Morning Sessions: Small and Medium Vessel Vasculitis
(All vasculitis patients except those noted for the afternoon sessions!)
*VFC reserves the right to make program changes as may be necessary

9:00AM – 9:15AM
Welcome and Introductions

9:15AM - 9:35AM
ONE
Ramzi Fattouh, PhD. Clinical Microbiology Trainee, Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, ON.

Dr Fattouh is Dr. Mazzulli’s research assistant and will give us an update on last fall’s research funded by VF Canada, on Vasculitis and the infection connection. Two studies are underway, one to confirm a report linking Giant Cell Arteritis with the bacteria Burkholderia, and a second study using PCR-DNA lab techniques on a group of GPA (Wegener’s) patients.
**9:35AM - 9:55AM**

**Dr. Katherine Siminovitch, M.D., FRCP(C), Professor of Medicine, Rheumatologist, Geneticist, Senior Investigator at the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute of Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, ON. Frequent speaker to VF Canada!**

Dr. Siminovitch, will update us on the results of her GPA (Wegener’s), DNA study, that was originally organized and funded by VF Canada in the spring of 2001. She'll review why the underlying disease genetics is so important in GPA (wegener’s), and will speak about the direction of her research and what happened in the last year of her ongoing research and how it is expanding and progressing! If we are at the “end of the beginning”, to quote a famous person, what’s next? Lots, as you’ll hear!

**9:55AM - 10:55AM (This presentation includes 15 minutes plus for Q&A)**

**Carol A. Langford, MD, MHS, Harold C. Schott Endowed Chair in Rheumatologic and Immunologic Disease, Director, Center for Vasculitis Care and Research, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH. First time speaker to VF Canada!**

Dr. Langford’s work focuses on patient care and research in vasculitic diseases. From 1994-2004 she was a senior investigator within the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland. Since 2004, she has been the Director of the Center for Vasculitis Care and Research at Cleveland Clinic. In this session, she will review the features of small and medium vessel vasculitis (primarily GPA, MPA, EGPA, PAN & KD), and the treatment options, including the use of biologic agents. She will also offer her opinion on how to achieve the best disease outcomes, how to stay in remission and the role that monitoring plays in achieving these outcomes.

**10:55AM – 11:30AM**

**Morning Break with the Doctors**
11:30AM – 12:30PM (This presentation includes 15 minutes plus for Q&A)
Susan E. Abbey, M.D. FRCP(C), Psychiatrist-in-Chief University Health Network, Professor in Psychiatry at U of T, Toronto, ON. First time speaker to VF Canada!

Dr. Susan Abbey is a psychiatrist with particular interests in the emotional aspects of physical illness, and the physical and emotional impact of stress. And, vasculitis patients might just be able to relate to this! Getting a vasculitis diagnosis has very real physical impacts and presents challenges in coping with a chronic and potentially life threatening disease. She has collaborated in research activities related to the development of coping tools related to mindfulness and the impact of mindfulness training on self-care in lupus and hypertension. When asked about her job satisfaction, she is quoted as saying “I care for patients and families in the Multi-Organ Transplant Program, the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre and the Critical Care Units. They are the most extraordinary people showing tremendous courage in facing their medical challenges.”

12:30PM – 12:40PM
Wrap-up and Good Bye

12:40PM – 1:15PM
Lunch Break
(Lunch is not provided but the Food Court will be open on the Main Floor!)
**Afternoon Sessions: Large and Variable Vessel Vasculitis**  
(Behcet’s, Cogan’s Takayasu arteritis and Giant cell arteritis patients only)  
*VFC reserves the right to make program changes as may be necessary

1:15PM – 1:30PM  
**Afternoon Introduction**

**F** 1:30PM – 1:50PM *(This presentation includes 5 minutes for Q&A)*  
Katherine Siminovitch, M.D., FRCP(C), Professor of Medicine, Rheumatologist, Geneticist, Senior Investigator at the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute of Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, ON.

**E** Dr. Siminovitch has been studying the underlying DNA/genetics of one form of vasculitis, GPA (Wegener’s), since 2001 and is a leading researcher in this unique area. With assistance from VF Canada, and vasculitis patients, she is now expanding her research to start collecting DNA on all vasculitic diseases and has agreed to conduct a small comparison study similar to her GPA work, on Behcet’s (BD), and Giant cell arteritis (GCA), pending a minimum 100 patient enrolment. She’ll explain the process and why these additional studies are necessary to enhance our understanding of vasculitic diseases in general, and what we can expect to learn. We’ll also learn why she has summarized her research with a famous quote: “this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.”

1:50PM – 2:50PM *(This presentation includes 15 minutes plus for Q&A)*  
Carol A. Langford, MD, MHS, Harold C. Schott Endowed Chair in Rheumatologic and Immunologic Disease, Director, Center for Vasculitis Care and Research, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH. First time speaker to VF Canada!

Dr. Langford’s work focuses on patient care and research in vasculitic diseases. From 1994-2004 she was a senior investigator within the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland. Since 2004, she has been the Director of the Center for Vasculitis Care and Research at Cleveland Clinic. In this session, she will review the clinical features and treatment of Behcet’s disease, Cogan’s syndrome, Giant cell arteritis, and Takayasu arteritis. She
will also offer her opinion on how to achieve the best disease outcomes, how to stay in remission and the role that monitoring plays in achieving these outcomes.

2:50PM – 3:15PM
*Afternoon Break with the Doctors*

3:15PM – 4:15PM (*This presentation includes 15 minutes plus for Q&A*)
Susan E. Abbey, M.D. FRCP(C), Psychiatrist-in-Chief University Health Network, Professor in Psychiatry at U of T, Toronto, ON. First time speaker to VF Canada!

Dr. Susan Abbey is a psychiatrist with particular interests in the emotional aspects of physical illness, and the physical and emotional impact of stress. And, vasculitis patients might just be able to relate to this! Getting a vasculitis diagnosis has very real physical impacts and presents challenges in coping with a chronic and potentially life threatening disease. She has collaborated in research activities related to the development of coping tools related to mindfulness and the impact of mindfulness training on self-care in lupus and hypertension. When asked about her job satisfaction, she is quoted as saying “I care for patients and families in the Multi-Organ Transplant Program, the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre and the Critical Care Units. They are the most extraordinary people showing tremendous courage in facing their medical challenges.”

4:15PM – 4:25PM
*Wrap-up and Good Bye*

---

Mark your Calendars! 2015 Meeting Dates (Saturday’s)

| AGM -April 18 | Walk/Picnic-June 20 | Fall Meeting-October 24 |

To become a member, or make a donation, please visit: www.vasculitis.ca
Follow us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/Vasc.Canada
Follow us on Twitter! www.twitter.com/@Vasculitis_CND

* Vasculitis Foundation Canada * Foundation Vasculites Canada *
Suite 446, 425 Hespler Road, Cambridge, Ontario N1R 8J6
1 877 572-9474 * contact@vasculits.ca * www.vasculitis.ca
Care 🌺 Control 🌺 Cause 🌺 Cure