

BC Resuscitation Sciences Symposium Showcases Advances in Post-Cardiac Arrest Brain Injury Care



Vancouver, BC - May 28, 2024 – The BC Resuscitation Sciences Symposium, themed "Evaluating, Managing & Assessing Post-Cardiac Arrest Brain Injury," was a tremendous success. The event saw enthusiastic participation from an interdisciplinary audience, with around 200 in-person attendees and more than 180 virtual participants. The symposium aimed to spotlight emerging research on post-cardiac arrest brain injury and foster collaborative research across various institutions and disciplines.

The event was a collaborative effort between the Critical Care BC, Collaborative Entity for Researching Brain Ischemia (CEREBRI Research Cluster), and the Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) and University of British Columbia (UBC) Hospital Foundation. Held at VGH's Paetzold Auditorium, the symposium featured insightful presentations, lively discussions, and debates on topics such as post-cardiac arrest thermal regulation and the efficacy of Veno-Arterial ECMO for cardiac arrest. Travel grants, provided through a Michael Smith Health Research BC REACH

Award, enabled attendees from regional and rural areas to participate, promoting broader knowledge dissemination and capacity-building within BC's research and healthcare communities.

Drs. Sekhon and Hoiland, co-leads of CEREBRI, alongside Mr. Ben Ridout, Executive Director of Critical Care BC, kicked off the event with a warm welcome. Elder Dennis Joseph then delivered a poignant welcome and land acknowledgment, setting a respectful and inclusive tone for the day.

The morning keynote, delivered by Professor Robert Neumar from the University of Michigan, covered the pathophysiology of post-cardiac arrest brain injury and was moderated by Professor Jim Christenson. This comprehensive overview set a high standard for the day's subsequent sessions.

A standout session was the pro-con debate on "Normothermia vs. Hypothermia after Cardiac Arrest," featuring Dr. Srin Murthy and Dr. Damon Scales from the University of Toronto and moderated by Dr. Donald Griesdale. This debate sparked significant interest and discussion among the attendees.

Research trainee Mr. Connor Howe from UBC's Okanagan campus presented his work on "The Physiology of Environmental Hypothermia," with moderation by Dr. Anish Mitra and Dr. Andrew Wormsbecker. This was followed by a session on cerebral ischemia, where Dr. Veronica Hirsch-Reinshagen, Professor Cheryl Wellington, Dr. Peter Gooderham, and Dr. Chris Fordyce shared insights on various aspects of assessment and management. Topics included "Clinicopathologic correlations in the EVALUATE study," "Biomarkers for assessing acute neurological injury," "Neurosurgical insights for ischemic brain disease," and "Updates in Neuroprognostication of Post-Cardiac Arrest." This session was moderated by Dr. Ryan Hoiland and Dr. Harry Brar.

The lunch break offered a prime networking opportunity for researchers, clinicians, students, and patient partners. As the first provincial in-person critical care conference since the COVID-19 pandemic, it also included virtual attendance, ensuring accessibility across the province.

In the afternoon, Professor Jerry Nolan from the University of Bath, UK, delivered a keynote on strategies for airway management and vascular access during cardiac arrest, moderated by Dr. Sekhon. This was followed by a session on perspectives from patients, caregivers, and healthcare providers on cerebral ischemia, moderated by Dr. Ruth Mac Redmond and Ms. Sybil Hoiss. Presentations included "Survivorship Post-Cardiac Arrest" by Dr. Katie Dainty, "Perspectives from rural and remote communities" by Dr. Scot Mountain, "My sister's recovery following cardiac arrest" by Ms. Carmen Choi, and "ICU Survivorship - Patient Stories" by Lara Gurney, offering a well-rounded view of the impact of brain injuries.

The final presentation by Professor Theresa Olasveengen from the University of Oslo, Norway, provided insights on personalizing and simplifying clinical care for post-cardiac arrest patients. Moderated by Dr. Vinay Dhingra, this session sparked a discussion on the current state of clinical trials in post-cardiac arrest research.

The symposium was well-received, with high praise for the quality of presentations, the expertise of the speakers, and the opportunities for interdisciplinary dialogue. The event underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in advancing the understanding and treatment of post-cardiac arrest brain injury, paving the way for future innovations in critical care.

Overall, the BC Resuscitation Sciences Symposium successfully highlighted the latest research and clinical practices, reinforcing PHSA's role as a hub for medical excellence and innovation in critical care.

BC RESUSCITATION SCIENCES SYMPOSIUM
Evaluating, Managing & Assessing Post-Cardiac Arrest Brain Injury

Hosted by: Collaborative Entity for Researching Brain Ischemia & Critical Care BC



Date: May 28, 2024

Location: Vancouver General Hospital Paetzold Auditorium

Schedule

Welcome Address - Drs. Sekhon / Hoiland (CEREBRI Co-Leads) &

Dr. Hussein Kanji and Mr. Ben Ridout (Critical Care BC)

Land Acknowledgement – Elder Dennis Joseph

Morning Keynote: “The Pathophysiology of Post-Cardiac Arrest Brain Injury”

Professor Robert Neumar, University of Michigan

Moderator: Prof. Jim Christenson

Pro-Con Debate: “Normothermia vs. Hypothermia after Cardiac Arrest”

Dr. Srin Murthy vs. Dr. Damon Scales (U of T)

Moderator: Dr. Donald Griesdale

Trainee Featured Presentation

“The physiology of environmental hypothermia” – **Mr. Connor Howe**

Moderator: Dr. Anish Mitra and Dr. Andrew Wormsbecker

Cerebral Ischemia – Approaches to Assessment and Management

Moderator: Dr. Ryan Hoiland and Dr. Harry Brar

“Clinicopathologic correlations in the EVALUATE study” – **Dr. Veronica Hirsch-Reinshagen**

“Biomarkers for assessing acute neurological injury” – **Prof. Cheryl Wellington**

“Neurosurgical insights for ischemic brain disease” – **Dr. Peter Gooderham**

“Updates in Neuroprognostication of Post-Cardiac Arrest” – **Dr. Chris Fordyce**

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Keynote: "Intra –Strategies for airway management and vascular access during cardiac arrest"

Dr. Jerry Nolan

University of Bath, UK

Moderator: Dr. Sekhon

Cerebral Ischemia – Patient, Caregiver and Healthcare Perspectives

Moderator: Dr. Ruth MacRedmond and Ms. Sybil Hoiss

"Survivorship Post-Cardiac Arrest" – **Dr. Katie Dainty** (U of T)

"Perspectives from rural and remote communities" – **Dr. Scot Mountain**

"My sister's recovery following cardiac arrest" – **Ms. Carmen Choi**

"ICU Survivorship - Patient Stories" – **Lara Gurney**

Pro-Con Debate: "Is Venous-Arterial ECMO the silver bullet for cardiac arrest"

Dr. Nicholas Johnson (U of Washington) **vs. Dr. Brian Grunau** (UBC) **vs. Dr. Sonny Thiara** (UBC)

Moderators: Dr. Gordon Finlayson and Ms. Amandeep Sidhu

Afternoon Keynote: "Balancing Simplification and Personalization of Post-Cardiac Arrest Care"

Dr. Theresa Olasveengen

University of Oslo, Norway

Moderator: Dr. Vinay Dhingra

Acknowledgements, Door Prizes & Wrap – Up

Dr. Sekhon and Dr. Hoiland