

# Newsletter

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Canadian Stroke Prevention  
Intervention Network

Reseau Canadien pour la Prevention  
des Accidents Cerebrovasculaires

## CSPIN – Bayer Fellowship

The C-SPIN-Bayer fellowship will be awarded on an annual basis to faculty within the first five (5) years of an academic appointment. Suitable candidates will be identified and supported by their Division Chiefs or Department Heads. There will be a clear commitment to provide a minimum of 50% protected time for research endeavors. The fellowship will provide \$50,000.00 annually for 2 years. Matching funds from the candidate's sponsoring institution in the amount of \$25,000.00/year will be a mandatory requirement.

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### The 2014 C-SPIN- Bayer Fellowship Recipients:



**Dr. Peter Leong-Sit**

Dr. Leong-Sit completed an Undergraduate science degree and medical school at the University of British Columbia. Subspecialty training in Cardiology in London Ontario

was followed by an Arrhythmia Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania and a Master's of Science in Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Leong-Sit joined the Division of Cardiology at the University of Western Ontario in 2009 as an Assistant Professor and staff Electrophysiologist. His major research interests include atrial fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia catheter ablation. He has contributed to 53 peer reviewed publications and is the Principal Investigator for RAFT-CNS. Dr. Leon-Sit's award proposal to CSPIN will focus on the neurocognitive effects of various treatment strategies in patients with atrial fibrillation.



**Dr. Lena Rivard**

Dr. Rivard received her undergraduate medical degree from the Université Lyon in France. She subsequently completed a Master's degree in Clinical Research Methodology &

Epidemiology and a subspecialty training program in Electrophysiology. She relocated to Canada in 2004 to pursue advanced training in Electrophysiology where she worked on an animal model of ischemic atrial fibrillation under the direction of Dr. Stanley Nattel. Additional clinical training in electrophysiology was obtained in Bordeaux under the supervision of Dr. M. Haissaguerre. Dr. Rivard was appointed to the faculty of the Montreal Heart Institute in 2010 as a clinician-researcher and is currently in the process of completing a Master's degree in Biostatistics. She is the principal investigator for BRAIN-AF which is examining the impact on cognitive function of anticoagulation in patients with atrial fibrillation.



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## CSPIN Opportunistic Meeting at CCC

The 2014 Canadian Cardiovascular Congress (CCC) October 25-28, 2014 is being held at the Vancouver Convention Centre (VCC); in Vancouver, British Columbia. This is the Convention Centre's newest facility, which includes a six acre living roof. This building overlooks the Vancouver Harbour.

**When: October 28, 2014 10:30 am to 2:00 pm**  
**Where: Vancouver Convention Centre**

This meeting will provide a forum within which Network members could interact, exchange ideas, share knowledge and discuss new advances in stroke prevention. Registration details will be forthcoming. Please direct questions to

[cspin.admin@phri.ca](mailto:cspin.admin@phri.ca)



Vancouver waterfront

## Study Updates

**ARTESiA** The objective of this study is to determine if patients with device detected SCAF and other risk factors for stroke will also benefit from treatment with oral anticoagulant drugs versus aspirin, which is commonly used in this population based on their other risk factors. Planning and start-up activities are well underway for ARTESiA, with first patient enrollment anticipated by the end of October 2014.

### **BRAIN - AF**

(Anticoagulation in patients with Atrial Fibrillation and a low stroke risk) The goal of this study is to determine whether anticoagulation reduces the combined endpoints consisting of stroke, TIA and neurocognitive decline. The protocol will be submitted to the Ethics Committee in August. We anticipate enrolling our first patient in November 2014.

### **C-CUSP (Canadian Community Utilization of Stroke Prevention program)**

This program will target and mobilize urban and rural communities to improve stroke prevention. If successful, the C-CUSP studies could lead to sustainable strategies to reduce stroke in Canada without added healthcare costs. C-CUSP - ED and C-CUSP OAC are the first trials in the program.

**C-CUSP - ED (Emergency Department)** This study is anticipated to start this fall with participating sites located in Markham, ON; Lions Gate, BC and

Moncton, NB.

### **C-CUSP - OAC (Oral Anti-coagulant Adherence)**

This is an intervention study to improve oral anticoagulant adherence and persistence; the protocol is currently in development.

### **ESCAPE (Endovascular treatment for Small Core and Anterior circulation with Emphasis on minimizing CT to recanalization times)**

The purpose of the study is to understand whether a new treatment of stroke - endovascular clot removal - can be added to the current standard of care to improve patient outcomes. ESUS continues to enroll well with 213 patients enrolled at sites in Canada, US, UK and Europe. Quality metrics are being met. The study is expected to complete in the first half of 2015.

### **LAAOS III (Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion Study)**

The study objective is to determine if removing the left atrial appendage can reduce stroke and other complications on top of usual therapy for stroke prevention. LAAOS III is now open in 20 sites across 7 countries. 421 patients have been recruited as of July 21, 2014, now making LAAOS III the second largest trial ever performed on LAA occlusion.

### **ESUS (Embolic Strokes of Undetermined Source)**

A pre-trial global survey and registry projects have been completed with

ongoing analysis and drafting of manuscripts. The phase III international **NAVIGATE ESUS** is a randomized trial that has been approved for funding by Bayer Healthcare and is screening sites in 25-30 countries to begin recruitment later this year.

### **OCEAN (The Optimal Anticoagulation for Enhanced Risk Patients Post-Catheter Ablation for Atrial Fibrillation)**

This study will compare medical approaches for stroke prevention in people who have atrial fibrillation (AF) but have undergone a successful ablation to eliminate or substantially reduce the arrhythmia. The study protocol has been finalized, the MEI core lab has been selected, and site selection/ethics submission is ongoing in Canada and Europe.

### **PIAAF (Program for the Identification of "Actionable" Atrial Fibrillation)**

This program will target the identification of actions that would identify 'Actionable' AF that would lead to early treatment. The first three studies in this program are ASSERT-III, PIAAF-FP, PIAAF-Home and PIAAF-Pharmacy.

**ASSERT III** The objective of this study is to determine the rate of detection of sub-clinical AF, or AF Flutter ( $\geq 6$ mins) within 60 days using a wireless external loop recorder in elderly patients with known cardiovascular risk factors. The study started enrolling in

January, 2014. We are pleased to announce that as of August 15th, 2014 there are 76 patients enrolled in the study from 8 sites across Southern Ontario.

### **PIAAF- FP (Family Practice)**

The primary aim of this study is to determine the prevalence of "actionable" AF in the family practice setting. The study is anticipated to start this fall initially in Toronto and Calgary, then expanding to over 20 sites in Ontario and Alberta.

**PIAAF- Home** We hope to establish a practical and cost effective screening strategy where a patient could test for AF without disrupting the everyday routine and not have to go to labs or doctor's offices for testing. The study is finalizing the protocol shortly and will be submitting for study approval at four sites and Health Canada!

### **PIAAF- Pharmacy**

The primary aim of this study is to determine the prevalence of "actionable" AF in the community, along with providing a screening for hypertension and diabetes, through a pharmacy-led screening initiative. The study is set to start recruitment in the next few weeks. Screening staff is currently being hired and trained!

