



PRESS RELEASE

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Canadian Journal of Cardiology Publishes Recommendations on Genetic Testing In Evaluation of Inherited Cardiac Arrhythmias

Guidelines result of collaboration between Canadian Cardiovascular Society and Canadian Heart Rhythm Society

Philadelphia, PA, March 29, 2011 – The Canadian Cardiovascular Society and Canadian Heart Rhythm Society have produced the first-ever comprehensive guidelines on the use of genetic testing in the clinical management of inherited heart rhythm disorders, released in the March/April issue of the *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* (<http://www.onlinecjc.ca/>) published by Elsevier. The guidelines, entitled “Recommendations for the Use of Genetic Testing in the Clinical Evaluation of Inherited Cardiac Arrhythmias Associated with Sudden Cardiac Death,” were chaired by Dr. Michael Gollob of the Ottawa Heart Institute, and involved a committee of adult and pediatric arrhythmia specialists, genetic counselors, and a bioethicist.

The guidelines highlight the appropriate use of genetic testing in the management of patients and their family members affected by a variety of genetic conditions of the heart that may promote dangerous heart arrhythmias. Dr. Gollob emphasizes that “the rapid evolution of genetic knowledge gained from research over the last few decades has now imparted a very practical role in the care of patients and their families who may harbour these conditions.” However, according to Dr. Gollob, “Decisions to proceed with genetic testing should not be taken lightly, and these guidelines are meant to ensure that ordering physicians have a clear understanding of the ethical issues and when genetic information may or may not be helpful.”

“Genetic tests are becoming ever more available, and we are now even seeing them being marketed directly to the public,” comments Stanley Nattel, M.D., Editor-in-Chief of the *Canadian Journal of Cardiology*. “The Canadian Cardiovascular Society has recognized a need for clear guidelines on the use of such tests, particularly when it comes to such important and emotionally charged conditions as potentially lethal heart rhythm disorders, and charged a committee of experts to come up with practical recommendations. The detailed report containing these recommendations is published in the current issue of the *Canadian Journal of Cardiology*. This report, the first of its kind in the literature, will provide important guidance to physicians and other medical personnel dealing with such issues.”

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About the *Canadian Journal of Cardiology*

The *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* (www.onlinecjc.ca) is the official journal of the [Canadian Cardiovascular Society](http://www.ccs.ca/). It is a vehicle for the international dissemination of new knowledge in cardiology and cardiovascular science, particularly serving as a major venue for the results of Canadian cardiovascular research and Society guidelines. The Journal publishes original reports of clinical and basic research relevant to cardiovascular medicine as well as editorials, review articles, case reports, and papers on health outcomes, policy research, ethics, medical history, and political issues affecting practice.

About the Editor-in-Chief

Editor-in-Chief Stanley Nattel, MD, FRSC, FRCPC, FACC, FHRS, is Paul-David Chair in

Cardiovascular Electrophysiology and Professor of Medicine at the University of Montreal and Director of the Electrophysiology Research Program at the Montreal Heart Institute Research Center.

About the Canadian Cardiovascular Society

The Canadian Cardiovascular Society is the professional association for Canadian cardiovascular physicians and scientists working to promote cardiovascular health and care through knowledge translation, professional development, and leadership in health policy. The CCS provides programs and services to its 1900+ members and others in the cardiovascular community, including guidelines for cardiovascular care, the annual Canadian Cardiovascular Congress, and, with the Canadian Cardiovascular Academy, programs for trainees. More information about the CCS and its activities can be found at www.ccs.ca.

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