



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



## CCORT National Meeting Shapes Future of CCORT

Over forty CCORT members, staff and students attended the two-day national team meeting in May 2005. The objective of the meeting was to review the status of existing projects, discuss the merits of potential new research projects and celebrate some of its achievements over the past five years, including:

- The first Canadian Cardiovascular Atlas, a series of 24 papers published in the *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* (Volume 19 Issue 3 through Volume 21 Issue 4);
- The first Canadian quality indicators for AMI and CHF;
- The first Canadian report cards for AMI based on administrative data (AFFECT study) and for AMI and CHF based on clinical data (EFFECT study);
- National cardiovascular outcomes research training program;
- Knowledge transfer initiatives (50 published papers by CCORT authors, CCORT website: [www.ccort.ca](http://www.ccort.ca), Pulse newsletter, print and broadcast media);
- Several spin-off grants/collaborations.



CCORT members gather at the national team meeting in Toronto to celebrate its fifth anniversary and to share ideas about potential research topics for CCORT II

Key findings from the Canadian Cardiovascular Atlas series were highlighted, including:

- Wide variations, both by province and intra-provincially, exist in many aspects of cardiovascular disease, outcomes and cardiac care in Canada;
- Rising drug costs and hospitalization rates
- Opportunities for all provinces/health regions to develop strategies to decrease or prevent heart disease and improve the outcomes of cardiac patients.

## Bright Lights: 2005-2006 student awards

Congratulations to John You, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto, Supervisor, Jack Tu, on the renewal of a CCORT Fellowship award for 2005-2006.

John's research project will use established quality indicators to measure quality of care provided to troponin-positive and troponin-negative heart failure patients. Heart failure currently afflicts over 350,000 Canadians and mortality rates are 25-40% one year after diagnosis. Elevated troponin levels, because of their common occurrence in 50 per cent of hospitalized heart failure patients, identify a large cohort of high-risk individuals with heart failure. John said he hopes to identify potential targets for improvement of outcomes in these patients and ultimately reduce the burden of disease.

### Summer Training Program

Three CCORT Summer Studentships have been awarded for 2005. Congratulations to Salvatore Motillo, McGill University, Supervisor, Mark Eisenberg; Judy Lin, University of Toronto, Supervisor, Jack Tu; and Lauren Patterson, University of Calgary, Supervisor, Colleen Norris.

At age 18, Salvatore is driven to learn and achieve and is one of the youngest students ever to receive a CCORT Summer Student award. This summer, under the supervision of Mark Eisenberg, Salvatore will conduct a meta-analysis of behavioural interventions promoting smoking cessation.

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## Bright Lights *continued from page 1*

Salvatore is a seasoned science fair competitor and winner of numerous awards, including CIHR's Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (IMHA) "Human Health Research Award". He began working in laboratories when he was 14 years old and volunteered in a variety of hospital settings including the emergency and geriatric wards where he cleaned, organized patient meals, and spent time talking to and feeding patients.

Salvatore credits his mother, an elementary school teacher, and his father, a carpenter, for instilling in him a positive attitude and encouraging him to persevere in all his endeavours. This September, he will begin the Microbiology program at McGill University and has his sights set on becoming a physician-scientist.


Judy Lin, is a medical student at the University of Toronto. This summer, Judy will work on a randomized control trial of intravenous N-Acetylcysteine as a Renal Protective Agent for the Prevention of Renal Dysfunction Following

Cardiopulmonary Bypass. In addition to her basic science research experience, Judy also has many awards and achievements under her belt, and has spent several years volunteering with geriatric patients and special-needs children.

Lauren Patterson is a BSc Nursing student at the University of Calgary, and has completed practicums in psychiatry/mental health and in-patient cardiac care. Her research project this summer, under the supervision of Colleen Norris, is a pilot study to assess the potential benefit of providing mental health information to patients reporting depressive symptomatology following cardiac catheterization. The study will identify patients using data from the APPROACH database and will also investigate gender differences in accessing information as part of the study.

*Salvatore Motillo*

*The CCORT Student Training program provides opportunities to highly motivated graduate, summer students and research fellows. Stipends are based on CIHR funding levels.*



***"When things get tough, perseverance pays off— it's one of the qualities my parents taught me from early on"***

## CCORT Makes the Rounds

### PUBLICATIONS

- JL Cox, SA Ramer, DS Lee, et al. Pharmacological treatment of congestive heart failure in Canada: A description of care in five provinces. *Can J Cardiol* 2005;21(4):337-343.

### IN PRESS

- W Putnam, K Nicol, JL Cox, et al. Quality indicators for cardiac care: National standards in the community context. *Journal of Health Services Research and Policy*.

### AWARDS

- Douglas Lee, Cardiology Fellow, received the Thomas and Edna Naylor Memorial Award from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine for best MSc/PhD Thesis in Health Services Research for his research on the determinants of mortality among hospitalized heart failure patients in Ontario;
- Veena Guru, Research Fellow, was awarded the Joseph M. Family West Memorial Fund from the University of Toronto's Department of Medicine.

## EFFECT Study update

One hundred and three Ontario hospitals (85 hospital corporations) participating in the Enhanced Feedback for Effective Cardiac Care study were randomized to receive either: a) early feedback; or b) delayed feedback on various AMI and CHF quality indicators. Hospitals in the delayed feedback group received their Phase I preliminary findings in Jan., 2005. A final report re the delayed feedback group will be sent to all participating hospitals this summer. The study's second phase will begin later this year with more data collection via retrospective chart reviews.

We thank all participating hospitals for their continuing support.

## CCORT Calendar



### July 16-19, 2005

World Congress: Heart Disease—New Trends in Research, Diagnosis and Treatment (International Academy of Cardiology), Vancouver, British Columbia

#### Contact:

[www.CardiologyOnline.com](http://www.CardiologyOnline.com);

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### Sept. 18-21, 2005

Conference: Mapping the Future of Public Health: People, Places and Policies (Canadian Public Health Association in partnership with CIHI-CPHI, CIHR-IPPH) in association with Statistics Canada's Health Statistics Data User's Conference 2005,

Ottawa, Ontario

Contact: [www.cpha.ca](http://www.cpha.ca)

### Oct. 22-26, 2005

Canadian Cardiovascular Congress 2005 (Canadian Cardiovascular Society), Montreal, Quebec

Contact: [www.cardiocongress.org](http://www.cardiocongress.org)

### Nov. 13-16, 2005

The American Heart Association Scientific Sessions, Dallas, Texas

#### Contact:

<http://scientificsessions.americanheart.org>

Email: [scientificconferences@heart.org](mailto:scientificconferences@heart.org)

## CCORT bids farewell to Pamela Bradshaw,

CCORT Post-Doctoral Fellow, when she returns to Australia this summer to continue her research at the University of Western Australia