

# Newsletter

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# C-SPIN

Canadian Stroke Prevention  
Intervention Network

Reseau Canadien pour la Prévention  
des Accidents Cerebrovasculaires

## 2015 C-SPIN Pilot Grant Recipients

C-SPIN Pilot Grants provide operating funds to Canadian atrial fibrillation or stroke researchers to fund pilot projects. This support may be provided for a maximum of three years. C-SPIN funds may only be used to support research conducted in Canada.

### 2015 C-SPIN Pilot Grant Recipients:



**Dr. Clare Atzema**, Institute for Clinical Evaluative Science, “Increasing Oral Anticoagulation Prescriptions in Emergency Departments: Proving Impact”



**Dr. Marko Mrkobrada**, University of Western Ontario, “Perioperative Atrial Fibrillation and Postoperative Stroke”



**Dr. Roopinder Sandhu**, University of Alberta, “Improving Stroke Prevention in AF Through Pharmacist Prescribing”

## C-SPIN Membership

The C-SPIN Scientific Executive Committee has adopted a **new membership process**.

1. Applicant to submit letter to Scientific Executive Committee stating their interest in being a C-SPIN member and how their research relates to AF and Stroke via email to: [CSPIN@phri.ca](mailto:CSPIN@phri.ca)
2. Vote by Scientific Executive Committee. The SEC will perform Membership Review on a quarterly basis at their meetings held during the last week of March, June, September and December.

## Inside This Issue

- 1 2015 C-SPIN Pilot Grant Recipients
- 1 C-SPIN Membership
- 1 Emerging Research Leaders Initiative
- 2 2nd Annual General Assembly
- 2 Message from the C-SPIN PI
- 3 C-SPIN Study Status

### Emerging Research Leaders Initiative (ERLI)

Through this initiative, the Heart and Stroke Foundation and partners will provide establishment grant funds towards the successful career launch of emerging research leaders in the cardiovascular, cerebrovascular and/or respiratory health research domains. C-SPIN will support successful applicants that are connected to an established C-SPIN project or research platform.

Upcoming **deadlines** for the 2016 ERLI are as follows:

- *July 15, 2015*: Letter of Intent due to participating network
- *August 14, 2015*: Notification of Letter of Intent stage; Invitation for full applications
- Please find full LOI requirements on the Heart and Stroke webpage (<http://hsf.ca/research/en/emerging-research-leaders-initiative-2015>)

# Director's Update

Dear colleagues:

With your support we are nearing the end of year two of our very successful C-SPIN Emerging Network. This year had many highlights. Dr. Michael Hill and colleagues published the results of their ESCAPE trial in the New England Journal of Medicine, and their results will change the way we manage acute stroke, particularly for patients with atrial fibrillation. 2015 also saw the completion of the PIAAF-Pharmacy project, which saw over 1000 individuals at community pharmacies complete screening for atrial fibrillation, hypertension and diabetes. Finally we funded three new trials: Clare Atzema's study examining AF in the emergency department; Marko Mrkobrada's examination of AF following non-cardiac surgery and Rupj Sandhu's study looking at the role of pharmacy prescribing of oral anticoagulants.

On the education front, we had our first boot camp in Ottawa and many junior investigators had two full days of interaction with senior scientists. C-SPIN, in collaboration with Bayer also awarded salary support to two investigators: Peter-Leong Sit from London and Lena Rivard from Montreal. We hope to hold a similar competition this fall. Finally, in collaboration with the Heart and Stroke Foundations Early Research Leaders Initiative, C-SPIN provided operating grant support to Stephen Wilton at the University of Calgary and Rupj Sandhu at the University of Alberta for ongoing work in the field of atrial fibrillation and stroke. I would like to take this moment to thank each of you for the role you have played in the success of C-SPIN and to wish you a restful and enjoyable summer holiday.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Jeff Healey

## 2nd Annual General Assembly

The Assembly this year was well attended even though there was stiff competition for C-SPIN members' time. Fourteen early arrivers attended the Welcome Dinner and 50 attended the Assembly the next day.

This year's keynote was delivered by Dr. Christine Albert Director, Center for Arrhythmia Prevention, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School. Dr. Albert delivered a powerful talk titled "Prevention of AF: How do we Stem the Tide?"

The remainder of the morning focused on Committee Updates including Pilot Grant recipients (see separate article,) and C-SPIN Study Updates. During lunch the PATH-Health Economics group presented an overview of the C-SPIN Cost-Effectiveness Model. Examples Model elements discussed included Baseline probability of stroke with AF, Mortality post AF event, Cost of intervention etc. The next steps in the process will be to finalize input for the Model and to conduct an economic evaluation of PIAAF-Pharmacy.

The afternoon was filled with excitement as the 2014-15 ERLI winners were announced and the new Patient Engagement Committee explained the revolution that is taking place in our health system and C-SPIN in the area of patient participation. Vincent Dumez Co-Director Collaboration and Patient Partnership Unit Université de Montréal was introduced as the collaborator for the C-SPIN patient and researcher training.

The agenda concluded with an Open Network Forum, the discussions continuing as everyone made their way to their transportation home.

