

# Network for Innovation in Clinical Research (NICR) Newsletter

October 2014, Volume 1, Issue 2



We are very excited about the launch of our quarterly newsletter and new Network for Innovation in Clinical Research (NICR) [webpage](#). With over 20 clinical trials and four international studies directed from Toronto, we are well on our way to forging important international collaborations. Three of our trials are considered in the top 10 globally for innovation. The Peter Munk Cardiac Centre Clinical Trials Unit and the data coordinating centres at Applied Health Research Centre ([AHRC](#)) and Canadian Heart Research Centre ([CHRC](#)) provide tremendous resources to conduct these trials. In upcoming issues we will feature researchers and highlight individual trials.

Please feel free to send us any announcements for conferences, visitors to the University or for introducing new trials to the network. Liz Thuo, our administrator at NICR, is always available to help in any way and can be reached at [hsrl.centre@utoronto.ca](mailto:hsrl.centre@utoronto.ca) or at 416-581-7687.

We will have functions at all major Cardiovascular meetings and look forward to seeing everyone at the Canadian Cardiology Congress this week and the American Heart Association Conference in November.

Best regards,  
The NICR Executive

## Research Collaboration Opportunity: Visiting Fellow



We would like to introduce Dr. James Meza, a fellow from the Duke Cardiac Surgery Program. Dr. Meza was recently awarded the John W. Kirklin/David Ashburn from the Congenital Heart Surgeons Society located at the Hospital for Sick Children. Dr. Meza will start this 2 year fellowship in Toronto in July, 2015. His areas of interest include: adult and congenital cardiothoracic surgery, cardiogenic shock, clinical outcomes and decision analysis for mechanical circulatory support in adults &

children. To collaborate with Dr. Meza contact him at [james.meza@duke.edu](mailto:james.meza@duke.edu).

## Upcoming Talks by UofT Faculty

[Please click](#) here for a list of presentations by University of Toronto faculty at the *Canadian Cardiovascular Congress*, Vancouver (October 25-28).

If you are planning to present at the American Heart Association Conference in November, please e-mail your abstract/poster details to Liz Thuo at [hsrl.centre@utoronto.ca](mailto:hsrl.centre@utoronto.ca) by November 7<sup>th</sup> for inclusion in the NICR webpage.

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## NICR/HSRLCE RECEPTION AT CCC

A University of Toronto reception will be held on **Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 pm** at The Mill Marine Bistro (1199 W Cordova Street, Vancouver, BC). Everyone is invited to this networking opportunity. The restaurant is a 5 minute walk from the Vancouver Convention Centre (see directions here: <http://bit.ly/1DtU6K9>) If you have not yet done so, please RSVP to Liz Thuo at 416-581-7687 or [hsrl.centre@utoronto.ca](mailto:hsrl.centre@utoronto.ca)

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## Research Activity: Ongoing Clinical Trials

Members of NICR are currently involved and recruiting in numerous local, multi-centre and multi-national clinical trials. These include testing novel drugs or strategies of care to reduce cardiovascular (CV) risk in patients across the spectrum of atherosclerosis and other CV disease (CVD). We look forward to highlighting the UofT contribution to each of these trials in upcoming newsletters, and highlighting trials in other fields such as kidney disease, diabetes, rheumatology, and others:

### **Patients at risk for ischemic heart disease:**

- ECAD: low-dose statin vs standard care in patients with low Framingham Risk for IHD
- ZEST: laser lipotherapy vs placebo in obese patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM)
- PISCES: fish oil vs placebo in patients with CKD

### **Patients with stable ischemic heart disease (SIHD):**

- ISCHEMIA: ischemic-guided vs medical therapy in patients with at least moderate ischemia
- CAMELLIA-TIMI 61: lorascerin vs placebo in patients with T2DM with or at risk for CVD
- CIRT: low-dose methotrexate vs placebo in patients with T2DM or metabolic syndrome and SIHD

### **Acute coronary syndrome (ACS):**

- ASSIST: same-sitting non-culprit stenosis PCI during index primary PCI for STEMI
- TAILOR-PCI: tailored antiplatelet therapy based on genetic carrier status vs standard care in patients with ACS and SIHD for PCI
- EMPRES Trial: study aims to assess the effect of exenatide on myocardial injury in patients undergoing emergent percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) for ST segment elevation myocardial infarction or heart attack (STEMI).

### **Stabilized following ACS:**

- ODYSSEY Outcomes: alirocumab (PCSK9 inhibitor) vs placebo in post-ACS patients on maximally tolerated atorvastatin or rosuvastatin

### **Heart Failure:**

- PARAGON-HF: LCZ696 vs valsartan in patients with Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction
- EMBRACE-MRI: Cardiac MRI vs standard care surveillance of women for early cardiotoxicity during treatment for breast cancer

### **Appropriateness:**

- Echo-WISELY: A randomized blinded education and feedback intervention to reduce inappropriate echocardiograms

We welcome highlighting all UofT cardiovascular outcomes trials. Please contact Liz Thuo at [hsrl.centre@utoronto.ca](mailto:hsrl.centre@utoronto.ca) / 416 581-7687 so we can add yours.

**Upcoming newsletters will detail how you and your patients can get involved in these trials.**

## Research Activity: Publications and Media Appearances

The below is just a sampling of recent publications by NICR Members. [Click here](#) for the complete list. We welcome submissions from all faculty and trainees. Please contact Liz Thuo at [hsrl.centre@utoronto.ca](mailto:hsrl.centre@utoronto.ca) or (416) 581-7687 so we can add yours.

- Udell JA, Wang TY, Li S, Kholi P, Roe MT, de Lemos JA, Wiviott SD. Clinical trial participation after myocardial infarction in a national cardiovascular data registry. *JAMA*. 2014;312(8):841-843. Impact Factor: 30.03; PA
- Connelly KA, Bowskill BB, Advani SL, Thai K, Chen LH, Kabir MG, Gilbert RE, Advani A. Dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibition improves left ventricular function in chronic kidney disease. *Clin Invest Med*. 2014 Jun 1;37(3):E172. Principal Author.
- Goodman SG, Wojdyla DM, Piccini JP, White HD, Paolini JF, Nessel CC, Berkowitz SD, Mahaffey KW, Patel MR, Sherwood MW, Becker RC, Halperin JL, Hacke W, Singer DE, Hankey GJ, Breithardt G, Fox KAA, Califf RM, for the ROCKET AF Investigators. Factors Associated with Major Bleeding Events: Insights from the Rivaroxaban Once-daily oral Direct Factor Xa Inhibition Compared with Vitamin K Antagonism for Prevention of Stroke and Embolism Trial in Atrial Fibrillation (ROCKET AF). *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2014;63(9):891-900.
- Bagai A, Wang Y, Wang TY, Curtis JP, Gurm HS, Shah B, Cheema AN, Peterson ED, Saucedo JF, Granger CB, Roe MT, Bhatt DL, McNamara RL, Alexander KP. In-Hospital Switching Between Clopidogrel and Prasugrel Among Patients With Acute Myocardial Infarction Treated With Percutaneous Coronary Intervention: Insights Into Contemporary Practice From the National Cardiovascular Data Registry. *Circ Cardiovasc Interv*. 2014 Aug 5;7(4):585-93. [Epub Aug 5].
- Dangas GD, Farkouh ME, Sleeper LA, Yang M, Schoos MM, Macaya C, Abizaid A, Buller CE, Devlin G, Rodriguez AE, Lansky AJ, Siami FS, Domanski M, Fuster V; FREEDOM Investigators. Long-Term Outcome of PCI Versus CABG in Insulin and Non-Insulin-Treated Diabetic Patients: Results From the FREEDOM Trial. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2014 Sep 23;64(12):1189-97. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2014.06.1182.
- Thavendiranathan P, Yingchoncharoen T, Grant A, Seicean S, Landers LH, Gorodeski EZ, Marwick TH. Prediction of 30-day heart failure-specific readmission risk by echocardiographic parameters. *The American Journal of Cardiology*. 2014 Jan 15;113(2):335-41.
- Naylor KL, McArthur E, Leslie WD, Fraser LA, Jamal SA, Cadarette SM, Pouget JG, Lok CE, Hodsman AB, Adachi JD, Garg AX. The three-year incidence of fracture in chronic kidney disease. *Kidney Int*. 2014 Oct;86(4):810-8. doi: 10.1038/ki.2013.547. Epub 2014 Jan 15. PubMed PMID: 24429401.

## Research Activity: Awards and Grants

The below is a sampling of awards and grants received by NICR Members in 2014. [Click here](#) for the complete list. We wish to regularly highlight our UofT cardiovascular faculty achievements and welcome submissions from all faculty and trainees. Please contact Liz Thuo at [hsrl.centre@utoronto.ca](mailto:hsrl.centre@utoronto.ca) or (416) 581-7687 so we can add yours.

- **Connelly, Kim, Principal Investigator:** CD34+ Cell therapy for Diabetic Cardio-Renal Disease - BBDC/HSRLCE/UofT Faculty of Medicine's Diabetes and Heart Disease Research-Directed Grant Program
- **Lok, Charmaine, Principal Investigator:** PISCES: Protection against Incidences of Serious Cardiovascular Events Study with Fish Oil Supplementation in Dialysis Patients - UHN, PMCC Innovation Fund
- **Udell, Jacob A., CIHR Rising Star Award:** Institute of Health Services and Policy Research
- **Thavendiranathan Paaladinesh, Principal Investigator:** Evaluation of myocardial changes during breast adenocarcinoma therapy to detect cardiotoxicity earlier with MRI - The EMBRACE-MRI - Canadian Institute of Health Research New Investigator Bridge Funding