



UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA
HEART INSTITUTE
INSTITUT DE CARDIOLOGIE
DE L'UNIVERSITÉ D'OTTAWA

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Ottawa Heart Institute and partners takes on \$24 million research venture

OTTAWA, February 24, 2014 – As part of an important funding announcement made today by The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health, and Dr. Alain Beaudet, President of CIHR, a total of \$24.4 million has been awarded to two distinguished research networks, co-lead by the Ottawa Heart Institute. The Canadian Atrial Fibrillation Stroke Prevention Intervention Network has been awarded a total amount of \$18 million and the Vascular Network received \$6.4 million [amounts include combined funding from CIHR and partners]

The Canadian Atrial Fibrillation Stroke Prevention Intervention Network (CAF-SPIN) seeks to link world-class atrial fibrillation researchers from across Canada so they can share not only their ideas and expertise, but also conduct collaborative research in a shared and economically beneficial way. This group will develop 4 studies that will help see that Canadians benefit from the progress in medical research. The studies will include:

- 1) A study designed to identify people who suffer from atrial fibrillation, so that they may get the appropriate treatment;
- 2) A study to ensure that patients who visit an emergency department with atrial fibrillation get the follow-up care they need;
- 3) Two studies to see if blood thinners can prevent stroke in patients with pacemakers and in patients who have had a heart procedure to treat atrial fibrillation. This second study will be led by UOHI.

This network will involve over a dozen world-class physician researchers from Halifax to Victoria and will also involve nurses, public health individuals and will develop links with government agencies.

“Our network seeks to develop actionable strategies that will make Canada a global leader in clinical stroke research, ensure the sustainability of these efforts through strategies to recruit, train, support and retain clinical scientists, and in collaboration with government and stakeholder groups, implement strategies to reduce the incidence of embolic stroke in Canada by 10% within 10 years,” said Dr. David Birnie, Co-Principal Investigator, electrophysiologist and Director of the Arrhythmia Service at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute.

The Vascular Network involves several Heart Institute physicians, including lead and Ottawa Hospital Research Institute CEO Dr. Duncan Stewart and deputy lead and UOHI Scientific Director Dr. Peter Liu. The Vascular Network is an interdisciplinary research effort with a vision of improved health for all Canadians through innovative and effective prevention, detection, and treatment of vascular conditions. The

Vascular Network will create synergies and break down barriers between disciplines and vascular diseases through a program focused on three themes:

- 1) Understanding the causes and impact of vascular conditions;
- 2) Supporting evidence-based integrated models of care;
- 3) Accelerating and improving the success of translational research in vascular disease.

The Vascular Network will support these themes through core activities aimed at developing research personnel and capacity, knowledge translation investments, and networking activities.

"The networks will further harness the talents at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute and collaborating institutions, to increase together our global impact and training of future leaders. Ultimately we aim for reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease, and improve the health of all Canadians," said Dr. Peter Liu, Scientific Director at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute.

About the University of Ottawa Heart Institute

The University of Ottawa Heart Institute (UOHI) is Canada's largest and foremost heart health centre dedicated to understanding, treating and preventing heart disease. UOHI delivers high-tech care with a personal touch, shapes the way cardiovascular medicine is practiced and revolutionizes cardiac treatment and understanding. It builds knowledge through research and translates discoveries into advanced care. UOHI serves the local, national and international community, and is pioneering a new era in heart health.

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