



A Canadian Institutes of Health Research - Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada Interdisciplinary Health Research Team

## CCORT PULSE

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### 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

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Funding provided by:



## Mark your calendars

### CCORT workshop at CCC 2003

CCORT and the Heart and Stroke Foundation will present an interactive workshop titled "Where is the best place for cardiac care in Canada?" at the Canadian Cardiovascular Congress. The session, to be held **October 27** from 4:00 to 5:30, will feature presentations by Dr. Jack Tu, Dr. Louise Pilote, Dr. William Ghali and Dr. Andy Wiegosz, with Dr. Jafna Cox as moderator.

Register at [www.ccs.ca](http://www.ccs.ca).

### Fall 2003 National Team Meeting

The Canadian Cardiovascular Outcomes Research Team Annual Meeting will be

held Thursday, **November 20** in Toronto.

Discussion will focus on knowledge translation strategies surrounding the Canadian Cardiovascular Atlas, as well as future research topics for CCORT.

To register, please send an email to [vanihinger@ices.on.ca](mailto:vanihinger@ices.on.ca).

For more information on these events, check out the CCORT website at: [www.ccort.ca/UpcomingMeeting.asp](http://www.ccort.ca/UpcomingMeeting.asp).



## Atlas project nears halfway mark

The CCORT Canadian Cardiovascular Atlas project is progressing to its midway point with seven articles published in the *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* and more submitted for publication in the near future. Titles of recently published articles include:

- Hospitalization rates and length of stay for cardiovascular diseases in Canada 1994-1997, Hall RE, Tu JV *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* 2003; 19(10):1123-1131
- Regional variations in cardiovascular mortality in Canada, Filate WA, Johansen HL, Kennedy CC, Tu JV *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* 2003; 19(11): 1241-1248
- Risk factors for cardiovascular disease in Canada Tanuseputro P, Manuel DG, Leung M, Nguyen K, Johansen H *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* 2003; 19(11):1249-1259

Upcoming topics include:

- Cardiovascular drug utilization
- Valve surgery rates

Download a full text version of these and other Atlas publications at [www.ccort.ca/Atlas.asp](http://www.ccort.ca/Atlas.asp)

## Hello and goodbyes

CCORT research coordinator Courtney Kennedy, and administrative assistants Maria Silvano and David Stevenson said their goodbyes this past summer. They are missed and we wish them well in their future endeavours.

Sharon Van Ihinger recently joined the CCORT team as a research administrative assistant. Sharon, whose background is in communications, will be assisting with meeting planning, the student training program, editing the CCORT Pulse, and copy-editing the CCORT Cardiac Atlas.



## Profile Rising to the challenge: William Ghali, MD, MPH

A passion for science and math was instilled early on in life for CCORT investigator Bill Ghali. He says he recalls his dad penning math problems on restaurant napkins, and quizzing him and his brothers during breakfast and bedtime. At highschool in Calgary, Bill says he considered a career in engineering, but medicine eventually won out.

After completing an undergraduate degree at the University of Calgary, Bill went on to train as a general internist at Queen's University in Kingston. Then, studies in health services research and epidemiology beckoned at the Health Research Unit, Boston University, and it was there that he received methodological training.

Soon after, in 1996, Bill returned to his hometown of Calgary where he took up the reins as Assistant Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary, prior to his current



faculty position as Associate Professor. He is also based in the Centre for Health and Policy Studies at the University of Calgary ([www.chaps.ucalgary.ca](http://www.chaps.ucalgary.ca)), is a Canada Research Chair in Health Services Research, and in addition is funded as a health scholar by the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research.

Several research health initiatives that Bill is involved in assess care delivery and access issues relating to cardiovascular disease, cerebrovascular disease, venous

vascular disease and diabetes. He also works with the Alberta Provincial Project for Outcome Assessment in Coronary Heart Disease. ([www.approach.org](http://www.approach.org)).

Favourite pastimes include hiking, camping in summer and skiing in winter on the nearby mountains with his wife Laura and their three daughters, which gives Bill a chance to re-energize. He also loves to travel, and recently completed a six-month sabbatical in Switzerland, during which time he and his family had the opportunity to travel throughout Western Europe.

Bill was selected as one of the "Top Forty Under 40" by Caldwell Partners International (a large Canadian executive search firm) in recognition for his leadership and work in the development of national report cards to measure aspects of the healthcare system. *Report on Business* magazine featured the story in its April 2003 issue.

## CCORT student workshop a success

By Waganee Filate

In July, a group of CCORT summer and fellowship students from across Canada gathered in Montreal for a one-day workshop on research methodology.

The day began with an introductory lecture by Dr. Jack Tu followed by a seminar delivered by Dr. Louise Pilote on the topic of research methods for cardiovascular outcomes research. This seminar engaged students on a number of topics in clinical research design and analysis.

Students received constructive comments and feedback on their presentations from senior CCORT researchers and fellow students.



A highlight of the research day was a seminar given by Dr. Karin Humphries which focused on the elements of effective biomedical writing.

The students also learned what strategies are successful when it comes to CIHR

and CCORT student training awards.

Overall, the CCORT summer student research day was a tremendous success, enabling CCORT students to meet and learn from one another and to interact with senior CCORT investigators.