiology.

Dr. Dennis Ko is an interventional cardiologist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and a newly appointed scientist at ICES. Dennis completed his medical residency at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and cardiology training at Yale University where he was mentored by Dr. Harlan Krumholz. Dennis brings relevant experience from his work with the Cooperative Cardiovascular Project to the EFFECT study and related CCORT research.

Tara O'Neill who began as an administrative assistant for the EFFECT study in April 2004, returned from maternity leave in February 2006. More recently, Tara has become the administrative assistant for the CCORT coordinating centre, while continuing to support EFFECT.

FAREWELL

CCORT bid farewell to **Sharon Vanhinger** in May, 2006. We thank her for her contribution as she sets out on a new career in real estate.

CCORT Calendar

January 15, 2007

Health Care 2007
Integrating Planning,
Measurement and
Evaluation.
(ICES, MOH<C, CIHI),
Toronto, Ontario

Contact: www.ices.on.ca

Email: symposium@ices.on.ca



March 11-15, 2007

23rd Annual Cardiovascular Conference
Lake Louise, Alberta

What's New at www.ccort.ca

RENOVATIONS ARE UNDERWAY at the CCORT web site, to better reflect the team's focus and plans for the CIHR Team Grant. Look for our **NEW LOOK** early in 2007.



EFFECT Study

Phase II of the EFFECT Study is under way and the EFFECT nurse abstractors are in the process of conducting the second round of chart abstraction.

Phase I abstraction involved review of charts from fiscal 1999-2001 whereas Phase II abstraction involves charts from fiscal 2004. Once Phase II data collection is completed, the AMI and CHF quality indicators will be evaluated.

In Phase III we will conduct a comparison of the findings from Phase I and Phase II, to determine if cardiac report cards based on clinical data lead to improved performance at centres that receive them.

We appreciate the continued support of the 103 participating hospitals and look forward to sharing additional study findings with you—*stay tuned for further updates.*