

Role of Canadian Critical Care Trials Group for COVID-19

Robert A. Fowler

H. Barrie Fairley Professor of Critical Care at the University Health Network Sunnybrook Hospital, Interdepartmental Division of Critical Care Medicine, University of Toronto

The Canadian Critical Care Trials Group (CCCTG) was created in 1989 to improve the care of critically ill adults and children through investigator-initiated research, and to provide a national forum for continuing education about research methods. Over the past 33 years, the CCCTG has grown to become a pan-Canadian partnership of over 400 inter-professional members, patient partners, clinical and translational scientists, health care professionals, research coordinators and trainees - at all major healthcare centers across Canada. We have subsequently mentored and collaborated with many other global research networks. The CCCTG has also been at the forefront of outbreak-related research since Canada's experience with SARS and served a supportive and catalyst role for global pandemic preparedness and research initiatives such as the International Forum of Acute Care Trialists (InFACT) and the International Severe Acute Respiratory and Emerging Infection Consortium (ISARIC). Our members work in active collaboration with the World Health Organization on COVID-19 clinical practice, knowledge synthesis and guidelines committees. During COVID-19, we have served as the coordinating organization for a Canadian Institutes of Health Research-funded COVID-19 Network of Clinical Trials' Networks and have supported a number of COVID-19 related platform clinical trials and studies including: the Canadian Treatments for COVID-19 (CATCO) trial in conjunction with the World Health Organization Solidarity Trial; the Randomised, Embedded, Multi-factorial, Adaptive Platform (REMAP) Trial; the Antithrombotic Therapy to Ameliorate Complications of COVID-19 (ATTACC); Lessening Organ Dysfunction With VITamin C in COVID (LOVIT-COVID) trial; convalescent plasma in COVID-19 trial; Convalescent Plasma for COVID-19 Research (CONCOR-1); SedAting With Volatile Anesthetics Critically III COVID-19 Patients in ICU: Effects On Ventilatory Parameters And Survival (SAVE- ICU); and the Host Response Mediators in Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection - Is There a Protective Effect of Losartan on Outcomes of Coronavirus Infection? (ARBs CORONA II); among others. Members are conducting long-term follow up studies of patients with COVID-19, including the Canadian COVID-19 Prospective Cohort Study (CANCOV); investigating the influence of rehabilitation in survivors of critical illness after discharge from the intensive care unit (REVIVE), and investigating the impact of COVID-19 health system policies on patients and their families.