

News from Heart & Stroke

July 2017

In our last communication we announced the six mission critical areas (MCAs) and indicated that we would proceed with recruiting co-chairs for the first two councils, heart failure and stroke. These co-chair appointments are outlined below, as is a further **call to action for you**: we need your input on co-chair and member nominations for our mission critical area councils. Read on and find out more.

If you've missed our previous updates, please [click here](#) to get caught up.

We are pleased to announce that Yves Savoie has joined Heart & Stroke as our CEO. He is a fierce advocate for a health system that is genuinely patient-centered and is deeply knowledgeable about the unique role of health charities working closely with research communities, patients and governments in enabling Canadians to live healthy lives and to live well with chronic disease and disabilities. He brings a depth of fundraising experience and is excited about opportunities to build new streams of revenue. During his first two months Yves has had the opportunity to meet with a number of research leaders across the country and he shared his enthusiasm about what he has learned with the board at its recent meeting.

At that same meeting the board agreed that it is time to revisit our strategic plan. The current plan was developed shortly after unification and there have been many developments since that time. This work will proceed rapidly in order to provide direction for operational planning in the spring of 2018. There will be broad constituent consultation, including seeking input from the research community.

Our thinking with respect to the mission critical areas and the councils has also evolved. We see them as providing advice on all aspects of Heart & Stroke's role within their respective area. We also recognize the importance of bringing the councils together to address cross cutting issues. At the end of two years we will evaluate the councils to determine future directions.

The scientific review committee will continue to provide oversight to the peer review process. The guidelines for the current competition have already been released and there are no significant changes at this time. With funding from the government of Canada, we are pleased to offer a new opportunity in women's heart and stroke research. [check](#)

pleased to offer a new opportunity in women's heart and stroke research - check hsf.ca/research for more information.

Announcing council co-chair appointments

We are delighted to welcome the following newly appointed MCA council co-chairs. These leaders will guide their councils to provide advice on how Heart & Stroke can best generate impact in stroke and heart failure. We are also excited to announce the researcher co-chair for the vascular cognitive impairment council.

MCA	Research Co-Chairs	Community Co-Chairs
Stroke	Dr. Michael Hill (read bio)	Rick Adams (read bio)
Heart Failure	Dr. Heather Ross (read bio)	Sandra Thornton (read bio)
Vascular Cognitive Impairment	Dr. Sandra Black (read bio)	TBA

Watch for future messages about, and from, these co-chairs; you can get a glimpse of their backgrounds now by [clicking here](#). We're grateful for their leadership in:

- fostering research excellence
- putting patients at the centre of our thinking;
- grasping the opportunities of interdisciplinary collaboration;
- building deep partnerships and leveraging those resources; and
- advancing past the challenges in the fundraising landscape.

Thank you to everyone who nominated candidates for these positions. We hope there will be equal excitement to participate in the call for nominations below.

Progress to date

Our progress to date includes:

- Established the **six mission critical areas** ([read more](#))
- Appointed co-chairs for heart failure and stroke councils and researcher co-chair for vascular cognitive impairment
- Established roles, responsibilities and composition of councils ([read more](#))
- Recruited Director, Heart Health (Dr. Cindy Yip)
- Established the steering committee for the Advancing Women's Heart & Stroke Research Initiative (AWHSRI), co-chaired by Dr. Karin Humphries and Caroline Lavallee.
 - This initiative was designed at the same time that we were re-imagining our research enterprise, and uses the same interdisciplinary, inclusive model; its steering committee consists of 50 per cent researchers and 50 per cent women with lived experience.
 - Awarded two research projects under the AWHSRI: a GIA to Dr. Jacqueline Saw for work in SCAD (spontaneous coronary artery dissection), and a New Investigator award to Dr. Margaret Davenport for work on maternal-fetal health outcomes.

We need your input - Call for nominations!

Nominations for the remaining four MCA council co-chair positions

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We're pleased to kick-start the formation of the remaining four MCA councils. With the announcement that Dr. Sandra Black has accepted the research co-chair position for the vascular cognitive impairment council, we look forward to your input on the following:

- **Research and community co-chair nominations for councils:**
 - Coronary artery and other vascular disease
 - Heart rhythm
 - Structural heart disease
- **Community co-chair nomination for:**
 - Vascular cognitive impairment

Nominations for general council membership

We're also excited to take nominations for members to join each of the MCA councils. We are looking for a broad spectrum of members with a variety of skills and experience. Consistent attributes are a passion for our cause and the ability to provide input into the councils' advice on where and how H&S can make the best contribution in fighting our diseases, given our core competencies and strategic priorities. [Click here](#) to find more detail on the composition and skillsets desired for the councils.

To submit your nominations for co-chairs and general council membership, please [click here](#). **The nomination deadline is August 11, 2017.**

Next steps

Our plan is to hold a joint meeting of all council co-chairs in January 2018, and these leaders will provide input into Heart & Stroke's strategy renewal work as part of the annual CoMPASS meeting. The inaugural meetings of the councils will then occur over winter and spring of 2018, starting with stroke and heart failure councils.

Thank you for your ongoing input, commitment and dedication to the health of Canadians. Please share your feedback by emailing us at research@heartandstroke.ca.

Mary Lewis
Chief Mission & Research Officer

Mary Elizabeth Harriman
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Exchange

