



Canadian Cardiovascular Society **Annual Report**



Canadian
Cardiovascular
Society

Société
cardiovasculaire
du Canada

CCS.CA

Message from the Incoming 2024-2026 CCS President



From Inspiration to Inclusion: Shaping the Future of Heart Health

I can still very clearly recall the first time I attended the Canadian Cardiovascular Congress, now over 20 years ago. As a resident, I recollect looking on in awe and being completely intimidated by leaders in the field of cardiovascular medicine who were gathered to network, educate, and advance the work of our

of advancing heart health for all and articulated through our strategic plan, which focuses on the Society's vision of "Strong heart teams in a heart healthy Canada". Cardiovascular disease affects Canadians from all walks of life, and the diversity of our patients must mirror the diversity within our own membership. In the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) survey of its members that CCS undertook in 2021, greater than 50% of respondents identified as being from a

Leveraging my experiences in leadership, cardiovascular care, and health system innovation, I am committed to building on the strong foundation the CCS has laid.

Society. On one hand, I felt inspired to follow in their footsteps and create impact, and on the other, tacitly acknowledging the challenging road ahead, since no one in the echelons of CCS leadership looked like me – a person of colour.

My journey to this moment began with the recognition that leadership is both a responsibility and an opportunity to shape a future that reflects the values we uphold. For the CCS, this is bedrock in our mission

non-white racial group. This underscores the importance of a Society that embraces a pluralistic Canada, placing value on EDI and recognizing that ongoing conversation and change are required to ensure full participation of our members, as well as to cultivate an environment where they can thrive.

As the first person of colour to serve as President of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, I stand on the shoulders of those who have paved the way for

progress and change, but also take responsibility to take action on what we have learned through previous and ongoing engagement of our members. At the heart of my commitment to cardiovascular care is a passion for creating systems where excellence and equity intersect. This is particularly acute as we work towards co-creating a culturally safe cardiovascular health system that is free of Indigenous-specific racism and which brings us closer to upholding our Truth and Reconciliation commitments.

Leveraging my experiences in leadership, cardiovascular care, and health system innovation, I am committed to building on the strong foundation the CCS has laid. Personal goals for my tenure as President will be to expand international collaborations to strengthen the CCS's influence and reach and as a mechanism to enhance diversity; engage members to align CPD opportunities with their needs, reflecting their professional goals, and empowering them to deliver high-quality, patient-centred care through tools such as artificial intelligence; position CCS as a trusted partner across the healthcare ecosystem; and advocate for health care equity by championing policies that address disparities in cardiovascular health outcomes across Canada.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our outgoing president, Dr. Michelle Graham, whose leadership has been instrumental in strengthening our community. From championing the development of trainees

and women in cardiology to implementing the CCS Code of Conduct, Dr. Graham has set a strong precedent for inclusivity.

Looking ahead, I am thrilled to welcome Dr. Chi-Ming Chow, our incoming CCS Vice President for 2025-2026. His extensive contributions—leading the planning of the 2023 Vascular Congress and the 2024 Canadian Cardiovascular Congress, chairing the CPD Committee for two terms, and advancing professional technology solutions within CCS for more than a decade—will be invaluable in realizing our ambitious goals for the future.

With deep gratitude and enthusiasm, I embrace the opportunity to serve our Society over the next two years, helping steer us toward a more inclusive and impactful future; knowing that our collective work can empower and inspire the next generation of cardiovascular specialists and researchers. Through our shared expertise and experiences, we can unlock the potential for transformative change. Together, let's continue building on our foundation, advancing knowledge, and fostering an environment where everyone feels seen, supported, and inspired to lead.

Sean A. Virani MD, MSc, MPH, FRCPC, FCCS
President, Canadian Cardiovascular Society



Message from the CCS CEO

Celebrating another milestone year of advancing heart health for all

The past year has been a landmark one for the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, marked by collaboration, innovation, and important achievements. Working together, we have continued to advance our vision of “Strong heart teams in a heart healthy Canada”, demonstrating our commitment to advancing cardiovascular care for all.

A major accomplishment in 2024 was the launch of *CardioCampus*, a new CCS learning management system accessible through [MY.CCS.ca](https://my.ccs.ca). *CardioCampus* is the hub for all CCS Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programming, offering users preferred access to accredited courses and resources, and soon the convenience to report CPD credits directly to the RCPSC.

In October, we proudly welcomed 1,900 delegates to the annual [Canadian Cardiovascular Congress](#) in Vancouver. Surpassing our delegate target by 25% was a strong signal that the meeting continues to be an important networking and learning event for the Canadian cardiovascular community. We look forward to welcoming everyone to Québec City in 2025.

The [Canadian Alliance of Cardiovascular Centres](#) continued to develop throughout the year, and now has 15 centres enrolled as members and another dozen participating in regular events to share ideas, raise awareness about local solutions, problem solve to improve care, and generally foster a community. Given how thinly spread cardiovascular centres are across our geography, there is much to gain by working together as part of a structured network.

Throughout the year, we continued our commitment of releasing [Guidelines and Clinical Practice Updates](#), further driving the impact factor of the three [CCS journals](#). Our advocacy efforts saw measurable impact as we partnered with policymakers to address numerous drug and device shortages, and we are excited that to date, four industry partners have committed to the new [Principal Partner Program](#), within which we are in the final stages of developing a national advocacy strategy to address access to screening and improved care pathways. Watch for a more detailed update on the CCS advocacy strategy in early 2025.

It would be an oversight not to mention the ongoing success of [MYCOVACC](#), a multi-centre, pan-Canadian CCS study of the long-term impact of myocarditis and pericarditis after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination, funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The study is in the data collection and analysis stages and will be reporting out throughout 2025.

These accomplishments are a testament to the dedication of our members, partners, and staff. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire team, thank you for making this year one of remarkable progress. Together, we are shaping a strong cardiovascular community, prepared to deliver for all Canadians.

All the best for the New Year,

Carolyn Pullen RN PhD
CEO, Canadian Cardiovascular Society



2022–2024 Board of Directors

Thank you to our CCS Board of Directors for 2022-2024! Their term concluded during the Canadian Cardiovascular Congress in October 2024.



President
Dr. Michelle Graham



Vice President
Dr. Sean Virani



Secretary/Treasurer
Dr. Andrew S. Mackie



Past President
Dr. Marc Ruel



Director, Western Region
Dr. Margot Davis



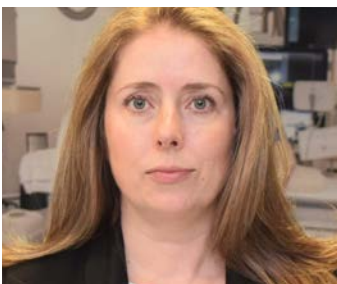
Director
Dr. Parvathy Nair



Director, Quebec Region
Dr. Isabelle Nault



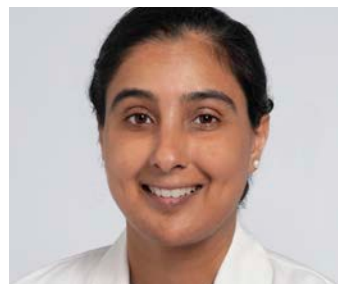
Director, Ontario Region
Dr. Maral Ouzounian



Director, Atlantic Region
Dr. Sarah Ramer



C-CAS Chair
Dr. Gurmeet Singh



Trainee Representative
Dr. Varinder Randhawa



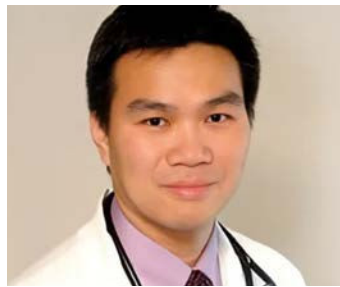
Director-at-Large
Dr. Rodney Zimmermann

2024–2026 Board of Directors

A warm welcome to our new Board of Directors for the 2024-2026 term! We look forward to all that we're able to accomplish together.



President
Dr. Sean Virani



Vice President
Dr. Chi-Ming Chow



Secretary/Treasurer
Dr. Andrew S. Mackie



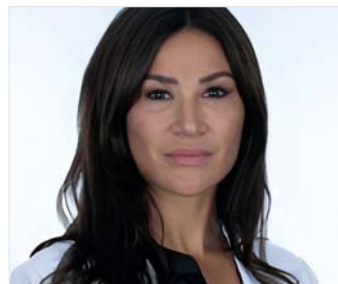
Director-at-Large
Dr. Rodney Zimmermann



Director, Western Region
Dr. Margot Davis



Director, Ontario Region
Dr. Vincent Chan



Director, Quebec Region
Dr. Jessica Forcillo



Director, Atlantic Region
Dr. John Sapp



Director
Dr. Parvathy Nair



Director
Dr. Negareh Mousavi



Director
Dr. Laurie-Anne
Boivin-Proulx



Past President
Dr. Michelle Graham

CCS Council of Committee Chairs



Advocacy Committee
Dr. James Tam



Audit and Risk Management
Committee
Dr. Andrew Mackie



Continuing Professional
Development Committee
Dr. Anil Gupta



Early Career Committee
Dr. William F. McIntyre



Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
(EDI) Committee
Dr. Sonia Anand



Governance Committee
Dr. Marc Ruel



Guidelines Committee
Dr. Jonathan Howlett



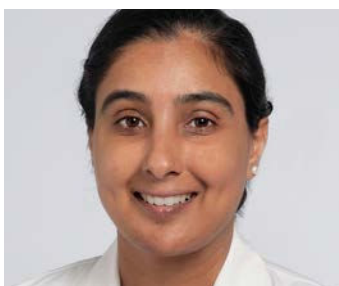
Membership Committee
Dr. Parvathy Nair



Research Fellowships and
Awards Committee
Dr. Satish Raj



Scientific Program Committee
Dr. Chi-Ming Chow



Trainee Committee
Dr. Varinder Randhawa



MYCOVACC Steering
Committee
Dr. Nathaniel Hawkins



Annual Meeting Chair
Dr. Atul Verma

**Thank you to the
2024 Chairs of CCS
Committees for their
invaluable contributions,
efforts, and time spent
paving the way for
excellence in
cardiovascular care!**

Membership

Empowering Cardiovascular Care Through Member Engagement

CCS members are the backbone of the programs and services we offer, coming together to form a national community that works to advance heart health for all. Engagement soared this year, with a record number of members coming together to collaborate on various committees and working groups, develop programs, address policy issues to advocate for, and more.

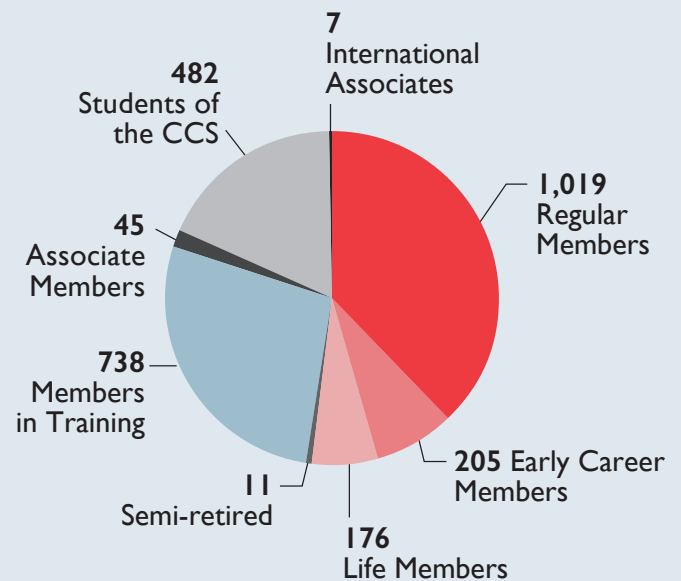
Our active members not only help us to achieve the CCS mission, but they also grow as clinicians and researchers in the process. Through their contributions, our volunteers advance their careers while elevating cardiovascular care for patients worldwide.

498 members engaged across **52** committees and working groups who are:

- Giving back and advocating for the profession
- Developing programs
- Exercising leadership skills
- Exploring innovative ideas
- Building networks
- Collaborating on meaningful projects

Strength in Numbers

2683 CCS members in 2024



Discover the benefits of [CCS membership](#)



The One Heart Team: Strengthening Collaboration Across the Cardiovascular Community

Cardiovascular specialists work as members of a team that draw on many sets of individual skills. With a membership model to reflect this, the [One Heart Team](#) embodies the collaborative spirit of the CCS by uniting 14 Affiliate organizations to expertly advance cardiovascular health.

All Affiliate members become members or associates of the CCS. The CCS and Affiliate organizations remain separate entities with distinct brands and profiles, but with formal recognition of the important role we all play in coming together to advance each organization's unique mandate.

We are proud of the many activities that the *One Heart Team* accomplished this year, including the development of the CCC 2024 scientific program, five annual Affiliate meetings and programs, two joint Guidelines, and six joint webinars.

CCS Affiliates Belonging to the *One Heart Team*



Dr. Jasmine Grewal, CACHnet President



Dr. Andrea Lavoie, CAIC President



Dr. Dinesh Thavendiranathan, CCON President



Dr. Mustafa Toma, CCTN President



Dr. Gurmeet Singh,
CANCARE President



Dr. Marie-France Gauthier, Pharm,
CCPN President



Dr. Justin Ezekowitz, CHFS President



Dr. Laurent Macle,
CHRS President



Dr. Luc Mertens, CPCA President



Dr. Ansar Hassan,
CSCS President



Dr. Andreas Kumar, CSCMRI President



Dr. Robert Miller,
CNCT President



Dr. Sharon Mulvagh, CSE President



Dr. Sonia Anand,
CSVM President

Affinity Partnerships

The CCS proudly partners with select suppliers to offer members exclusive rates and discounts on various products and services. This year, we added six new affinity partners to our portfolio, which previously included TD Insurance as our sole partner last year. Please see below for a comprehensive list, and login to your [MY.CCS.ca](https://my.ccs.ca) account to learn more about them and their offers to members.



The Canadian Alliance of Cardiovascular Centres (CACC)

The [CACC](#) is a national community that connects cardiovascular specialists and administrative leaders from cardiovascular centres across Canada. Together, they share ideas, raise awareness about local solutions, foster a connected community, and problem-solve to improve care.

We are thankful to our CACC members and the broader cardiovascular community, and proud of recent accomplishments in 2024:

- **14** centres from six provinces joining the Alliance.
- Hosted our second annual workshop as part of CCC 2024.
- Completed the first-ever Baseline National Cardiovascular Centre Resource Inventory
- Profiled and learned about six innovative projects from cardiac centres in Newfoundland, Quebec, B.C., and Ontario.
- Launched a portal where members can access meeting materials, resources and participate in discussion forums.
- Launched the Patient Care Models and Prevention Working Group, led by Dr. Abhinav Sharma from McGill University, the first of four CACC Working Groups.



Continuing Professional Development

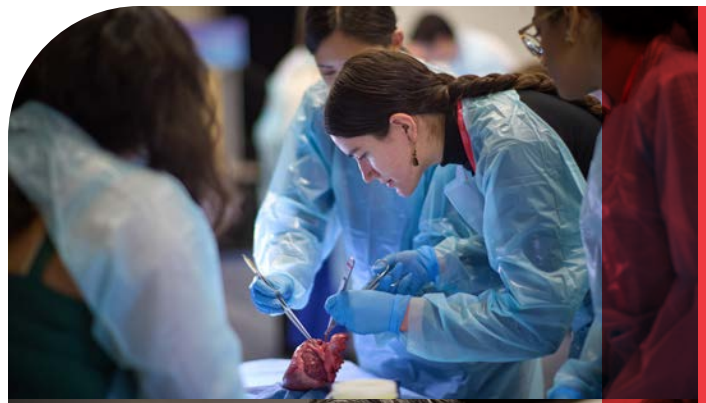
Delivering educational excellence to the cardiovascular community

In 2024, the CCS...

- Accredited **56** educational programs for a total of 167.75 MOC credits.
- Successfully delivered 22 MOC Section 1 accredited webinars, attracting over **4,700** registrants.
- Launched 12 MOC Section 3 Self-Assessment programs that are valid for 3 years, with over **290** certificates issued to date.
- Successfully delivered 6 Accredited Symposia at CCC 2024 over a span of 3 days, with a combined attendance of over **1,000** delegates.
- Launched our new learning management system, [CardioCampus](#), in November 2024. *CardioCampus* is the hub for all CCS Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programming, offering users preferred access to accredited courses and resources, and soon the convenience to report CPD credits directly to the RCPSC.



CardioCampus



The 2024 Canadian Cardiovascular Congress

Held from October 24-27, 2024 in Vancouver, British Columbia and marked a milestone 25th anniversary year for CCC.

- Over **1,900** delegates from **10** countries in attendance
- **145** scientific sessions delivered
- **900** participating speakers
- **278** abstracts presented
- **35** exhibitors from across the Canadian healthcare community
- **89%** of delegates felt that CCC 2024 offered adequate to excellent value for their investment



408K impressions of social media posts using the **#CCCongress** hashtag



20 Canadian Cardiovascular Congress

Quality Care

CCS Guidelines and Clinical Practice Updates are developed and published thanks to the world-renowned knowledge, expertise, and contribution of CCS members and affiliates, and set standards for excellence in heart health and care.

In 2024, the CCS released [three Clinical Practice Updates](#) and [two Guidelines](#).

Clinical Practice Updates

Canadian Cardiovascular Society Clinical Practice Update on Contemporary Management of the Patient with Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy [Read article](#)

Canadian Cardiovascular Society/Canadian Women's Heart Health Alliance Clinical Practice Update on Myocardial Infarction With No Obstructive Coronary Artery Disease (MINOCA) [Read article](#)

Canadian Cardiovascular Society/Canadian Cardiovascular Critical Care Society/Canadian Association of Interventional Cardiology Clinical Practice Update on Optimal Post Cardiac Arrest and Refractory Cardiac Arrest Patient Care [Read article](#)



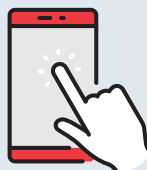
Guidelines

Canadian Cardiovascular Society 2023 Guidelines on the Fitness to Drive [Read article](#)

Canadian Cardiovascular Society/Canadian Association of Interventional Cardiology 2023 Focused Update of the Guidelines for the Use of Antiplatelet Therapy [Read article](#)



7 topics under development for publication over the next two years



15,000 sessions in the iCCS app



321,966 unique users of the **CCS.ca** Guidelines/ KT webpages



2,000+ pocket guides delivered to Canadian healthcare providers in 2024

Lipid Screening Awareness

The 2024 Lipid Screening Awareness Project informed healthcare professionals, patients, the public, and key stakeholders about CCS Guideline-directed lipid screening.

The CCS created clinical care and self-management tools and resources to promote early lipid testing and help prevent atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) events, and a communications campaign to healthcare professionals and stakeholder groups raised awareness of the new resources.

Resources Included

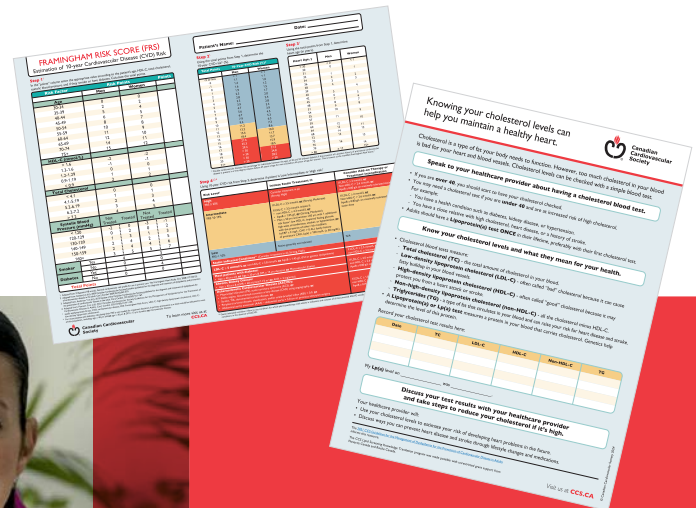
- An updated [Framingham Risk Score \(FRS\) calculator](#)
- An updated Dyslipidemia Guidelines and Resources [webpage](#)
- A [webpage](#) housing a [cholesterol tracker tool](#) for people at risk of ASCVD
- An accredited [webinar](#), Management of Dyslipidemia in Primary and Secondary Prevention
- A digital advertising campaign targeted Canadian adults over 40 years of age

The corresponding public awareness campaign resulted in high engagement, including:



- **86,056** website sessions on **CCS.ca**
- **2.93 million** impressions across social media

- **1.19 million** users reached across social media
- **3,594** cholesterol tracker downloads
- **178** attendees of the webinar



Advocacy

In 2024, advocacy initiatives ramped up significantly at the CCS and were focused on several key areas. We established the [Principal Partnership Program \(PPP\)](#), which supports the CCS in advocating for improvements in cardiovascular health and care for Canadians in partnership with like-minded industry leaders. Four partners are part of the program: Edwards Lifesciences, Novartis Pharma Canada, Novo Nordisk Canada, Merck Canada.

We also supported efforts to:

- Remove the GST/HST on AEDs to increase access to defibrillators ([Bill C-389](#)).
- Make access to NT-proBNP testing at community laboratories permanently part of the Ontario Health Insurance Plan, following the current pilot program.
- Establish a national [heart failure](#) policy framework, led by HeartLife Foundation.

Heart Valve Disease

Heart Valve Voice Canada organized Heart Valve Awareness Day (February 22) and Week (September 16-22), with support from the Canadian Cardiovascular Society and other partners. These campaigns resulted in:

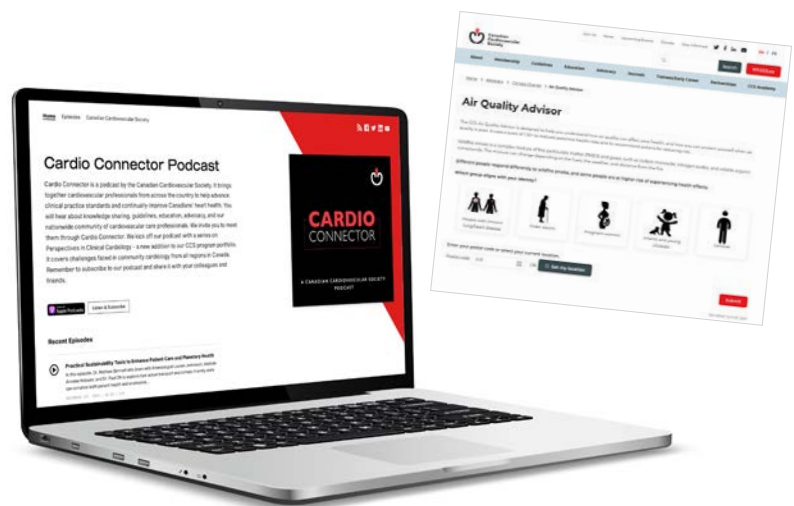
- **23** interviews (TV, editorial, and radio across **7** provinces)
- **18** stethoscope check events held from coast to coast
- Over **32** editorial articles published
- Over **1,100** participants screened
- Supported the development of a [national model for integrated care](#)



The graphic features a background image of a forest with a fire. On the right, the Canadian Cardiovascular Society logo is at the top. Below it, the text 'Air Quality Advisor Tool' is displayed in large white letters on a blue background. Underneath is a color-coded risk scale from 1 to 10, with categories: Low Risk (1-3), Moderate Risk (4-6), High Risk (7-10), and Very High Risk (+). Below the scale, the text 'The Planetary Connection to Cardiovascular Health Series' is written in white on a red background. At the bottom, a blue box contains the text: 'Additionally, the CCS launched the first-ever [CCS Code of Conduct](#), which outlines the ethical and professional commitments to our members and aligns with the [CCS mission and values](#).'

Climate Change

- Hosted **2** webinars:
 - Navigating Patient Health Amidst Wildfires
 - Practical Sustainability Tools to Enhance Patient Care and Planetary Health.
- Released **7** CCS podcast episodes through [Cardio Connector](#), which resulted **833** listens in total.
- Developed an [Air Quality Advisor](#) tool.



Our Trio of Scientific Journals

The CJC 2023 **Impact Factor is 5.8** and it ranks **23 of 221 journals** in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE).

CJC Open received its first **Impact Factor of 2.5** and it ranks **96 of 221 cardiovascular journals** in the SCIE.

CJC Pediatric & Congenital Heart Disease will reach over **80,000** downloads in 2024.

**The most recent date for which data is available*

Submissions

		Submitted*	Accepted**	Published in an issue**
2022	CJC of which, OA	1789	210	208 19***
	CJC Open	269	141	153
	CJCPC	64	48	36
2023	CJC of which, OA	2040	230	212 32***
	CJC Open	359	166	130
	CJCPC	75	48	51
2024 YTD 10/31	CJC of which, OA	2324	201	172 68***
	CJC Open	444	129	155
	CJCPC	60	33	29

* all types

** research + reviews incl. CCS papers

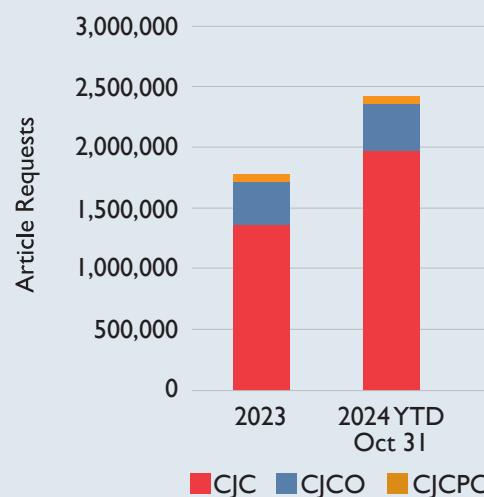
*** open access



Congratulations to Dr. Stanley Nattel, CJC Editor in Chief, on his appointment to the Order of Canada in December 2024!



Online Usage



Across platforms (JBS, ScienceDirect, ClinicalKey), the number of article requests for the CCS journals combined exceeds **2.4 million** through to October 31, 2024.

CCS MYCOVACC Study

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 (PHAC).

- Led by the CCS, in collaboration with Dr. Nathaniel Hawkins of the University of British Columbia and study investigators from across Canada.
- Began in October 2022 to study the clinical and functional outcomes of adults and children experiencing myocarditis and/or pericarditis following mRNA COVID-19 vaccination.

In 2024, CCS received an additional **\$1.4M from PHAC** for a total investment of **\$5M** over three years.

The new funding allows for:

- Continued recruitment and detailed follow-up of patients during the third year of the study;
- Further cardiac imaging and comparisons of vaccine and COVID-19 outcomes;
- Development of tools to improve reporting of adverse events following vaccination; and,
- Delivery of the latest knowledge into the hands of clinicians, policymakers, and the public.



MYCOVACC



“The study aims to provide more definitive evidence about this condition that, so far, is thought to be rare with rapid recovery and good long-term outcomes. This large-scale, national collaboration will allow us to validate these findings for the Canadian community.”

– Dr. James White, University of Calgary,
Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging Sub-Study Lead

New MYCOVACC Clinical Resources in 2024

- [Cardio Connector podcast episode](#)
- [Canadian Journal of Cardiology publication](#)
- [Webinar](#) and [online MOC Section 3 accredited self-assessment program](#)
- [Two infographics for patients and healthcare providers](#)