



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

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# CCORT PULSE

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## CCORT holds Fall meeting in Toronto

Over 50 team members & students spent two days in November in Toronto to discuss current projects, draft papers and research plans for the coming year.

Active participation by members from across Canada ensured lively discussion and provided helpful feedback and guidance for the project teams. The meeting also allowed CCORT to discuss and receive feedback on the revised CCORT/CCS AMI quality indicators that are currently being updated, and provided

an opportunity for newly appointed ICES CEO Dr. David Henry to present on the topic of Drug Reimbursement Policies in Australia.

The team will regroup this Spring for the 8th annual national meeting. In the meantime project teams continue to work on their research. Thanks to everyone involved for their continued dedication and support of CCORT.

## Drug eluting-stent paper cited by AHA as one of the top ten research advances in 2007

In October, the paper entitled, "The effectiveness and safety of drug-eluting stents (DES) in Ontario" received worldwide media attention after being published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Controversy has been surrounding the issue of drug-eluting stents in recent years, as research questioned the appropriateness and safety of their use. The Canadian study proved to yield different results.

Led by CCORT PI Dr. Jack Tu, the Canadian study looked at a population of Ontarians and found DES to be safe when used in patients at the highest risk for re-narrowing of the artery around the stent.

Since the paper was published, Dr. Tu has been interviewed by various media outlets, and participated in a live segment on Bloomberg television.



In late December, the paper was cited by the American Heart Association as one of the top ten research advances in heart disease and stroke in 2007 <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3052697> Congratulations to all who were involved in the study!

## CCORT International Scientific Advisory Committee

The CCORT Steering Committee held its first conference call with 2 members of the newly created International Scientific Advisory committee; Drs. Harlan Krumholz and John Spertus.

During the call, CCORT provided an overview of its history, projects, and goals, and then posed a series of questions to the Advisory Committee. Topics included CCORT's research initiatives, future direction and the relevance of CCORT's work on a national and international level.

The advisory committee described CCORT's work as extremely relevant and as a role model for other cardiovascular outcomes researchers around the world.

Valuable feedback about how CCORT can further contribute to the field of cardiovascular outcomes research was welcomed by the steering committee and CCORT looks forward to ongoing discussions with the advisory committee.

## CCORT Acute Myocardial Infarction Quality Indicators Panel

CCORT recently formed a national expert panel to review and update the CCORT/CCS AMI quality indicators first developed in 2001. The multidisciplinary expert panel, with representatives from across Canada was co-chaired by Drs. Jack Tu and Dennis Ko and included the following:

- |                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Dr. Chris Buller, BC        | Dr. Michael Schull, ON |
| Dr. Alain Vadeboncoeur, QC  | Dr. Edward Tsoi, SK    |
| Ms. Heather Sherrard, ON    | Dr. Michael Love, NS   |
| Ms. Virginia Flintoft, ON   | Dr. Thao Huynh, QC     |
| Dr. Cynthia Jackevicius, ON | Dr. Laurie Lambert, QC |

The panelists, who had completed an independent review in September as part of a modified Delphi panel process, met in October to review the literature, evidence and complete a second round of indicator ratings.

The goal of updating these indicators is to ensure they reflect current practice and support optimal care of AMI patients across Canada.

Next steps in this review process will include obtaining feedback from stakeholders, finalizing the indicators followed by publication in a peer-reviewed journal.



# Canadian Cardiovascular Outcomes Research Team

Improving the Quality of Canadian Cardiovascular Care



## CCORT PROFILE—Laila Khalid, MD

Dr. Laila Khalid came to CCORT in the Spring of 2007 as a research student under the supervision of Dr. Jack Tu. A physician with an MBBS degree from the Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan, Laila also completed clinical electives at Harvard and the Mayo Clinic. Prior to moving to Toronto she was involved in cardiac research at Aga Khan University, focusing on cardiogenic shock.

Since coming to CCORT, Laila has been updating the CCORT/CCS acute myocardial infarction quality indicators that were first published in 2003. She completed an extensive literature review of quality indicators for AMI care, participated in a Delphi panel process meeting and is presently drafting a paper for the project.

While at CCORT, she has presented at the Fall national meeting, the quality indicators

panel meeting and during rounds at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES).

Laila plans to pursue her residency in internal medicine and wants to continue her research in quality improvement during her career as a physician.

Laila has found CCORT/ICES to be a positive educational environment where she has been encouraged to take the lead on projects, present research findings and interact with leading outcomes researchers in Canada.



### CCORT makes the rounds

#### PUBLICATIONS

- Austin PC. Using the bootstrap to improve estimation and confidence intervals for regression coefficients selected using backwards variable elimination. *Stat Med* 2007.
- Tu JV, Bowen J, Chiu M, Ko DT, Austin PC, He Y et al. Effectiveness and safety of drug-eluting stents in Ontario. *N Engl J Med* 2007; 357(14):1393-1402.
- You JJ, Austin PC, Alter DA, Ko DT, Tu JV. Relation between cardiac troponin I and mortality in acute decompensated heart failure. *Am Heart J* 2007; 153(4):462-470.
- Lee DS, Tu JV, Austin PC, Dorian P, Yee R, Chong A et al. Effect of cardiac and noncardiac conditions on survival after defibrillator implantation. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2007; 49(25):2408-2415.

#### PRESENTATIONS

- Stephane Rinfret "Clopidogrel Use Post-Stent In AMI Patients in Two Canadian Provinces." ISPE Conference, Quebec City, QC, August 20, 2007.
- Dennis T Ko "The effectiveness and safety of drug-eluting stents in Ontario." Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics Conference, Washington, DC, October, 23, 2007.

### NEW and NOTABLE

**Lorelei Nardi** joined CCORT, Toronto, as Project Manager this past summer. Lorelei has an MSc in Medical Sociology and joins us after working for several years at Sick Kids Hospital. She previously worked in the U.K at the Department of Public Health Medicine.

**Bassem Hlailel** joined CCORT, Toronto, as an application developer in October. Bassem has a Masters degree in computer science, and specialized in web intelligence and bioinformatics at the University Lyon I in France. He previously worked in France for 2 years as a developer in web-based home-care applications.

**Alexandra (Sandy) Yip** joined CCORT, Halifax as a Research Analyst and is currently working with Drs. Greg Hirsch and Ansar Hassan. Sandy is a registered occupational therapist and has an MSc in Community Health.

## 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### January 2008

Annual CCORT Student Competition Open

<http://www.ccort.ca/StudentTraining.aspx>

### March 16-20 2008

24th Annual Cardiovascular Conference  
Lake Louise, Alberta

<http://www.acclakelouise.com/>

### March 29-April 1 2008

ACC.08 57th Annual Scientific Session  
Chicago, IL

<http://acc08.acc.org/Pages/default.aspx>

### April 30-May 2 2008

Quality of Care and Outcomes Research in Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Conference  
Baltimore, MD

<http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3049494>

### June 23-24 2008

Annual APPROACH Meeting  
Calgary, Alberta

## Cardiovascular Atlas Update

Since being published in July 2006, CCORT continues to receive requests for its Cardiovascular Atlas. Over 2,000 copies have been distributed world wide to countries including China, Italy, Sweden, Iran and Mexico, and over 40,000 downloads have been recorded on the CCORT website.

To learn more about the Atlas or to order a free copy, please visit <http://www.ccort.ca/Atlas.aspx> for further details.

## EFFECT Study Update

Phase II of the EFFECT study is heading for the home stretch. Data collection is complete/in process at approximately 60% of the 103 hospitals involved. Our focus for the next year will be to complete the data collection process.

Many of the participating hospitals are active in a variety of research projects and we appreciate their efforts to accommodate our study as well. Preliminary data are proving very interesting and we look forward to sharing our findings with you. Thank you to our steadfast nurse abstractors and the many other parties enabling this study!