

# Research Update

Stay informed with news from Heart & Stroke

## NATIONAL

### 2018/19 Heart & Stroke Research Competitions are now OPEN!

The 2018/19 Heart & Stroke (H&S) suite of research competitions were made available on the H&S research website on June 30, 2017. Please follow the links below to access guidelines and application forms:

- [Grants-in-Aid](#)
- Personnel Awards:
  - [National New Investigator Award](#)
  - [Ontario Clinician Scientist Phase I & II Award](#)
  - [Ontario Mid-Career Investigator Award](#)
  - [Alberta New Investigator Award](#)

### Introducing our New CEO

We are pleased to announce that Yves Savoie has joined Heart & Stroke as our CEO. He is a fierce advocate for a health system that is genuinely patient-centred and is deeply knowledgeable about the unique role of health charities working closely with research communities, patients and governments in enabling Canadians to live healthy lives and to live well with chronic disease and disabilities.

*“The vision for our research enterprise combines the curiosity and the tremendous talents of researchers in Canada, with an appetite to translate that benefit to Canadians,” says Yves. “Heart & Stroke is uniquely placed to make that connection — to play both the role of a critical investor in the process of discovery and then to connect that with its application.”*

For the last 10 years as CEO of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Yves worked on issues that matter deeply to Canadians with chronic disease and who are living with disability

During his first two months at Heart & Stroke, Yves has had the opportunity to meet with a number of research leaders across the country. He will have an opportunity to meet with many in our research community at the upcoming Canadian Stroke and Cardiovascular Congresses. Hope to see you there!

### Advancing Heart and Brain Health for Women Initiative

Advancing Women’s Heart and Brain Health is part of Heart & Stroke’s commitment, with the federal government, to support women’s heart health research – to help fuel the scientific discovery and collaborations needed to make a meaningful difference to the health and lives of Canadian women.

The federal government’s 2016 budget included 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, in 2018/19, H&S will offer funding opportunities as part of the [GIA program](#) and a [Seed/Catalyst Grant](#), as part of the National New Investigator (NNI) program.

### **The Heart & Stroke 2017 Stroke Report**

Every stroke is unique, as is every stroke recovery journey. Age, stroke severity, the part of the brain affected and other factors play a role. Yet people of all ages who experience stroke and their families encounter personal triumphs and face common challenges as they navigate through the healthcare system and reintegrate into their life roles and activities. Read the full Heart & Stroke 2017 Stroke Report [here](#).

### **2017 Canadian Stroke Congress**

The 2017 [Canadian Stroke Congress](#) is being held at the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre in Calgary, Alberta from Saturday, September 9 to Monday September 11, 2017.

This uniquely Canadian forum reflects “bench-to-bedside-to-community” perspectives of stroke and participants can exchange ideas, collaborate and learn about innovations in stroke prevention, treatment and recovery. The Congress attracts more than 800 delegates from across Canada and around the world. Delegates include leading neurologists, neurointerventionalists, internists, general practitioners, nurses, rehabilitation specialists, basic scientists, knowledge-translation experts, policy makers and others working in the field of stroke.

Take advantage of [advance registration](#) until August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017!

### **2017 Canadian Cardiovascular Congress**

The 2017 Canadian Cardiovascular Congress (CCC) is being held at the Vancouver Convention Centre in Vancouver, BC from Saturday October 21 to Tuesday October 24, 2017.

CCC is the essential cardiovascular networking event of the year and the best opportunity to stay up-to-date on the latest Canadian research, policy and practice in the field, making it one of Canada’s longest running medical meetings for a reason.

Take advantage of [early bird registration](#) until August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017!

### **Call for Science: Clinical Trial Boards at the 2017 Cardiovascular Congress**

[Clinical trial boards](#) at the Canadian Cardiovascular Congress provide an excellent opportunity for organizers and supporters to inform and educate CCC attendees about planned or ongoing registered clinical trials in Canada. It can also provide an opportunity to identify and recruit new centres.

The guidelines and application form are at this [link](#).

Registered trials should be in the advanced planning, recruitment or follow-up phase. Trials that have been completed and published will not be accepted. There is no cost to participate.

### **The Canadian Women's Heart Health Summit 2018 – Mark Your Calendars!**

Hosted by the [University of Ottawa Heart Institute](#) and [Heart & Stroke](#), the second Canadian Women's Heart Health Summit takes place in Ottawa on April 5 and 6, 2018. Building on the success of the [April 2016 Summit](#), this event will bring together approximately 250 national and international experts and stakeholders to further advance women's heart health.

The Call for Abstracts opens October 2, 2017 with accepted abstracts to be published in the Canadian Journal of Cardiology.

Together, we will transform and enhance Canadian women's lives through research, awareness, policy development and care. Visit [womensheartsummit.ca](#) for more details.

### **Our Mission Critical Areas**

As you know, as part of Heart & Stroke’s ongoing work in engaging in research in a new way, we are reconfiguring our thinking about Heart & Stroke’s mission and research into six mission critical areas (MCAs). This framework which will create an environment more conducive to the development of new partnerships and which will help us leverage more dollars for research. Read the latest update on the development of the MCA framework and on nominations for MCA council co-chairs and members [here](#).

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## MANITOBA



### **Sanofi Canada Heart & Stroke Award in Cardiology**

The prestigious Sanofi Canada Heart & Stroke Award in Cardiology, a \$10,000 annual prize that is presented to a clinical resident who demonstrates academic excellence in cardiovascular science and pursues additional training beyond core cardiology, was recently awarded to Dr. Shuangbo Liu at a ceremony in Winnipeg.

Dr. Liu is currently the chief cardiology resident at the University of Manitoba. She is a well-published, award-winning researcher who is devoted to improving patient care in acute coronary syndromes such as unstable angina and heart attack. Her work in this area extends from epidemiology and patient outcomes research to interventional cardiology.

Completing her residency training in adult cardiology this June, she is excited to continue her training as an interventional cardiology fellow at St. Michael's Hospital, University of Toronto. Incredibly, over the same time, she will also be working towards

completion of her master's in science in epidemiology at Harvard University.

Our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Liu!

*\*Pictured above: Allison Kesler, CEO, Heart & Stroke, Manitoba and Dr. Shuangbo Liu, Chief Cardiology Resident, University of Manitoba*

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## SASKATCHEWAN

### **Announcing Saskatchewan's Clinical Stroke Research Chair**

Heart & Stroke, the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation and the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine announced a renewed funding commitment of \$1.5 million over five years to Saskatchewan Clinical Stroke Research Chair Dr. Michael Kelly. Each organization will provide \$500,000 in funding from November 2017 to October 2022.

Dr. Kelly has held the research chair since 2012. To date, Dr. Kelly and his team have established the Saskatchewan Acute Stroke Pathway, working with stroke teams across the province to provide more timely and effective care in the critical first hours after stroke symptom onset. The Pathway is based on Heart & Stroke's *Canadian Stroke Best Practice Recommendations*, which provide a strong evidence base on which to improve the treatment and care of stroke patients. The Saskatchewan Ministry of Health formally launched this Pathway in January 2017.

As a site in the [ESCAPE](#) trial, Dr. Kelly and his colleagues have developed expertise in endovascular treatment, a groundbreaking clot retrieval procedure for acute ischemic stroke that is cutting the death rate in half and seeing more of these patients return home.

Dr. Kelly has also been instrumental in establishing and co-leading the Saskatchewan Stroke Expert Panel which brings together healthcare providers, patient advocates and Heart & Stroke experts to work together to continually improve stroke care in Saskatchewan. His plans for the next five years include expanding his basic and clinical research programs, and continuing to provide provincial leadership in stroke care.

Congratulations Dr. Kelly!