

Bring together all heart failure stakeholders to improve the prediction, prevention, diagnosis and management of heart failure.

A Few words from your central team

Dear Members,
We hope this warm summer finds you well. In this issue, we continue and conclude our overview of CHF Alliance teams, themes, and projects. This time, we introduce you to the **Right Ventricule Network of Networks** collaborative project, the **Data Management** theme, and the **Health Disparities, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** theme.

We are pleased to announce the names of the awardees of our first edition of the Trainee Awards Competition. We received a large number of high-quality applications, which gave our 8 reviewers a lot of work to do. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the reviewers who applied, as well as our reviewers who gave up their time to review the 23 applications.

In this issue, we also provide you with valuable resources related to patient engagement. The resources presented here will provide you with tools to properly engage your patient partner.

Finally, we would like to remind you that you that we always love to hear from you and that you can send us any information, successes or opportunities you would like to share with the CHF Alliance community.

Best wishes,
Maryse, Leslie, Jean, and Marc



From left to right: Leslie Hasselmark, Maryse Desjardis, Jean L. Rouleau and Marc Babin

CHF Alliance Trainee Awards Competition: Congratulations to the awardees

Earlier this year, we launched our first **Trainee Awards Competition**, for which we received a large number of high-quality applications. Seven awards for one year of salary support were available for the first edition, and we are pleased to announce the names of the awardees:

- **Oliver Koss**, enrolled in a Postdoc (PhD) program at the McGill University: \$20,000 CHF Alliance award
- **Nima Moghaddam**, Postdoc (MD) at the University of British Columbia: \$20,000 CHF Alliance award
- **Lucie Kugthasan**, PhD at the University of Toronto: \$20,000 CHF Alliance award
- **Blair MacDonald**, PhD at the University of British Columbia: \$20,000 CHF Alliance award
- **Carol-Ann Blanchette**, PhD at the Université de Montréal: \$20,000 CHF Alliance award in partnership with the Université de Montréal
- **Florent Bessier**, Postdoc (PhD) at the Université de Montréal: \$20,000 CHF Alliance award in partnership with the Université de Montréal
- **Harry Wilson-Clark**, PhD at the University of Alberta: \$30,000 award for business working on Precision Health and AI-themed projects in partnership with the **Hospital for Sick Children**, Toronto, sponsored by **Bristol Myers Squibb**

Congratulations to our trainees!

Meet the CHF Alliance teams, themes and projects

The CHF Alliance is structured around 4 national teams, 7 cross-cutting themes and 2 collaborative projects. In this issue of the BEAT, we briefly introduce the **Right Ventricule Network of Networks** collaborative project, the **Data Management** theme and the **Health Disparities, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** theme.



The Right Ventricule Network of Networks (RVN2) collaborative project

The RVN2 project, led by Dr. Duncan Stewart, has been developed to fill the existing gap in the area of RV failure. Therefore, the team identified two main projects to be part of the RVN2 to better understand the metabolic adaptation to stress and to identify new strategies for RV failure.

The first project, **CRVAC**, led by Dr. Jesse Weathford (University of Alberta), is an adaptive platform trial for Diagnostics targeting RV failure. It will use a multiple arm, multiple stage (MAMS) design, which allows for multiple treatments and helps to drop losers and select winners early, while allowing for seamless Phase III trials and increasing efficiency. The same therapies can then be evaluated simultaneously in different disease states.

The second project, **RVN2 metabolomics** is led by Dr. Marie-Alexandre Chao (Montreal Heart Institute) and focuses on the metabolic adaptation to stress in the RV. It aims to reveal specific signatures reflecting disturbances in lipid and glucose metabolism; identify correlations between the most significant metabolites identified by principal component analysis and all-around clinical status (RVFA, NYct, diuretics, NYct function, clinical status, TTE and MRI); (3) other biomarkers such as NT-proBNP and troponin; identify changes in the metabolic profile secondary to new cardiac drugs on the RV; and identify new putative therapeutics.

Health Disparities, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion theme

This theme is led by Dr. Michael McGillion from McMaster University. The CHF Alliance recognizes historical factors and systemic barriers within Canadian society that are replicated and magnified in the Canadian research ecosystem. These impact the scientific careers of women and other underrepresented groups. Our members have completed the Tri-Agency self-identification form. Our group is made of 42% women, 11% Indigenous people, and 27% who identify as visible minorities from 30 academic centers in Canada and 5 internationally, and from 2 provinces and 3 territory. We follow processes and structures that promote equity in network functioning and participation. Our research involves efforts to recruit training staff and researchers, emphasize a culture of inclusion, and regularly review and evaluate from an EDI perspective.



Dr. Michael McGillion
McMaster University
Lead Health Disparities, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion theme

Data Management

This theme is led by Mr. Michael Harvey, a patient partner from St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, who oversees the health system support. The CHF Alliance planned to centralize network data for a better research and successful. The idea is to create an infrastructure in which data will be collected, distributed, harmonized and accessible. Harmonization will include the development and implementation of common data dictionaries, common variable definitions, and standardized naming conventions. This part of the network is still under development; however, the discussion around the creation of a Canadian Cardiomyopathy Collaborative is a good start and may provide the foundation for a centralized infrastructure for data management.



Mr. Michael Harvey
Patient Partner
Lead Data Management theme

Patient Partner Engagement Resources

The CHF Alliance is a patient-driven research network. Research priorities are based on issues identified by patients. One of our missions is to support the engagement of patient partners at all stages of the research. To this end, we have an extraordinary and dedicated patient engagement team that is working hard to develop tools to support patient partners and researchers in this process.

One of the tools the team is developing with the **HeartLife Foundation** is the **HeartLife Hub**. The HeartLife Hub is a web platform designed to engage patient partners by providing them with resources, support and information on patient engagement, and also to provide researchers with resources to engage patient partners in their projects. We strongly encourage you to involve patient partners in the development phase of your project, rather than their involvement being limited to the submission of ethics approval. **The Patient Engagement and Environment Team** can help you find the right patient partner for your needs.

We would also like to share with you two other resources that are external to the CHF Alliance, but who are very informative about proper patient engagement processes. **Adapt to Research et al.**, **Reflections on patient engagement to patient partners** is a 20-minute webinar presented by **Laruen McLaughlin**, Research Assistant at the **McGill Support Line**. Her email: Laruen.McLaughlin@mcgill.ca or by Research@Patients. You can contact **Shayne Dixon**, Patient Engagement Coordinator. If you would like more information about patient engagement or if you would like to be matched with a patient partner.