NATIONAL UPDATE

2017/18 Research competitions are now OPEN!
Our 2017/18 research competitions were posted on the HSF research website on June 30, 2016, and can be accessed via the following links:

- Grants-in-Aid
- Emerging Research Leaders Initiative
- Personnel Awards:
  - National New Investigator Awards
  - Alberta New Investigator Awards
  - Ontario Clinician Scientist Awards
  - Ontario Mid-Career Investigator Awards

The Canadian Stroke Congress 2016: Where great minds come together
Join us this year in Quebec City from September 15 to the 17!
Co-hosted by Heart & Stroke and the Canadian Stroke Consortium, the Canadian Stroke Congress is a uniquely Canadian forum for experts to share the latest research findings, exchange ideas, and make the connections which will change the future of stroke.

It brings together researchers, neurologists, nurses, rehabilitation specialists, policy makers, health system decision makers – and many others – in an unprecedented opportunity to improve the brain health of Canadians.

Don’t miss out on:
- More than 100 speakers from Canada and around the world
- 900+ delegates
- The latest Canadian research and top breakthroughs in stroke
- Networking with stroke professionals from across Canada

Register by August 12 to get our advance rate!

My Canadian Stroke Congress
At the Congress, we see many familiar faces – including leaders in the stroke community – year after year. We sat down with some Congress regulars to find out what the Congress means to them. Watch our Stroke Congress video series to hear what they most look forward to every year.

Dr. Antoine Hakim
**Stroke and dementia: It’s all in our heads**

The Heart & Stroke 2016 Stroke Report

Stroke is a powerful predictor of dementia: one-third of dementia risk can be attributed to stroke. New data finds the link is stronger than originally thought. Having a stroke more than doubles the risk of developing dementia.

The Heart & Stroke 2016 Stroke Report — released this June for Stroke Month — investigates the link between stroke and dementia, including the covert strokes that we don’t even know are happening. These small and hidden strokes occur five times more often than obvious strokes and are happening at a younger age — helping lay the groundwork for vascular dementia.

Many thanks to the experts across Canada we consulted with in preparing the report! Their names are listed at the end of the report.

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**Spotlight on Heart & Stroke scientists**

Mind the connection: Preventing stroke and dementia

Heart and Stroke Foundation researcher Dr. Eric Smith is investigating covert strokes that happen not just in people in their 70s and 80s, but people in their late 30s to 50s.

“My research looks at brain health, including brain blood vessel health, in people as they age — and understanding how that relates to problems with memory and thinking...or the risk of getting a stroke in the future.”

Watch our Bringing Research to Life video series with Dr. Smith where he tells us how stroke and dementia impact Canadians’ lives — and how his research will help identify people in midlife who might be at risk in later life.

The Foundation’s Bringing Research to Life video series features Heart & Stroke research that is at the forefront of protecting life’s core: our hearts and brains. Our 850 Heart & Stroke researchers across Canada are a testament to the Canadian research community’s commitment to scientific excellence and dedication in the Race to Save Lives.

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**The Canadian Cardiovascular Congress 2016: Collaboration. Innovation. Education.**

Join us this year in Montreal from October 22 to 25!

The Canadian Cardiovascular Congress is one of Canada’s longest running — and largest — medical meetings for a reason. Co-hosted by Heart & Stroke and the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, the Congress unites Canada’s cardiovascular community — including physicians, researchers, allied health professionals, and policy makers — to network, learn, and showcase the latest in research innovations.

Experts return home to their labs and medical practices armed with new tools and knowledge that will improve the health of people in communities across Canada.
Register by August 3 for our **early bird rate**!

**My Canadian Cardiovascular Congress**
“Research is the essence of innovation and collaboration,” says Mary Lewis, VP research, advocacy, and health promotion for Heart & Stroke. “The ideas put forward and the partnership opportunities at the Congress will help us change the face of heart disease, as research discoveries become part of best practices.”

Watch our **Cardiovascular Congress video series** to hear why Drs. Todd Anderson, Kim Connelly, and Paul Fedak attend CCC.

**At the heart of your health – Heart and Stroke Blog**
Stay up-to-date with the latest research and health news by reading the Heart and Stroke blog! Be sure to read our latest post, **Why every researcher needs a trusted mentor**.

**QUÉBEC UPDATE**

**At the Heart of Research**
This past June, as part of the **At the Heart of Research** initiative, the Foundation welcomed over 50 donors and their guests to visit Dr. Guillaume Sébire’s laboratory at the research institute of the McGill University Health Care Centre. Dr. Sébire presented his work on neonatal stroke, which is the most common type of pediatric stroke. In addition to his role as investigator at the research institute, Dr. Sébire is also the clinical director of pediatric neurology at the Montreal Children’s Hospital.

The donors also had the opportunity to hear Sarah-Ann Duchesne’s story. Sarah is a Heart and Stroke spokesperson and occupational therapist at the Montreal Children’s Hospital, who suffered a stroke at the age of 27.

The goal of this recognition activity is to demonstrate to donors the tangible impact their gifts have on cutting-edge research.

**ONTARIO UPDATE**

**The Heart & Stroke/Baycrest Research Tour**
**Bringing Research to Life for our valued donors!**
The Foundation hosted a Baycrest Hospital tour to show our donors the impact of stroke recovery and rehabilitation research, and to thank them for their support.

The tour highlighted the connections between stroke and dementia, and the importance of research in finding the best stroke recovery and rehabilitation techniques.
Drs. Jed Meltzer and Jean Chen led the tours, which featured a presentation about executive function by Dr. Brian Levine. Guests had an opportunity to visit the MRI suite and sit inside a magnetoencephalography (MEG) machine. Stroke survivor Paul Morse also spoke about his stroke and recovery journey and the important role Heart & Stroke played in his story.

**HSF researcher in the limelight**

University of Toronto Heart & Stroke researcher Dr. Craig Simmons supported the Foundation in a very different way for this year’s Becel Heart & Stroke RIDE for Heart. Watch him star in an Oscar-worthy performance alongside Toronto City Councillor and “6 Dad” Norm Kelly. The video helped raise awareness of this landmark event and drive fundraising for Foundation research.

**MANITOBA UPDATE**

**HSF-Sanofi Canada Award in Cardiology**

In June, the Foundation’s Manitoba team was pleased to present the $10,000 HSF-Sanofi Canada Cardiology Award to Dr. William McIntyre. Recognizing academic excellence, clinical competence, humanistic qualities, and the pursuit of further training beyond core cardiology, the award was presented in collaboration with the Cardiac Sciences Research Symposium at the University of Manitoba. Congratulations to Dr. McIntyre!

**Dr. Dexter Harvey Award**

On May 4, 2016, Ms. Laura MacDonald was awarded the Heart and Stroke Foundation Dr. Dexter Harvey Award in Primary Prevention. This $5,000 award was established to promote excellence in research and scholarly activity in primary prevention.

The award is named after retired board member Dr. Dexter Harvey, whose dedication to improving the public health and well-being of Manitobans has been demonstrated through his 30-year commitment as a senior volunteer with the Foundation.

**ALBERTA UPDATE**

**Reaching for Impact: Alberta Research Roadmap implementation in 2017/18**

The Alberta Research Roadmap nurtures New Investigators to help build Alberta research capacity to have an impact on the Heart and Stroke Foundation’s mission priorities.

The Alberta New Investigator Award program will be launched in conjunction with the National New Investigator Award program. Supplementary guidelines for the Alberta New Investigator award can be accessed here. The deadline is September 12, 2016.

Please note that the Alberta Seed Grants Competition will not be offered in 2017/2018. Over the last two years, this initiative provided funding support to 10 researchers to explore new and innovative ideas with the potential to create an impact on the health of Canadians.
2016 Research to Life tours: Universities of Alberta and Calgary

Our annual Research to Life Tours at the Universities of Calgary and Alberta brought together Heart & Stroke supporters and donors, and brought our mission to life by demonstrating how Heart & Stroke-funded research creates survivors. Two hundred enthusiastic guests enjoyed an up-close look at outstanding research underway at the universities.

Our thanks to the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta planning teams, who dedicated many hours in planning these important stewardship events, and to the researchers who deeply inspired and motivated our donors and supporters.

ALBERTA RESEARCH NEWS

Congratulations to these outstanding Alberta researchers for international recognition of their research:

Dr. Bijoy Menon: The Michael S. Pessin Stroke Leadership Prize

Dr. Bijoy Menon, HSF Professor in Stroke Imaging at the University of Calgary, was awarded this year’s Michael S. Pessin Stroke Leadership Prize by the American Academy of Neurology at the Academy’s 68th annual meeting. The prize recognizes outstanding achievements in stroke research.

Dr. Menon says that this award is recognition of the quality of stroke research at the University of Calgary and of the impact that researchers are having in changing patient outcomes.

Dr. Spencer Proctor: The IAS Visiting Fellowship Award

Dr. Spencer Proctor’s team will be hosting Dr. Yosdel Soto from Havana, Cuba at their laboratory at the Li Ka Shing Centre for Health Research Innovation at the University of Alberta. Funded through the International Atherosclerosis Society’s prestigious IAS Visiting Fellowship Award, this international research exchange enables placement of early career scientists at a research lab that is well known around the world. The award aims to improve research skills and knowledge in the field of cardiovascular disease.
Alberta research ambassadors inspire philanthropy
Our thanks to our Alberta ambassadors who, along with others across Canada, provided expert advice in developing the 2016 Stroke Report, *Mind the connection: Preventing stroke and dementia.*

- Dr. Ken Butcher
- Dr. Andrew Demchuk
- Dr. Theresa Green
- Dr. Eric Smith