



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

CCORT PULSE

Volume 3, Issue 4

October 2004

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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Send newsletter comments or contributions to vanihinger@ices.on.ca

Funding provided by:



CCORT Atlas nears completion

Four more Atlas papers are scheduled for publication and will complete the scientific series.

Topics for these papers are:

- Revascularization use and survival outcomes after cardiac catheterization in British Columbia and Alberta;
- Acute treatment of MI in Canada;
- Treatment of Congestive Heart Failure in Canada; and
- Community factors, hospital characteristics, and inter-regional outcomes in variation following MI in Canada.

The Atlas paper titled "Cardiac Arrest Care and Emergency Medical Services in Canada" was published in the September issue of the *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* and can be accessed on the CCORT website at www.ccort.ca/atlas.asp.

The study, authored by Christian Vaillancourt and Ian G Stiell, concluded that many communities either do not have accurate data for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest or need to significantly improve their capacity for providing citizen bystander CPR and rapid first responder defibrillation.

The paper also garnered national media attention in newspapers and radio and television news broadcasts.



CABG Report Card Study

Dr. Veena Guru, Research Fellow in the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery at Sunnybrook & Women's College HSC, is conducting a study titled "Understanding the link between quality of care and outcomes report cards for coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) Surgery in Ontario".

One of the goals of the project is to assess the validity of overall mortality rates as a measure

see *CABG/page 2*

CCORT Makes the Rounds

CCORT members, students and affiliates are well represented at this year's Canadian Cardiovascular Congress in Calgary. Here is a list of some of their presentations (for a complete program, go to www.cardiocongress.org):

- **Featured Research:**
 - CM Chow, JY Chu, JV Tu, G Moe, CCS oral session: "Lack of Awareness of the Warning Symptoms of Heart Disease and Stroke: Results of a Pilot Study of the Chinese Canadian Cardiovascular Health Project" Oct. 25
 - E Cohen et al, CCS oral session: "Economic Evaluation of Drug Eluting Stents" Oct. 25
 - Shrive FM, PD Galbraith, ML Knudtson, WA Ghali, CCS oral session: "An Economic Evaluation of Sirolimus-Eluting Stents" Oct. 25
 - FM Shrive, MM Graham, PD Galbraith, ML Knudtson, CCS oral presentation: "Survival after Coronary Revascularization in Patients with Heart Failure" Oct. 26
 - JL Cox, CCS oral presentation: "The Metabolic Syndrome Leads to Worse Long-Term Outcomes After PCI" Oct. 26
- **Scientific Workshops:**
 - JV Tu, WA Ghali, L Pilote, A Hassan present "Where is the Best Place to Have a Heart Attack in Canada? And other highlights from the Canadian Cardiovascular Atlas Project" Oct. 26, 11:00 am-12:30
- **Scientific Debate:**
 - A Laupacis chairs "Current Controversies in Cardiovascular Sciences, ICDs vs Drug Eluting Stents" Oct. 27
- **Oral and poster presentations:**
 - Guru V, Fremes SE, Tu JV. Oral presentation: Trends in CABG surgery outcomes during an era of institutional reporting, Oct. 25
 - Guru V, Fremes SE, Tu JV. Poster: Development of Canadian quality indicators for CABG, Oct. 25
 - Guru V, Fremes SE, Tu JV. Poster: Women and Body Size outcomes for CABG, Oct. 26
 - Hassan A, G Hirsch. Poster: The effect of total arterial grafting on long-term outcomes following CABG, Oct. 25
 - Hassan A, Hirsch G. Oral presentation: The effect of increased distance from the QEII Health Sciences Center on access to invasive cardiac services following acute MI across Nova Scotia", Oct. 25



Profile

Pamela Bradshaw: From a Land Down Under

A keen interest in long-term outcomes of coronary artery bypass surgery was what prompted

Pamela to apply for and accept a post-doctoral fellowship with CCORT. Pamela, who hails from Perth in Western Australia, says she was impressed with the quality and quantity of publications authored by the CCORT group.

Pamela began her career as a Registered Nurse. While working in the Emergency Department and Coronary Care Unit at Fremantle Hospital, and raising two young sons with her husband, she completed a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in both Classics and Ancient History and Anthropology.

Acknowledging that her mortal fear of sharks might hamper future underwater archeology expeditions, and unable to tear herself away from her family for six-month stretches, Pamela eventually turned her love of investigation and discovery to health research. She went on to obtain her MSc degree in public health

at Curtin University, then moved to the Western Australia Heart Research Institute at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in 1991. There, she worked as a study coordinator on over 20 cardiovascular clinical trials, coordinating the GUSTO trials for the state, and monitoring studies in other states.

The introduction of new drugs and technologies for the management of acute coronary syndromes, have produced rapid changes in cardiology over the last decade and, according to Pamela, have made it an exciting time to be involved in clinical trials.

She has also coordinated epidemiological studies, including the largest Australian study of cardiovascular risk factors among urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Shortly after completing her PhD at the School of Population Health at the University of Western Australia, Pamela and her husband moved to Toronto, where she is leading a CCORT project.



Using EFFECT data, (more information is available at www.ccort.ca/effect.asp) the project looks at how well risk models, developed in the setting of clinical trials and registries, perform in a relatively unselected population. She will also quantify how the revised criteria for MI affect the prevalence of MI in the EFFECT population.



CABG *Continued from page 1*

of quality of care for institutional report cards for CABG surgery.

When we first reported the story in the April 2004 edition of the *CCORT Pulse*, Veena Guru had just completed a Delphi panel process to determine which quality indicators are clinically relevant to cardiac surgeons in assessing provider performance.

These quality indicators are now being used to collect hospital-level data by a team of CCORT nurses trained in chart abstraction. They are currently performing retrospective chart reviews of 1485 CABG patients at hospitals across Ontario. Special thanks to the participating hospital's

health records departments for their assistance and support of this portion of the study.

Results from this study will be anonymous and confidential, while no hospital will be identified, each individual hospital will be able to access its own results for quality improvement purposes. The interpretation of the results will be a collective effort of a group of Ontario cardiac surgeons.

The project will allow the creation of a more detailed outcomes report card—the main goal of which is quality improvement. A standardized review process is being developed.

CCORT Calendar

Nov. 7-10, 2004

American Heart Association Scientific Sessions 2004 (AHA), New Orleans, Louisiana

Contact:

www.scientificsessions.org

Mar. 6-9, 2005

ACC '05—54th Annual Scientific Session and Exhibition (American College of Cardiology), Orlando, Florida

Contact: www.acc.org