

Research Update

Stay informed with news from Heart & Stroke

NATIONAL

Official notifications 2018/2019

Official award notifications for the 2018/2019 Heart & Stroke research funding competitions (Grants-In-Aid and Senior Personnel Awards) have been sent to all successful applicants. The Grant Management Guidelines can be found on our [website](#).

Congratulations to all successful grant and award recipients!

Women's Heart & Brain Health: 2018/19 Grant recipients

Women in Canada are unnecessarily suffering and dying from heart disease and stroke. Heart disease claims the life of a woman in Canada every 20 minutes. More women die from stroke than men. And despite recent progress, heart disease and stroke remain leading causes of death for women.

The Canadian Federal Budget 2016 provided an investment of \$5 million over five years to Heart & Stroke to support targeted research on women's heart and brain health and to promote collaboration between research institutions across the country. Through this commitment, the following research projects have received funding in the 2018/19 competitions:

Grant-in-Aid recipients:

- **Dr. Nathalie Auger**
Centre hospitalier de l'université de Montréal
Project title: *Women at the intersection of pregnancy and cardiovascular disease: the WRISQ cohort*
- **Dr. Kaberi Dasgupta**
McGill University Health Centre Research Institute
Project title: *Childhood, youth, and parental outcomes after gestational diabetes mellitus and gestational hypertension - within and across families*
- **Dr. Maryam Faiz**
Co-Pi: Dr. Cindi Morshead
University of Toronto
Project title: *Reprogramming astrocytes: a tool for stroke recovery?*
- **Dr. Helene Girouard**
Université de Montréal
Project title: *Neurovascular coupling in hypertension*
- **Dr. Susanna Mak**
Co-PI: Dr. John Granton
Sinai Health System
Project title: *The role of exercise hemodynamic testing to improve pulmonary hypertension diagnosis in older adults*

Seed/Catalyst Grant recipients:

- **Dr. Thalia Field**
University of British Columbia
Project title: *SECRET: Safety of rivaroxaban for CeREbral venous Thrombosis*
- **Dr. Michel Shamy**
Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
Project title: *When are RCTs necessary and ethical in stroke research?*
- **Dr. Craig Steinback**
University of Alberta
Project title: *Neural control of blood pressure in healthy and complex pregnancies*
- **Dr. Wendy Tsang**
University of Toronto
Project title: *Sex differences in valvular heart disease*

Activating the Heart & Stroke MCA councils

Thanks to all of you who volunteered to participate or nominated someone, we were overwhelmed by the response from across the country! We're pleased to announce that members for all six of the mission critical area (MCA) councils have been selected. [Read all about](#) the co-chairs on our website; visit again in May to see the full list of council members.

The stroke council was the first to meet face-to-face, on March 5 and 6 in Toronto. Rich participation by all members allowed for in-depth consideration of emerging themes and high-level questions of interest.

In the coming months the vascular cognitive impairment, heart failure and heart rhythm councils will be meeting in person, while the structural heart disease and coronary artery and vascular disease councils will kick off with their first calls.

Right now the councils are focused on shared understanding and discussion of issues, so that they can work towards consensus and decision-making to bring council advisory input forward.

If you've missed previous MCA council updates, find past issues of our newsletter at hsf.ca/research; for a refresher on the MCA council framework, [visit our MCA page on the Heart & Stroke website](#). If you have any questions or feedback, please contact us at research@heartandstroke.ca.

2018 Women's Heart Health Summit: April 5-6, 2018

The University of Ottawa Heart Institute (UOHI) and Heart & Stroke hosted the second Canadian Women's Heart Health Summit in Ottawa, ON from April 5 to 6. Over 230 national and internal leaders, knowledge users and women with lived experience gathered in Ottawa to brainstorm strategies to eradicate the gap in women's heart health, showcase emerging research – and hear the innovations in science, prevention, treatment and recovery. This year's theme, State of the Heart, focused on women's heart health across the lifespan. Summit delegates returned home armed with new tools and knowledge that will help reduce the impact of heart disease in Women.

One of the highlights was the **Burden of Heart Disease: Voices of Women** session that was streamed on [Facebook Live](#) with women living – and thriving – with heart disease. The session was moderated by Heart & Stroke volunteer Caroline Lavallée from Montréal, QC and featured Louise Durocher, Punam Gill and Esther Sanderson who shared their inspiring stories and offered insights on what you need to know to protect your hearts, be your own best advocate and how you can support each other in recovery.

Women's Heart and Brain Health Research Network

Following the Summit, Heart & Stroke convened a meeting of the Women's Heart and Brain Health Research Network. Forty attendees, including Researchers, Research and Clinical Trainees, Women with Lived Experience and Indigenous organizations participated in the full-day meeting, which focused on building capacity in Indigenous research, mentoring and capacity building for trainees and early career scientists, advancing sex and gender and fostering and accelerating collaboration in women's heart and brain health research. The network is continuing to grow and welcomes new members - please contact women-femmes@heartandstroke.ca for more information.

NOVA SCOTIA

Gearing up for the 2018/19 *BrightRed student research awards*

Planning for the Nova Scotia *BrightRed student research awards* is well underway for the 2018/2019 academic year. Each year Heart & Stroke in Nova Scotia recognizes excellent emerging heart and stroke researchers at differing stages of their career development. The *BrightRed* awards provide financial support to students and trainees enrolled in research-based masters, doctoral, postdoctoral or doctor of medicine training programs at academic institutions in Nova Scotia.

The Nova Scotia mission team is working alongside the local research advisory committee (RAC) during this process, and would like to thank the following dedicated RAC members:

- Dr. Stephen Phillips (chair)
- Dr. Angie Kolen
- Dr. Anne Sophie Champod
- Dr. Catherine Mah
- Dr. Daniel Rainham
- Dr. George Robertson
- Dr. Said Mekary
- Dr. Shaun Boe

The 2018 *BrightRed student research award* application submission deadline is **Friday, May 18, 2018 by 4p.m. (AST)**.

Stay tuned to Heart & Stroke's social channels for updates on the Nova Scotia *BrightRed student research awards* selection process!

QUEBEC

Research lab tour

This past heart month, the Heart & Stroke Quebec office had the pleasure of meeting our funded researchers at the CHU Saint-Justine Mother and Child University Hospital Centre in Montreal where they heard about current research projects and participated in a very informative lab tour.

We'd like to share our heartfelt thanks to the following doctors for taking the time to participate in and organize this event:

- Drs. Anne-Monique Nuyt and Sylvie Girard
- Drs. Anne Gallagher and Lionel Carmant
- Dr. Ekat Kritikou
- Dr. Graziella Di Cristo
- Dr. Gregor Andelfinger
- Dr. Jacques Michaud
- Drs. Jean-Sébastien Joyal and Sylvain Chemtob
- Drs. Mathieu Dehaes and Gregory Lodygensky
- Dr. Mélanie Henderson

We'd also to acknowledge the following researchers who took the time to meet with us at the Montreal Heart Institute this past fall:

- Dr. Céline Fiset
- Dr. Éric Thorin
- Dr. Stanley Nattel
- Dr. Lucie Parent

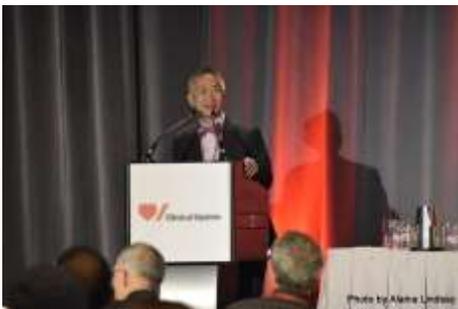
Jacques-de Champlain symposium

The Jacques-de Champlain symposium will take place on Friday, September 21, 2018 at the Research Center of the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal. Marie-Annick Clavel, Ph.D., recipient of the Award of Excellence Jacques-de Champlain (which is a collaboration between the Jacques-de Champlain Foundation and Heart & Stroke) will present the results of her research project.

The provisory title of the symposium is "New therapeutic targets in the control of aortic valve calcification." The presentations will be in English with international speakers. Please refer to the Jacques-de Champlain Foundation's website for more information:

<https://www.jacquesdechamplain.com/en/events/>

ONTARIO



*Dr. Allen Huang presenting
Heart interventions in older patients: Filtering
for frailty*

Changing the future for Canadians

Healthcare practitioners gathered for the [48th annual Heart & Stroke Clinical Update](#) at the Hilton Toronto Downtown and online for an outstanding lineup of sessions and expert presenters.

Resources and select presentations are available for viewing on the conference website, clinicalupdate.ca.

"I have no doubt that this is the best cardio/neurovascular course in the world," noted one cardiologist. "I learn more new information from this course than from any other educational event I attend."

Mark your calendar to join or email clinicalupdate@heartandstroke.ca for notices regarding the 2018 conference.

Heart & Stroke Clinical Update
Emerging Evidence That Will Change Your Practice
December 8-9, 2018
Pre-conference: December 6, 2018
Hilton Toronto Downtown