



CCORT PULSE

Volume 2, Issue 1

July 2003

CCORT OBJECTIVES:

- Improve quality of heart attack & heart failure care in Canada
- Improve invasive cardiac procedure outcomes in Canada
- Stimulate multidisciplinary and inter-provincial collaborative cardiovascular outcomes research
- Train the next generation of Canadian cardiovascular outcome researchers

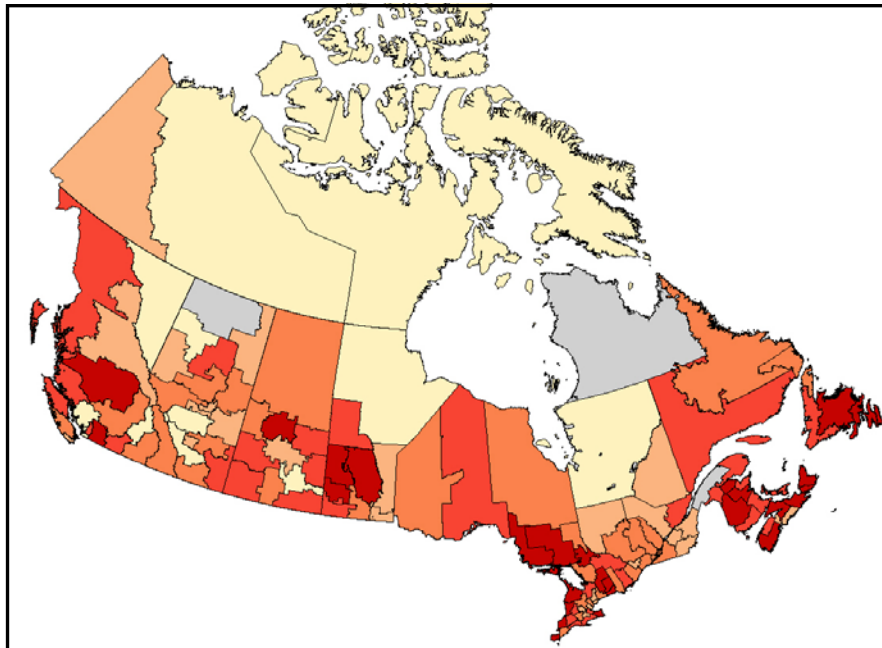
Inside this issue:

Canadian Cardiovascular Atlas	1
EFFECT Study	2
Student Training Update	3
Publication Citations & Links	3
Annual Meeting	3
Post-doctoral Opportunity	4

Funding provided by:



Canadian Cardiovascular Atlas project



Regional information in the CCORT Atlas will be presented in color-coded maps such as this one (left). Maps are subdivided into health regions. Each health region is colored according to how it's regional rate compared to the national average.

First articles published in the Canadian Journal of Cardiology

The CCORT *Canadian Cardiovascular Atlas*, a comprehensive look at cardiac care in Canada, is well into the first publication phase. Phase 1 is publication of a series of 22 articles in the *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* (Phases 2 and 3 will be publication of the journal articles in a less technical format on the CCORT website, www.ccort.ca, and as a hard-copy book). The introductory article, describing Atlas topics and overall goals, and the general Atlas methodology paper were published in the March & May 2003 issues, respectively. Two Atlas articles were just published in the June 2003 issue

on outcomes after cardiac procedures (Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery, and Percutaneous Coronary Intervention). Later on this summer, look for Atlas papers on population health - cardiovascular (CVD) hospitalization rates, CVD mortality and risk factors, and burden of CVD disease (e.g. prevalence, life expectancy) in Canada - as well as outcomes after acute myocardial infarction (AMI).

If you are interested in reading Atlas publications, please check page 3 for the most recent citations and the website links to the full-text articles.



Enhanced Feedback for Effective Cardiac Treatment (EFFECT)

The Enhanced Feedback for Effective Cardiac Treatment Study is progressing well. Phase I chart abstraction is complete in over half of the participating hospitals and we anticipate releasing initial results this fall. The EFFECT nurse abstractors have been interacting with hospitals across the province collecting data for the EFFECT Study. We would like to acknowledge their efforts and the key role they play in this study.

*Christine Achber
Barbara Aubrey
Rhonda Barrett Murphy
Beverley Baxter
Nancy Cooper
Sandy Dunlop
Beth Fry*

*Linda Hardcastle
Heather Higginson
Catharine Husser
Michele Lussier
Leslie Marquis
Hetty Martin
Monique May*

*Karen Palmer
Sue Perle
Lucilla Seah
Alena Sarnavka
Diana Sayers
Helena Tremblay*

The EFFECT Study team has benefited from the feedback and guidance provided by the members of the EFFECT Technical Advisory Committee. Formed in November 2002, the committee is comprised of eight physician representatives of hospitals participating in the EFFECT Study and four ICES physician scientists with Dr. Jack Tu serving as chair. The committee's role is to provide feedback on preliminary data findings and to provide input on the AMI and CHF quality indicators and their utility.

The committee has reviewed background information on the EFFECT Study, including the quality indicators and met in mid-February, 2003 for a one day session where the EFFECT Study team presented and discussed preliminary EFFECT data. The committee was very helpful in assisting the EFFECT Study team to identify the information that would be most useful to participating hospitals and their clinicians. Members of the EFFECT Technical Advisory Committee have also reviewed the draft report card layouts and provided feedback on their content and presentation. We look forward to additional feedback and guidance from the EFFECT Technical Advisory Committee.

EFFECT Technical Advisory Committee	
Member	Organization
Dr. Rajen Chetty	Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital, Windsor
Dr. Kevin Glasgow	Cardiac Care Network of Ontario
Dr. Shaun Goodman	St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto
Dr. Milan Gupta	Osler Cardiology Associates, Brampton
Dr. Hui Lee	The Group Health Centre, Sault Ste. Marie
Dr. Peter Liu	University Health Network—Toronto General
Dr. Stuart Smith	St. Mary's Hospital, Kitchener
Dr. Koon Teo	McMaster University Medical Centre
Dr. David Alter	ICES
Dr. Peter Austin	ICES
Dr. Dennis Ko	ICES
Dr. Doug Lee	ICES
Dr. Jack Tu--Chair	ICES

The EFFECT Study involves many hospitals across Ontario and we appreciate the timely assistance we have received from the staff within the hospitals including those within the Health Records and Patient Information Services departments, the REB representatives, and the Clinical and Administrative contacts.

CCORT Student Training Update

The spring season of CCORT student training competitions is complete, and CCORT is proud to announce three CCORT fellowship awardees for 2003/2004 and nine CCORT summer students for the summer of 2003.

The successful CCORT fellowship candidates for 2003/2004 are: **Diane Galbraith**



(MSc candidate, University of Calgary, with Bill Ghali)

Fiona Shrive (PhD candidate, University of Calgary, with Bill Ghali)

Ansar Hassan (PhD candidate, Dalhousie University, with Greg Hirsch).

Fellowship Student: Diane Galbraith

In addition to these students, several students awarded CCORT fellowships but who have accepted funding from elsewhere will receive travel funding from CCORT. These students include:

Kristian Filion (MSc candidate, McGill University, with Mark Eisenberg)

Frank Zhou (PhD candidate, McGill University, with Louise Pilote)

Marie Hudson (Post-Doctoral fellow, McGill University, with Louise Pilote).

The CCORT Summer students (and their supervisors) for 2003 are:

Gaelle Camus (Louise Pilote)

Woganee Filate (Jack Tu)

Kristian Filion (Mark Eisenberg)

Sally Higgins (Karin Humphries and Chris Thompson)

Carrie McNeely (Karin Humphries and Ron Carere)

Shail Rawal (Doug Martin)

Brooke Wilson (Mark Eisenberg)

Karen Wou (Mark Eisenberg)

Harry Wu (Jack Tu)



Summer student: Harry Wu

The CCORT Steering committees would like to thank Kathryn King, Larry Svenson, Wayne Putnam, Michelle Graham, Susan Brien, Ruth Hall and Colleen Norris for volunteering their time to review this years applications.

Student funding opportunities for 2004/2005 will be announced in November 2003. Check the CCORT website for details regarding the application procedure (www.ccort.ca). Application forms will be made available once funding opportunities are announced.

CCORT Annual Meeting Postponed

Due to the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in Toronto this spring, the CCORT 3rd Annual National Team meeting, traditionally held in Toronto, was cancelled. The CCORT Steering committee decided that gathering clinicians

from hospitals and research facilities from across Canada together in Toronto in the midst of the outbreak was not prudent, especially given the uncertainty over the nature of the outbreak.

In place of this meeting, there have been

several teleconferences to discuss CCORT activities. In addition, a student workshop to be held in Montreal this July is being planned, and a CCORT fall meeting in October will be scheduled in conjunction with the annual Canadian Cardiovascular Congress.

Recent CCORT *Canadian Cardiovascular Atlas* Publications

Tu JV, Brien SE, Kennedy CC, Pilote L, Ghali WA. An Introduction to the Canadian Cardiovascular Outcome Research Team's (CCORT) Canadian Cardiovascular Atlas. *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* 2003 March; 19(3): 225-229.

Kennedy CC, Brien SE, Tu JV. An Overview of the Methods and Data Used in the CCORT Canadian Cardiovascular Atlas Project. *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* 2003 May; 19(6): 655-633.

Ghali WA, Quan H, Shrive FM, Hirsch GM. Outcomes after Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery in Canada: 1992/93-2000/01. *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* 2003 June; 19(7): 774-781.

Jamal SM, Shrive FM, Ghali WA, Knudtson ML, Eisenberg MJ. In-Hospital Outcomes after Percutaneous Coronary Intervention in Canada: 1992/93-2000/01. *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* 2003 June; 19(7): 782-789.

Download a full text version of these and other Atlas Publications at www.ccort.ca/Atlas.asp

Post-doctoral Fellowship Position in Cardiovascular Outcomes Research

Location: Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, Toronto, Ontario.

A post-doctoral fellowship position is currently available with a team of cardiovascular outcomes researchers, led by Dr. Jack V. Tu, at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre, University of Toronto.

The post-doctoral fellow will receive training in cardiovascular outcomes research and will have the opportunity to work with large clinical and administrative datasets focusing on cardiac care in Ontario (i.e. acute myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure, cardiac catheterization, cardiac surgery). The fellow will also have an opportunity to participate in research projects of the Canadian Cardiovascular Outcomes Research Team (www.ccort.ca), a national quality of care improvement project funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Qualifications: The post-doctoral position is open to an MD with a Master's degree in Clinical Epidemiology and/or Health Services Research OR a PhD with training in Epidemiology, Health Services Research or equivalent background training.

Start date: Position is available as of July 1, 2003 (start date is flexible)

Deadline: Until position is filled.

Number of positions: 1

Duration: 1-2 years

Funding: A Canada Research Chair in Health Services Research, held by Dr. Tu, provides funding for this position. Salary will be at the level for postdoctoral fellows recommended by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (www.cihr.ca)

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter indicating their research interests, a copy of their Curriculum Vitae and the names of three references to the following:

Dr. Jack V. Tu
Senior Scientist
Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences
G106, 2075 Bayview Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M5M 3M5
tu@ices.on.ca
Fax: 416-480-6048
Tel: 416-480-4700