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Hospital/Research Institution: Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre/Sunnybrook Research Institute
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Field of Research (2 keywords): Stroke, Vascular Cognitive Impairment
Department: Medicine

School of Graduate Studies Appointment (IMS, LMP, IHPME etc)? Yes/No: YES
If YES, please name: IMS

Project Title:
Recurrent stroke after TIA: Have we succeeded in bending the curve?

Brief Project Description (<300 words):
Background: Transient ischemic attack (TIA) may be a high-risk warning sign predicting a recurrent stroke, with an up-to 10% 90-day risk, much of which accrues in the first 48 hours. Implementing systematic stroke prevention assessments and interventions (e.g. early anti-platelet therapy, screening for carotid artery atherosclerosis and facilitating urgent carotid endarterectomy) can significantly reduce stroke recurrence after TIA. Over the last 15 years, protocols for screening and treatment of high-risk TIA’s have been implemented in many areas of Canada.

Objectives: Has modern management of TIA improved results over the past 10-15 years?

Approach: Using data from the hospital discharge abstract database (DAD) housed at the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) we will examine rates of recurrent stroke after TIA rates, across provinces, to see whether event rates have been reduced, whether there are differences across ages and sexes, and whether recurrence rates have been affected differently between different stroke systems.

Sunnybrook Stroke Research Unit: Medical students will be exposed to a rich lab environment, where, in addition to their specific area of research, there will be opportunity to attend various Neuroscience rounds, shadow neurologists in clinic and on the inpatient unit. Additional research projects could be supported based on student interest. In addition, Stroke research at Sunnybrook is an environment filled with students of all levels and experiences, in addition to clinical, allied health and administrative staff, who are familiar with supporting medical students. The successful candidate will work in close proximity and meet frequently with their supervisor, Dr. Rick Swartz and his research team.