10 YEARS
CANVECTOR

CanVECTOR Annual Conference

Program Brochure

October 24th, 2025

08:30 AM - 7:00 PM ET

Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel,
Mississauga, ON, Canada

www.canvector.ca

This program has been co-developed with integrity between CanVECTOR and Thrombosis Canada

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Conquering Clots Collectively: A 10-Year Reflection and Beyond

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Conquering Clots Collectively: A 10-Year Reflection and Beyond

PROGRAM AGENDA (MORNING SESSIONS)

07:30 - 08:30	**REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST**
08:30 - 08:40	**Welcome Remarks** *Speakers: Amye Harrigan & Jameel Abdulrehman*
08:40 - 09:00	**CanVECTOR Leadership: Updates on CanVECTOR/Anniversary Celebration** *Speakers: Deborah Siegal & Grégoire Le Gal*
09:00 - 09:45	**Keynote 1: Sustainable research networks with lessons learned from the Canadian Critical Care Trials Group (CCCTG) -** *Speaker: Rob Fowler*
09:45 - 10:00	**BREAK & POSTER VIEWING**
10:00 - 10:30	**3-Minute Project Competition** *Speakers: Peter Andrisani, Alejandro Godoy, Sarah McKeague*
10:30 - 11:15	**Top-3 rated abstracts from the Call for Science** *Speakers: Harika Dasari, Kevin Durr, Abbey Sugars-Keen*
11:15 - 12:00	**Keynote 2: News at XI: Moving beyond the direct oral anticoagulants** *Speaker: Jeff Weitz*
12:00 - 13:00	**LUNCH & POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

Additional Details / Offerings

- **Registration:** Starts at 07:30 in the Mississauga Foyer
- **Breakfast / Lunch**: Served from 07:30-08:30 & 12:00-13:00 in the Vista / Salon Foyer
- **Photo headshots and group shots**
- **Therapy dogs**: Relax with the furry friends from 11:45-14:45 in the Mississauga B&C
- **Poster Presentations**: Authors will be available from 12:30-13:00

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Conquering Clots Collectively: A 10-Year Reflection and Beyond

PROGRAM AGENDA (AFTERNOON SESSIONS)

13:00 - 13:45	**Therapeutic targeting of thromboinflammation in venous thromboembolism** *Speaker: Nicola Potere*
13:45 - 14:30	**Challenges and opportunities in thrombosis-related interventional studies and how we can best work together -** *Speaker: Suresh Vedantham*
14:30 - 14:45	**BREAK & POSTER VIEWING**
14:45 - 15:45	**Breakout Session 1:** An Introduction to Risk Management for the Clinical Research Professional - *Speaker: Gregory Staios*
14:45 - 15:45	**Breakout Session 2: Trainee Speed Networking Session** *Speakers: Leslie Skeith, Paul Kim, Jeffrey I. Weitz, Lana Castellucci, Kerstin de Wit*
15:45 - 16:00	**BREAK & POSTER VIEWING**
16:00 - 17:00	**Patient Partners Panel: From Insight to Impact and Beyond -** *Speakers: Yan Xu, Grégoire Le Gal, Deborah Siegal, Lisa Duffett, Sudeep Shivakumar*
17:00 - 17:15	**Closing Message** *Speakers: Deborah Siegal & Grégoire Le Gal*
17:15 - 19:00	**Awards, Partner Recognition and CanVECTOR Reception**

Additional Details / Offerings

- **Featured Band during Reception:** Down the Fire

CANVECTOR 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SCIENTIFIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Name	Position (CanVECTOR Group)	Credential
Jameel Abdulrehman	Hematologist – University of Toronto (Investigator / Conference Co-chair)	MD, FRCPC
Amye Harrigan	Hematologist – Dalhousie University (Investigator / Conference Co-chair)	MD, FRCPC
Suzanne Dubois	Patient Partner – Ontario (Patient Partner representative, CanVECTOR Scientific Steering Committee)	VTE lived experience
Natasha Rupani	Hematologist – University of Toronto	MD, MSc, FRCPC
Ejaife Agbani	Assistant Professor of Thrombosis and Haemostasis Cell Biology - University of Calgary	B.Pharm, MSc, PhD
Tzu-Fei Wang	Hematologist – University of Ottawa	MD, MPH
Carlyn Matz	Patient Partner – Ontario	VTE lived experience
Stephanie Scala	Research Coordinator – Lady Davis Institute	MSc, PhD

CANVECTOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

Welcome Remarks *(08:30)*

Conquering Clots Collectively: A 10-Year Reflection and Beyond.

Conference Co-chairs

- Jameel Abdulrehman, MD, FRCPC
- Amye Harrigan, MD, FRCPC

Program Learning Objectives

After completing this program, participants will be equipped to:

- Apply strategies for effective and sustained research collaboration within and outside the network, including engagement with patient partners.
- Evaluate how translational research bridges basic science and clinical practice, and identify strategies for integrating laboratory-based discoveries into the design and implementation of thrombosis-related clinical studies.
- Describe the current programming and research activities of the CanVECTOR network, including trainee research, and the potential impacts for venous thrombosis prevention, diagnosis, and treatment in the future.

SESSION LEARNING OBJECTIVES, ABSTRACTS

Session (*08:40*)

CanVECTOR Leadership Presentation.

Speakers

- Deborah Siegal MD, MSc, FRCPC
- Grégoire Le Gal MD, PhD

Program Learning Objectives

After completing this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe CanVECTOR Network accomplishments and activities over the last year.
- Discuss CanVECTOR Network plans and projects for the coming year.

Presentation Abstract

The co-directors of the CanVECTOR Network will review recent research highlights and accomplishments of network members and the organization, focusing on potential impacts for the VTE research community.

SESSION LEARNING OBJECTIVES, ABSTRACTS

Session *(09:00)*

Keynote Presentation 1: Sustainable research networks with lessons learned from the Canadian Critical Care Trials Group (CCCTG).

Speaker

Rob Fowler, MD, MSc, FRCPC

Presentation Learning Objectives

After completing this session, participants will be able to:

- Review a durable - three decades history - of a Canadian clinical research network.
- Review the factors instrumental to success in this network.
- Consider future and dynamic factors influencing clinical research networks in Canada.

Presentation Abstract

A concise review of the experience and lessons learned over 36 years of the Canadian Critical Care Trials Group.

SESSION LEARNING OBJECTIVES, ABSTRACTS

Session: 3-Minute Project Competition (*10:00*)

Presentation 1: Investigating Mechanisms of ADAMTS13 Metalloprotease Domain Latency.

Speaker

Peter Anthony Andrisani, MSc, PhD Student

Presentation Learning Objectives

After completing this session, participants will be able to:

- Summarize the normal regulatory mechanisms that govern ADAMTS13 activity.
- Explain the role of hydrophobicity within the metalloprotease in the regulation of ADAMTS13.

Presentation Abstract

This study examines the role of hydrophobic shielding in the metalloprotease domain in contributing to the latency of ADAMTS13, a plasma protease that regulates von Willebrand Factor (VWF) and platelet aggregation. Aliphatic molecules like DMSO, ethylene glycol, and bile salts enhance ADAMTS13 activity by disrupting its hydrophobic shielding, partially exposing the active site. These results suggest that hydrophobic regulation plays a crucial role in ADAMTS13 latency, offering insights for engineering more effective variants for thrombotic conditions.

Presentation 2: HIPSTER-Pilot: A Pilot Randomized Trial of Rivaroxaban Plus Aspirin for Cardiovascular Prevention After Hip Fracture Surgery with Myocardial Injury.

Speaker

Alejandro Daniel Godoy, MD

Presentation Learning Objectives

After completing this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe the rationale for dual pathway inhibition (rivaroxaban plus ASA) in patients undergoing hip fracture surgery with myocardial injury.
- Outline the design and key feasibility outcomes of the HIPSTER-Pilot randomized trial.
- Identify the challenges and strategies in implementing a cardiovascular prevention trial in an older, high-risk surgical population.
- Assess how pilot data can inform the design of a full-scale randomized controlled trial in this setting.

Presentation Abstract

This presentation will explore the HIPSTER-Pilot trial, a multicenter, international randomized controlled pilot study. Its primary objective is to evaluate the feasibility of a prophylactic strategy using rivaroxaban (2.5 mg twice daily) in combination with low-dose aspirin for 90 days. This regimen is designed to prevent arterial and venous thrombotic events in patients who develop myocardial injury following hip fracture surgery. We will discuss the key elements of the study's design, its feasibility metrics, and the implications for a future full-scale trial.

SESSION LEARNING OBJECTIVES, ABSTRACTS

Presentation 3: Incidence of Thrombosis and Bleeding in Patients Receiving CAR-T Cell Therapy: A Multicentric Retrospective Analysis of the Canadian Experience.

Speaker

Sarah Mckeague, MD / PhD Student

Presentation Learning Objectives

After completing this session, participants will be able to:

- Discuss the risks of both major VTE and CRB during the 90-day period following CAR-T infusion for patients with CD19-positive lymphomas.
- Assess the risks/benefit of thromboprophylaxis in CAR-T patients with CD19-positive lymphomas.
- Discuss possible risk factors for the development of thrombotic and bleeding complications in this population.

Presentation Abstract

Patients receiving CAR-T therapy for CD19-positive lymphomas or acute lymphoblastic leukemias are at elevated risks of both major VTE and CRB during the 90-day period following CAR-T infusion. Although both thrombotic and bleeding events occurred at similar rates, bleeding was fatal in two cases. Identifying which CAR-T patients should receive thromboprophylaxis during the CAR-T treatment remains a significant challenge. Additional analyses on risk factors for the development of thrombotic and bleeding complications are underway.

Session: Top-3 rated abstracts from the Call for Science (*10:30*)

Abstract 1: HERDOO2 Rule to Identify Unprovoked VTE Women Who can Discontinue: Can I Use Non-VIDAS® D-dimer with a Two Cut-Point Strategy?

Speaker

Harika Dasari, MBBS, MPH, MSc

Presentation Learning Objectives

After completing this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe how the HERDOO2 rule applies to women with unprovoked VTE and the limitations of requiring VIDAS® D-dimer testing.
- Evaluate the diagnostic performance of alternative D-dimer assays using a two cut-point strategy to replicate VIDAS® thresholds.
- Discuss the clinical implications of assay-specific misclassification and how to apply these findings in diverse practice settings.

Presentation Abstract

This presentation evaluates whether a two cut-point strategy can enable non-VIDAS® D-dimer assays to replicate HERDOO2 classification for women with unprovoked VTE. Using Innovance® and TinaQuant®, we show strong concordance with VIDAS®, with most misclassifications occurring near the 250 µg/L threshold. These results suggest a pragmatic pathway to extend HERDOO2 decision-making in settings where VIDAS® is unavailable,

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Abstract 2: Anti-Xa Levels with Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis in Critical Care: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.

Speaker

Kevin Durr, MD

Presentation Learning Objectives

After completing this session, participants will be able to:

- Understand the role of anti-Xa level monitoring in the intensive care unit.
- Identify patient variables that predict sub-prophylactic steady state anti-Xa levels.

Presentation Abstract

Our review identified that despite adherence to standard low-molecular-weight heparin dosing regimens, fewer than half of patients meet their anti-Xa targets. We found that experiencing sub-prophylactic measurements may be associated with a threefold increased risk of developing a venous thromboembolism. Male sex, elevated weight, and higher body mass index are variables linked with developing sub-prophylactic anti-Xa levels.

Abstract 3: New insights into why type II diabetes and obesity are associated with excess blood clotting.

Speaker

Abbey Sugars-Keen, BSc, MSc Student

Presentation Learning Objectives

After completing this session, participants will be able to:

- Apply knowledge of both blood coagulation and insulin signaling pathways to understanding a crosstalk model within the context of type 2 diabetes.
- Discuss the relative expression levels in adipose tissue of tissue factor, the major trigger of blood coagulation, and the insulin receptor, which mediates insulin signaling, and the potential roles both play in this tissue.

Presentation Abstract

Type II diabetes is associated with a heightened risk for life-threatening atherothrombotic complications. Recent work in our lab indicates that tissue factor, the major trigger of blood coagulation, and the insulin receptor, the hub of insulin signaling, interact on the cell surface. This interaction may allow for functional crosstalk between these two pathways.

Session *(11:15)*

Keynote 2: News at XI: Moving Beyond the Direct Oral Anticoagulants.

Speakers

Jeffrey Weitz, MD, FRSC, FRCPC, FCAHS

Presentation Learning Objectives

After completing this session, participants will be able to:

- Appraise the limitations of currently available anticoagulants.
- Identify how factor XI inhibition may uncouple thrombosis and hemostasis.
- Describe the various strategies to inhibit factor XI/Xia.
- Review the results of the Phase 2 clinical trials and the designs of the ongoing Phase 3 programs.

Presentation Abstract

Factor XI (FXI) has emerged as an appealing target for novel anticoagulants, as inhibiting FXI may offer protection against thrombosis while reducing the risk of bleeding. Unlike other clotting factors, FXI is crucial for pathologic clot formation but less essential for normal hemostasis, presenting a unique therapeutic window.

Phase 2 clinical studies involving patients undergoing knee arthroplasty have demonstrated that FXI inhibitors are associated with a greater reduction in postoperative venous thromboembolism compared to enoxaparin, without increasing bleeding risk. This supports their potential safety advantage. Three main FXI inhibitors are advancing through Phase 3 trials: abelacimab, a monoclonal antibody that binds FXI to block its activation and FXIa activity, and the small molecule FXIa inhibitors asundexian and milvexian. The outcomes from these trials will be pivotal, determining whether FXI inhibitors can surpass apixaban in benefit-to-risk profile or serve as a safe anticoagulation platform when paired with antiplatelet therapies.

SESSION LEARNING OBJECTIVES, ABSTRACTS

Session *(13:00)*

Therapeutic Targeting of Thromboinflammation in Venous Thromboembolism.

Speaker

Nicola Potere, MD

Presentation Learning Objectives

After completing this session, participants will be able to:

- Discuss the clinical role of thromboinflammation in the development of VTE and its complications.
- Summarize the multifaceted mechanistic contribution of thromboinflammatory pathways to VTE development and progression.
- Describe approaches to clinically assess and therapeutically target thromboinflammation in subjects with or at risk for VTE.

Presentation Abstract

This presentation discusses salient preclinical and clinical evidence on the multifaceted pathogenic role of thromboinflammation in development and progression of venous thromboembolism (VTE). In particular, it showcases thromboinflammatory pathways centrally involved in VTE and related complications such as the post-thrombotic syndrome. In addition, it summarizes circulating biomarkers for thromboinflammatory risk assessment and prognostication. Novel promising therapeutic strategies targeting thromboinflammation in patients with VTE will also be discussed.

SESSION LEARNING OBJECTIVES, ABSTRACTS

Session *(13:45)*

Advancing VTE Care Together Through Image-Guided Therapy - Oil, Water, and Maple Syrup.

Speaker

Suresh Vedantham, MD

Presentation Learning Objectives

After completing this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe the impact of post-thrombotic syndrome (PTS) and post-pulmonary embolism syndrome on long-term health of patients with VTE.
- Summarize the risks and benefits of image-guided therapies in the management of acute DVT, acute PE, and PTS.
- Name three principles of successful collaboration that promote success in advancing patient care through multi-specialty initiatives.

Presentation Abstract

The speaker will summarize pivotal clinical trials and other collaborative initiatives that have advanced the care of patients with venous thromboembolism using image-guided therapies. The development of strong partnerships among interventional radiologists, medical thrombosis experts, and other scientists and stakeholders will be highlighted. Ways to leverage the key principles of successful collaboration to drive forward additional progress in VTE will be discussed.

SESSION LEARNING OBJECTIVES, ABSTRACTS

Session: Breakouts (*14:45*)

Research Coordinators Breakout: An Introduction to Risk Management for the Clinical Research Professional.

Speaker

Gregory Staios, MSc, CCRP

Presentation Learning Objectives

After completing this session, participants will be able to:

- Explain the fundamental principles of quality risk management in clinical research, including the key components of risk assessment, control, and review processes.
- Utilize established risk assessment frameworks and tools (TransCelerate RACT, ADAMON tool, Swiss Risk Tool) to categorize and prioritize clinical trial risks.
- Develop appropriate risk control strategies that are proportionate to identified risks while balancing participant safety, data integrity, and resource allocation.

Presentation Abstract

This presentation provides clinical research professionals with a comprehensive introduction to quality risk management principles and their practical application in clinical trials. The content covers the evolution of risk-based approaches from pharmaceutical manufacturing to clinical research, highlighting key regulatory developments including ICH E6(R2) and the emerging ICH E6(R3) guidelines. Participants will learn systematic methodologies for identifying, analyzing, and evaluating risks using established frameworks such as the Swiss Cheese Model and various risk assessment tools including TransCelerate's RACT and ECRIN's monitoring toolbox. The presentation emphasizes the importance of proportionate risk control measures and demonstrates how effective risk management can optimize resource allocation while maintaining participant safety and data integrity.

This session is not accredited.

Trainee Speed Networking Session Breakout

Mentors

- Leslie Skeith, MD, MSc
- Paul Kim, PhD
- Jeffrey I. Weitz, MD, FRSC, FRCPC, FCAHS
- Lana Castellucci, MD, MSc
- Kerstin de Wit, MD, MRCP, FRCEM, FRCPC

Presentation Learning Objectives

The session offers trainees a unique opportunity to engage directly with experienced mentors across diverse research and professional themes. In a dynamic, small-group format, trainees will rotate among mentors to discuss research practices, career development, and personal insights, fostering meaningful dialogue and knowledge exchange. By combining structured interactions with open discussion, the session aims to build connections that extend beyond the conference, supporting the growth of future leaders in the CanVECTOR community.

This session is not accredited.

SESSION LEARNING OBJECTIVES, ABSTRACTS

Session *(16:00)*

From Insight to Impact and Beyond: CanVECTOR Leadership on Patient Partnership (Patient Partner-led Panel Discussion).

Speakers / Panelists:

- Yan Xu, MD, MSc (*Moderator*)
- Grégoire Le Gal, MD, PhD
- Deborah Siegal, MD, MSc
- Lisa Duffett, MD
- Sudeep Shivakumar, MD

Presentation Learning Objectives

After completing this session, participants will be able to:

- Communicate the benefits and added value of patient partnership and engagement in the research process.
- Identify common pitfalls faced by researchers when working with patient partners.
- Incorporate patient partnership on clinical and translational research pipeline within CanVECTOR and within their own research program.

Presentation Abstract

Join us for a dynamic panel discussion, moderated by the current co-lead of the Patient Partners Platform. CanVECTOR leaders will offer their candid views that dive into the real-world impact of engaging patient partners across the network. Through stories, a few laughs, and maybe even a cautionary tale or two, panellists will unpack how patient partnership has reshaped research priorities, improved outcomes, and challenged long-held assumptions. Whether you're a seasoned investigator or just beginning to explore patient engagement, this session will leave you inspired—and maybe a little braver—to build authentic, lasting collaborations with patient partners.

SPONSOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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