

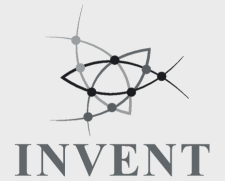
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# Annual Report

**2020-2021**

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Prepared by network administration | July 2021





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## A YEAR IN REVIEW: MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As we begin to make plans for our 2021–2022 year ahead, it's important to stop and reflect on where we are at, where we are going, and how we will get there.

This past year, our members, colleagues, and partners from across the globe have faced immense challenges in clinical research, venous thrombosis (VTE) related, and otherwise. However unlikely, these challenges **fostered new, timely collaborations for our network** while **highlighting the remaining gaps in international research**.

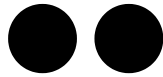
Like never before, thrombosis has been at the front and center of world news, making headlines as one of the main complications of COVID-19, and more recently, as a rare side effect of some COVID-19 vaccines. As an organization, led by our members, we pivoted our research efforts to address critical questions related to COVID-19. In addition to reaching some network milestones, including expanding our network to include China, **we endorsed two international COVID-19 VTE-related trials** that have led to important discoveries and facilitated the development of a **global scoping review of 20 randomized controlled trials**.

While we saw researchers come together in outstanding collaborative clinical research successes, the current research landscape has highlighted the glaring gaps in international clinical research more than ever – which has since opened the doors for important collaborations that are now underway.

This captures the INVENT-VTE Network's impact through the many challenges of 2020, its new opportunities forged along the way, and lays out the blueprint for the year ahead with a renewed optimism. We invite you to join us on our mission to strengthen the global research community.

**Grégoire Le Gal, M.D. Ph.D.**  
Chair of the Board of Directors





## **Purpose**

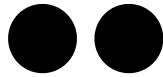
INVENT-VTE is an independent, not-for-profit network of academic research groups established on June 29, 2016 to promote international collaboration between academic research networks that conduct venous thromboembolism (VTE)-related clinical research, and to enhance the profile, science, and impact of investigator-led VTE clinical research.

## **Mission**

INVENT-VTE seeks to enable research by its member groups, rather than to supplant the activities of individual member groups, and to promote a global culture of curiosity, scientific rigor and social responsibility in the conduct of VTE clinical research.

## **Vision**

- Be the recognized international driver and accelerator for patient-oriented, investigator-initiated VTE clinical research.
- Be endorsed and supported by the leading scientific societies and top granting agencies worldwide.
- Be the key facilitator for international collaboration among VTE clinical investigators, including networking for young investigators.
- Be the leader in promoting the development of national VTE research networks.
- Identify key unanswered VTE clinical research questions and design/conduct the studies to answer them.



## Board of Directors

**Grégoire Le Gal, M.D. Ph.D.**  
Chair

**Fionnuala Ní Áinle, M.B. PhD.**  
Director-at-Large

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**Stavros Konstantinides, M.D. Ph.D.**  
Vice-Chair

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**Lisa Baumann Kreuziger, M.D. M.S.**  
Director-at-Large

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**Saskia Middeldorp, M.D. PhD.**  
Immediate Past-Chair

The Board of Directors (2020–2022) were elected by INVENT–VTE Council in July 2020 at the Annual General Meeting. Directors serve two-year terms.

## Administrative Officers

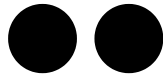
**Marc Rodger, M.D. M.S.c**  
Executive Director (Volunteer)

**Charlotte Guzman**  
Managing Director & Treasurer

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**Caleb MacGillivray**  
Secretary & Communications

The administrative officers are approved by the network's Board of Directors. All positions are part-time; paid positions are supported by member dues and partnership support.



## Council

INVENT-VTE is an international network of National VTE Research Networks that is guided by a governing Council who convene each year in early January and at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in July / August.

The Council consists of two representatives from **each member of INVENT-VTE** (seen below). Council elects the Board of Directors every two years at an AGM.

## INVENT-VTE Network Members

### Australia & New Zealand

THANZ



### Canada

CanVECTOR



### China

CURES Group



### France

INNoVTE



### Germany

CTH Mainz



### Ireland

INViTE



### Italy

TRIP



### Netherlands

DTN Network



### Norway

NorVECTOR



### U.S.A.

VENUS



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## **GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

In 2020-2021 we continued to work with our members, colleagues, network members, and partners to advance our strategic objectives!

Here are some of the objectives we set out for ourselves last year.

### **2020-2021 Strategic Goals: Overview**

- 1. Build brand equity by supporting high quality research**
- 2. Invest in activities to increase international research capacity**
- 3. Promote international research standardization efforts**
- 4. Revisit priorities & establish aspirations for 2020-2025**

**Continue reading below to learn more about how we worked towards reaching these objectives.**











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## GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Build brand equity by supporting high quality research

#### Kickstarter Awards

- Increased awards from \$15K (CAD) to \$20K (CAD).
- Held two competition: Fall 2020 and Spring 2021; awarded four studies in 2020-21:
  -   Dr. Erik Klok, Netherlands | Optimizing diagnosis of splanchnic vein thrombosis with MR direct thrombus imaging (**RHEA**)
  -   Dr. Saskia Middeldorp, Netherlands | Heavy menstrual bleeding in premenopausal women treated with direct oral anticoagulants (**MEDEA**)
  -   Dr. Menno Huisman, Netherlands | Safety and efficiency of the YEARS algorithm versus computer tomography pulmonary angiography alone for suspected pulmonary embolism in patients with malignancy (**HYDRA**)
  -   Dr. Aurélien Delluc, Canada | Statins for venous event reduction in patients with venous thromboembolism (**SAVER**)

#### Dragons' Den Competitions

- Held the 3rd annual competition in July 2020 in a virtual format; awarded a \$35K (CAD) top prize:
  -   Dr. Christine Baumgartner, Switzerland | Clinical surveillance vs. anticoagulation for low-risk patients with isolated subsegmental Pulmonary embolism (**SAFE-SSPE**)
- Increased top prize to \$40K (CAD); added new runner-up prize of \$20K (CAD) for direct investment into support for international collaboration of practice changing clinical VTE research studies.
- Launched the 4th annual competition for July 12, 2021.

#### Study Endorsement

- **Adopted changes to the network endorsement policy** to streamline review processes & better define acceptable types of studies to ensure endorsement of the highest quality of studies.
- Endorsed eight studies in 2020-21 including **two COVID-19 thrombosis-related clinical trials**.



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## GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Invest in activities to increase international research capacity

- Supported the development & growth of new national VTE research networks by **waiving new network membership fees** for two years to reduce barriers.
- Welcomed the **Chinese National VTE Research Network** (CURES Group) – the first non-European / North American network to join INVENT-VTE.
- Developed a new **Global Thrombosis Seminar Series** showcasing network research & initiatives to be launched in Summer 2021.
- Secured funding for a new **Fellowship Award program** to encourage collaboration between networks and researchers.

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### Promote international research standardization efforts

- Partnered with CanVECTOR to develop the **VERDICT Thrombosis Adjudication Platform** – developed and vigorously tested by leading VTE experts to be user-friendly and most of all, render the adjudication of clinical VTE events efficient and reliable. Six CanVECTOR studies have utilized the platform with outstanding performance.
- Helped lead the development & publication of standardized **Common Data Elements** with the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis to provide investigators with pre-defined clinical data elements to reduce study design time and enable meta-analyses across studies.
- Led a **scoping review of 20 randomized controlled trials of anticoagulant interventions in hospitalized patients with COVID-19** that fostered a collaboration with the **World Health Organization** to conduct a prospective meta-analysis of ongoing clinical trials to deliver critical results in rapid time. The next step includes an individual patient data meta-analysis of the trials.

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## GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Revisit priorities & establish aspirations for 2020-2025

- INVENT-VTE Council **revisited the 2015 organizational aspirations** at the Annual General Meeting in July 2020, ultimately strengthening the language and scope of the aspirations.
- Based on recommendations from the network's independent **External Advisory Board**, Council approved to undertake a 5-year strategic planning exercise beginning in mid-2021.



Read more below about our financial outlook for 2021-2022.



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## **FINANCIALS**

**TBD**

A conditional financial overview was submitted to Council by the Board of Directors at the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2021) and has since been approved at the 2021 Annual General Meeting . Upon receipt of the official 2021 financial statements, a financial overview will be made published in this report in Fall 2021.

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## FUTURE PLANS

In 2021 the network elected a new Board of Directors, hired a new Managing Director, and welcomed several new network member representatives to INVENT Council. **As the network evolves, so do our strategic priorities.**

Here are some of our plans for this 2021-2022.

### 2021-2022 Plans

1. Expand network membership to Africa & Latin America
2. Development of international clinical trial guidelines
3. Commercialization of the VERDICT Adjudication Platform
4. Explore collaborations with global Networks of Networks
5. Complete the 5-year strategic plan approved by Council
6. Continue to seek new partnerships (non-for-profit / industry)

Learn more about some of our plans below.



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## FUTURE PLANS

### Expand network membership to Africa & Latin America

- We will seek to expand our membership into Africa and Latin America so that the research studies we endorse and **the collaborations we enable allow for research outputs that are more diverse and generalizable on a world scale.**

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### Development of international clinical trial guidelines

- Our investments into helping investigators expand their research studies internationally has been incredibly positive, but the road to study start-up includes many administrative challenges. To meet this need, **we will work to develop a tool to provide country/region-specific guidelines for opening clinical research sites in the most efficient manner possible.**

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### Commercialization of the VERDICT Adjudication Platform

- Together with CanVECTOR , we will develop an agreement to commercialize the **VERDICT Adjudication Platform** – a user-friendly platform to adjudicate clinical VTE events – **with a special pricing plan exclusive to professionals that belong to INVENT's member networks.**

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## FUTURE PLANS

### Explore collaborations with global Networks of Networks

- The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of global collaborations, quick mobilization, and the need of innovative and responsive clinical research studies. **INVENT will explore how to work with other established international research networks** with the goal of increasing investment and support into these research structures and joint ventures.

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### Complete the 5-year strategic plan approved by Council

- 2020-2021 marked 5 years since the INVENT-VTE Network's creation. With a newly elected Board of Directors, change in management and evolving needs of our membership, **it is an opportune time for INVENT to reflect on its strategic plan to guide us over the next 5 years.**

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### Continue to seek new partnerships (non-for-profit / industry)

- We are continuously seeking for productive partnerships with organizations that share our vision and believe in our mission. As INVENT evolves as an organization, **we are interested in diversifying our partnerships, in hopes of increasing our reach and impact across the globe.**

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## PARTNERS

The impact and success of the network would not be possible without the generous contributions of our industry partners . Their support of international collaboration in clinical VTE Research is essential to continuing our work.

**Thank you to your partners for their longstanding support.**

### BMS-PFIZER ALLIANCE



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### LEO PHARMA

