



**Canadian  
Cardiovascular  
Society**

**MYCOVACC**

The CCS National Active Surveillance Study of Myocarditis and/or Pericarditis following mRNA COVID-19 Vaccination (MYCOVACC) is a multi-centre, pan-Canadian study funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

## Meet the MYCOVACC team

MYCOVACC is a collaborative project involving research and public health partners from across Canada including:

- COVID-19 Vaccine-induced Inflammatory Heart Disease Registry (COVID-VIHR) (Dr. Peter Liu and colleagues)
- Pediatric Outcomes Improvement through Coordination of Research Networks (POPCORN) Initiative, IMPACT and Special Immunization Clinic (SIC) (Dr. Karina Top and colleagues)
- Canadian Primary Care Sentinel Surveillance Network (CPCSSN) (Dr. Alexander Singer, Dr. Sabrina Wong and colleagues)

In this issue, we profile team members:

### Dr. Nathaniel Hawkins, MD, MPH, Scientific Lead



**Nathaniel Hawkins** is a clinician-scientist cardiologist and Associate Professor at UBC with training in heart failure and electrophysiology.

Based in Vancouver, his leadership roles include:

- Medical Lead for Quality and Research at Cardiac Services BC;
- Director of Research for the UBC Division of Cardiology; and,
- Physician Lead for the Vancouver Coastal Health Regional Heart Failure Program.

Nat's research group examines cardiovascular outcomes, health services, and comorbidities in patients with heart failure and arrhythmia. He has published in leading journals, including *Circulation*, *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, and *European Heart Journal*. In addition to leading MYCOVACC, Nat is Co-Principal Investigator for the MAPLE-CHF and international SYMPHONY heart failure screening trial, and a member of the CIHR Canadian Heart Function Alliance. Reach out to Nat and the MYCOVACC team at [mycovacc@ccs.ca](mailto:mycovacc@ccs.ca)

### Dr. Peter Liu, MD, FRCPC, MYCOVACC Steering Committee Member

**Peter Liu** is the Chief Scientific Officer and Vice-President of Research of the University of Ottawa

Heart Institute (UOHI) as well as Professor of Medicine and Physiology at the Universities of Toronto and Ottawa. His laboratory investigates the causes and treatments of heart failure, role of inflammation and identification of novel biomarkers and targets for intervention in cardiovascular diseases. He has published over 450 peer reviewed articles in high impact journals, H-Index of 127, and has received numerous awards in recognition of his research and scientific accomplishments.



Peter is also Principal Investigator of COVID-VIHPR, a CIHR-funded cross-Canada cohort study based at UOHI with network of experts that aim to elucidate the natural history and potential underlying mechanisms of vaccine associated myocarditis. Under Peter's leadership, MYCOVACC will partner with COVID-VIHPR to coordinate patient recruitment and follow up to maximize efficiency.

## Meredith Wright, PhD, Senior Project Advisor



Based in Ottawa, Meredith Wright leads MYCOVACC governance, operations, stakeholder relations, and reporting for the CCS. Meredith has held clinical, teaching, research, research ethics and leadership positions in hospital, university, and not-for-profit settings. Through her education and experience as an allied health leader, Meredith has a broad knowledge of issues related to professional practice and standards, professional development, research, regulatory requirements, and health policy.

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## Study team hits early milestones

Since receiving funding in October 2022, the project team has:

- Completed the study protocol;
- Submitted the research ethics application with approval anticipated by the end of January 2023;
- Established contact with study sites as well as a contractual agreement between study partners;
- Started building the MYCOVACC database;
- Initiated contact and engagement with stakeholders; and,
- Developed and implemented communications and knowledge translation plans.



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## Become a MYCOVACC study site

The CCS is actively recruiting cardiac care centres, cardiology clinics and cardiologists from across Canada to contribute to the study. [Learn more.](#)

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## Governance structure encourages involvement

The MYCOVACC governance structure aims to facilitate the participation and collaboration of CCS members, CCS Affiliate societies, investigators, and patients in

## Stakeholder consultations: Have your say!



The CCS wants to consult with the cardiovascular community about the study methodology, communications, and knowledge translation priorities. To participate in a focus group or individual interview, contact Meredith Wright at [mycovacc@ccs.ca](mailto:mycovacc@ccs.ca)

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## MYCOVACC seeks patient advisors

The CCS is looking for patients and carers with first-hand experience with post-vaccine myocarditis and/or pericarditis to join MYCOVACC committees. The MYCOVACC team is also seeking patient advisors to share their ideas in stakeholder consultation interviews. For information, contact Meredith Wright at [mycovacc@ccs.ca](mailto:mycovacc@ccs.ca)

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## Recent research

Alhussein MM, Rabbani M, Sarak B, Dykstra S, Labib D, Flewitt J, Lydell CP, Howarth AG, Filipchuck N, Kealey A, Colbert J. Natural History of Myocardial Injury After COVID-19 Vaccine-Associated Myocarditis. *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cjca.2022.07.017>

Lin J, Harahsheh AS, Raghuvver G, Jain S, Chouietier NF, Garrido-Garcia LM, Dahdah N, Portman MA, Misra N, Khoury M, Fabi M, Elias MD, Dionne A, Lee S, Selamet Tierney ES, Ballweg JA, Manlhiot C, & McCrindle BW, Emerging Insights into the Pathophysiology of Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in Children Associated with COVID-19. *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* (2023), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cjca.2023.01.002>

Liu, PP, & Kafil, TS, COVID-19 Vaccine Myocarditis: Cautious Reassurance in an Era of Dynamic Uncertainty. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* (2022), <https://www.jacc.org/doi/abs/10.1016/j.jacc.2022.10.010>  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cjca.2022.07.017>

Moulson N, Connelly KA, Dorian P, Fournier A, Goodman JM, Grubic N, Isserow S, Johri AM, Philippon F, Pipe A, Poirier P, Quinn R, Taylor T, Thornton J, Wilkinson M, & McKinney J, COVID-19, Inflammatory Heart Disease, and Vaccination in the Athlete and Highly Active Person: An Update and Further Considerations, *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* (2022), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cjca.2022.05.019>

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[Explore the European Society of Cardiology resources on myocarditis.](#)

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