



# CCORT PULSE

Volume 10 Issue 2

October 2011

## 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 cardiovascular health of Canadians through research that changes clinical practice, health policy & patient outcomes

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



CIHR IRSC

## CCORT Reaches 10 Year Milestone

CCORT's research addresses the leading cause of death world-wide—heart disease—in order to improve patient outcomes. Launched in 2001, led by PI **Dr. Jack Tu**, CCORT consists of over 30 leading cardiovascular outcomes researchers from 6 provinces (BC, AB, ON, QC, NB, NS) across Canada. CCORT's research, made possible by two team grants from the **Canadian Institutes of Health Research\***, (and supplemental funding from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada) has improved care quality, service delivery and changed the landscape of cardiovascular health services outcomes research. Its innovative methodologies



2001 - 2011

and findings are documented in 170 peer-reviewed publications, including the first ever Canadian Cardiovascular Atlas. In addition, CCORT trained over 60 'next generation' outcomes researchers from across Canada as part of the CCORT Student Training program.

\*2001-2006 CIHR IHRT grant; 2006-2011 CIHR Team grant in cardiovascular outcomes research

CCORT's 10 year journey is described in the article entitled **'Canadian Cardiovascular Outcomes Research Team: Lessons Learned'**. Tu JV. Canadian Journal of General Internal Medicine 2011; 6(1):18-19, available at [www.ccort.ca](http://www.ccort.ca).

## Scientists, staff and students highly value CCORT

CCORT recently undertook a survey of its members to assist with strategic planning. The confluence of several factors stimulated this survey. As noted CCORT reached a significant milestone in 2011—its 10 year anniversary. As well, its second 5 year CIHR team grant is drawing to a close. In addition, many of its leadership group are leading key portfolios at their home universities. Given these and other factors, a survey was undertaken to assist the team to assess the past and lay out a plan for the

future. An anonymous online survey was conducted in May, in preparation for a strategic planning session held in Calgary in June.

The majority of respondents (96%) reported that they valued their association with CCORT. When asked what was unique about CCORT for their research many cited the collaborative team approach, the ability to work with researchers from across Canada, and the team's strong network.

## CCORT holds strategic planning session in Calgary

CCORT held a half day strategic planning session in Calgary on June 7, following the APPROACH meeting held in Calgary June 5-6, 2011.

Investigators Jack Tu, William Ghali, Karin Humphries, Merril Knudtson, Cynthia Jackevicius, Dennis Ko, Thao Huynh, Helen Johansen and Louise Pilote (by teleconference) gathered to review findings from the recent CCORT survey and discuss future plans for the research team.





# Canadian Cardiovascular Outcomes Research Team

Improving the Quality of Canadian Cardiovascular Care



## PHAC funds project focused on CVD and ethnicity

Dr. Jack Tu is leading a new project funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to study the role of ethnicity on cardiovascular disease (CVD) incidence and prevalence. As part of this work Dr. Tu gave a presentation on *Ethnicity and CVD in Ontario* at the Clinical Epidemiology Unit (CEU)/ICES rounds on September 27. Look for more information on this project to be posted on the CCORT web site

## CCORT Makes the Rounds: Publications 2011

Atzema CL, Schull MJ, Austin PC, Tu JV. Temporal changes in emergency department triage of patients with acute myocardial infarction and the effect on outcomes. *Am Heart J.* 2011 Sep;162(3):451-9

Atzema CL, Austin PC, Huynh T, Hassan A, Chiu M, Wang JT, Tu JV. Effect of marriage on duration of chest pain associated with acute myocardial infarction before seeking care. *CMAJ.* 2011 Sep 20;183(13):1482-91. Epub 2011 Jul 18.

Austin PC, Lee DS. Boosted classification trees result in minor to modest improvement in the accuracy in classifying cardiovascular outcomes compared to conventional classification trees. *Am J Cardiovasc Dis.* 2011;1(1):1-15.

Tu JV. Canadian Cardiovascular Outcomes Research Team: Lessons Learned. *Canadian Journal of General Internal Medicine.* 2011; 6(1):18-19


Austin PC, Laupacis A. A tutorial on methods to estimating clinically and policy-meaningful measures of treatment effects in prospective observational studies: A review. *The International Journal of Biostatistics.* 2011; 7(1) Article 6.

Ko DT, Atzema CL, Donovan LR, Graham MM, Huynh T, So DY, Wang J, Wijeyesundera HC, Tu JV. Rescue percutaneous coronary interventions for failed fibrinolytic therapy in ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction: A population-based study. *Am Heart J.* 2011 Apr;161(4):764-770.e1.

Atzema CL, Austin PC, Tu JV, Schull MJ. Effect of time to electrocardiogram on time from electrocardiogram to fibrinolysis in acute myocardial infarction patients. *CJEM.* 2011 Mar;13(2):79-89

Jackevicius CA, Tu JV, Ross JS, Ko DT, Carreon D, Krumholz HM. Use of Fibrates in the United States and Canada. *JAMA.* 2011;305(12):1217-1224.

Atzema CL, Schull MJ, Tu JV. The effect of a charted history of depression on emergency department triage and outcomes in patients with acute myocardial infarction. *CMAJ.* 2011 Apr 5;183(6):663-9. Epub 2011 Feb 28.

 **Total CCORT peer-reviewed publications to date: 170 including 4 in NEJM, 11 in JAMA, 18 in CMAJ and 41 in CJC.**

### Comings & Goings

Belated farewell to Bassem Hlaihel, Applications Development. Bassem left CCORT's coordinating centre (Toronto) in February, 2011 to join Health Quality Ontario. Our thanks to him for support provided to the CCORT website.

To send newsletter comments / contributions, email Tara O'Neill at [tara.oneill@ices.on.ca](mailto:tara.oneill@ices.on.ca).

## 2011 CALENDAR



### October 22-26, 2011

Canadian Cardiovascular Congress, Vancouver, BC

### November 12-16, 2011

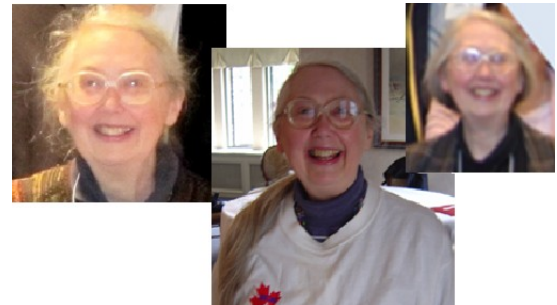
American Heart Association—Scientific Sessions, Orlando, FL

### February 1-3, 2012

International Stroke Conference, New Orleans, LA

## Noteworthy

*Best wishes to Helen Johansen PhD, CCORT investigator, who recently announced her retirement from Statistics Canada, marking 37 years of service. Active within CCORT since its inception in 2001, Helen contributed to many projects and 10+ CCORT peer-reviewed papers. Luckily*



*for us, she plans to continue to work with CCORT. Helen will also work as an alumni at Stats Can.*

## Did You Know...

...over the past 10 years, CCORT has trained 60 students ranging from summer students to post-doctoral fellows. These students came from five Canadian provinces as well as Australia, India, and Armenia. These same students led 25% of CCORT's peer-reviewed publications.