



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

## CCORT PULSE

Volume 3, Issue 1

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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:



## Cardiac report card published

CCORT Principal Investigator, Dr. Jack Tu, presented key findings contained in the *Quality of Cardiac Care in Ontario* report at a news conference on Jan. 23 in Toronto. Dr. Tu explained how improvements in several care areas could potentially save hundreds of lives in Ontario each year.

The report, based on detailed clinical data on approximately 6,000 AMI and 5,300 CHF patients, is the first from Phase I of the Enhanced Feedback for Effective Cardiac Treatment (EFFECT) study. The study, one of the largest and most comprehensive in the world to measure and improve the quality of cardiac care, is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

The report's recommendations for AMI patients include making reperfusion therapy available to more patients, a target "door to needle" time of 30 minutes, lipid testing within the first 24 hours of admission, and use of ASA, beta-blockers, ACE inhibitors and statins at hospital discharge.

CHF patients could have improved outcomes with increased utilization of beta-blocker medications, improved access to and greater utilization of echocardiography to measure LV function, Warfarin therapy in those patients with atrial fibrillation, and counselling on diet, medications, symptoms, daily weights.

"You don't have to be in a large university hospital to achieve these goals," said Brampton cardiologist Milan Gupta, a member of the EFFECT technical advisory committee that reviewed the



Panel presenters at the news conference (from left): Dr. Jack Tu, EFFECT study principal investigator; Dr. Arun Chockalingam, assistant director, CIHR-Circulatory and Respiratory Health; Dr. Beth Abramson, director of cardiac prevention, St. Michael's Hospital and spokesperson for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Missing from photo: Dr. Milan Gupta, chief of cardiology, William Osler Health Sciences Centre

quality indicators contained in the report card.

Media broadcast the story on more than 40 radio and television stations across Canada, and national and local newspapers published stories on the study.

St. Joseph's Healthcare Centre's vice-president of clinical programs Darlene Barnes told *The Hamilton Spectator*: "Clearly they've set out some key improvement areas for the whole industry."

*The Windsor Star* reported that Windsor Regional Hospital's chief of staff, Dr. Gary Ing, said: "The benchmark is pretty high and that will be the new goal for all of us."

More information is available on the CCORT website at [www.ccort.ca/EFFECT.asp](http://www.ccort.ca/EFFECT.asp) or by contacting EFFECT study coordinator Linda Donovan at [linda.donovan@ices.on.ca](mailto:linda.donovan@ices.on.ca). To request a bound copy of the report, contact Sharon Van Ihinger at [vanihinger@ices.on.ca](mailto:vanihinger@ices.on.ca).



## Atlas makes the rounds

Presentations made by CCORT Investigators are raising the profile of the Canadian Cardiovascular Atlas within the medical community.

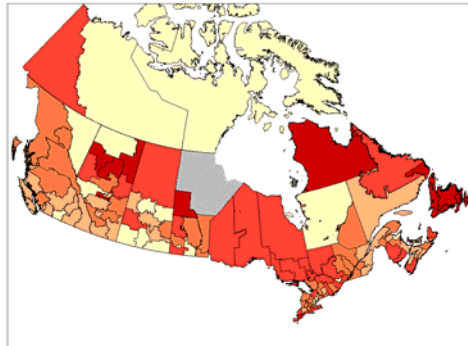
Jack Tu presented highlights of published Atlas material to date, at Cardiology Grand Rounds in Edmonton, and at Research Rounds at the University Health Network Division of Cardiology in Toronto.

Jack and CCORT Research Coordinator Susan Brien co-presented at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences in Toronto. Louise Pilote presented at Epidemiology Rounds at Montreal General Hospital.

Several other CCORT team members have presented on various research topics in Canada and the United States.

### Atlas articles

Atlas papers on valve surgery rates and valve surgery outcomes have been submitted to the *Canadian Journal of*

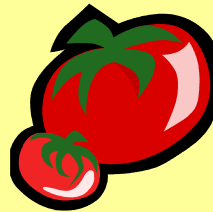


*Cardiology (CJC)* and are currently in press. Look for them in the February issue. Upcoming topics to be published include physician services, cardiac procedures post AMI, and rates of revascularization.

In the coming months, CCORT staff will be working on a book and web-based version of the Atlas, geared to a non-specialist audience. Stay tuned for further details.

## MARCH is Nutrition month

The Heart and Stroke Foundation (HSF) has declared MARCH Nutrition month. In an effort to help Canadians develop a healthier lifestyle, HSF has stepped up its *Health Check™* promotion to assist consumers in making better food choices. Over 400 products displaying the *Health Check™* symbol meet established nutrient criteria. More information is available at [www.healthcheck.org](http://www.healthcheck.org). Before you take your next trip to the grocery store, you can find out if you need to cut calories by taking the Body Mass Index test at [www.heartandstroke.ca/yourhealthtools](http://www.heartandstroke.ca/yourhealthtools)



## Coming up...

Look in the next issue of the *CCORT Pulse* for details on the 2004 CCORT National Team meeting, plus announcements of the CCORT Student Fellowships 2004-2005 and CCORT 2004 Summer Students, and much more.

## CCORT Calendar



### March 7-10, 2004

53rd Annual Scientific Session of the American College of Cardiology, New Orleans, Louisiana

**Contact:** tel: 800-253-4636, ext. 694; email: [resource@acc.org](mailto:resource@acc.org)

### Apr. 23-24, 2004

9th Annual Atlantic Canada Cardiovascular Conference, Halifax, NS

**Contact:** tel: 902-494-1459; email: [angela.eddy@dal.ca](mailto:angela.eddy@dal.ca)

### May 15-17, 2004

5th Scientific Forum on Quality of Care and Outcomes Research in Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (American Heart Association et al), Washington, DC

**Contact:** [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org) or tel: 214-706-1543; email: [scientificconferences@heart.org](mailto:scientificconferences@heart.org)

## Call for Abstracts

### Abstracts due: Apr. 15, 2004

57th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society (CCS), Calgary, AB on Oct. 23-27, 2004

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

## Call for Nominations

### Nominations due: Apr. 30, 2004

CCS Awards in several categories will be presented at the 57th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society on Oct. 23-27, 2004

**Contact:** [www.ccs.ca](http://www.ccs.ca); tel: 613-569-3407; fax: 613-569-6574; email: [meetings@ccs.ca](mailto:meetings@ccs.ca)