The INVENT network was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation in Canada on June 29th, 2016. The corporate name is INVENT-VTE, and the corporation number is 981074-9. The Bylaws which guide network operations were updated in the first half of 2019 in consultation with a lawyer with expertise in not-for-profit corporations, to ensure compliance with applicable regulations and laws. INVENT’s Council approved the new Bylaws at the annual meeting in July 2019.

**Network Leadership**

The updated Bylaws assigned new titles to the elected members of INVENT’s leadership. All members of the Executive Committee that had been elected in July 2018 were elected in July 2019 to the Board of Directors, with the following titles:

- **Chair:** Saskia Middeldorp (Netherlands)
- **Vice-Chair:** Gregoire Le Gal (Canada)
- **Past-Chair:** Marc Rodger (Canada)
- **Director-at-large:** Per Morten Sandset (Norway)
- **Director-at-large:** Timothy Brighton (Australia)

The next election for 2-year terms for the Vice-Chair and Director-at-large positions will be held at the annual meeting in July 2020. At that time, the Chair position will be assumed by the current Vice-Chair and the current Chair will become the Past-Chair.

**Administrative Officers**

The titles of the corporation’s administrative staff were also revised in the updated Bylaws and their responsibilities were clarified.

The following administrative officers were approved by INVENT’s Board of Directors and Council in July 2019. All positions are part-time; paid positions are supported by member dues and partnership support.

- **Executive Director** (unpaid position): Marc Rodger
- **Managing Director:** Nicole Langlois
- **Treasurer:** Sari Kline
- **Secretary:** Caleb MacGillivray

**External Partnerships and Advisory Board**

In 2019, INVENT welcomed Professor Michael Makris as the Chair of the External Advisory Board (EAB). He presided over two meetings, a teleconference and an in-person meeting held in Melbourne on July 10th. EAB members include representatives from partner organizations and other stakeholders, including patient-led and patient-focused groups with an interest in increasing VTE awareness and advocacy. The EAB made 5 main recommendations to INVENT’s Council and Board of Directors:

1. Establish a 5-year strategic plan to clearly define goals and set targets.
2. Focus on growing by securing additional funding and investing as much as possible in programs, network tools, and communications.
3. Develop a communication & marketing plan to promote the network, accomplishments, competitions, and overall brand.
4. Offer travel awards for trainees in member networks to do short-term training in other networks.
5. Explore the idea of becoming a charitable organization to help raise funds from non-industry partners.
Be the international leader in promoting the development of national VTE networks

Aspiration

Membership

Annual dues of $2,500 per national network were approved by Council. All individuals who are members of national networks that belong to the INVENT network are eligible to be Professional Members of INVENT at no additional cost. A new Professional Membership registration process was developed and implemented in the Fall and invitations were sent to members of national networks via their Council Representatives.

Membership Growth

INVENT has 9 national venous thromboembolism (VTE) network members that pay annual membership dues.

INViTE is the newest network to join; their application was unanimously approved at the January 2019 Council Meeting and INViTE representatives participated in the annual meeting in July.

In the past year, INVENT has seen an increase in inquiries from researchers in non-member countries, including Singapore, Israel, China, Spain, Sweden, and Egypt.

The Board of Directors has approved a coordinated approach to responding to these inquiries, including offering several options for ongoing dialogue with INVENT staff, leaders, and current members.

Current National VTE Network Members

- CanVECTOR: Canadian Venous Thromboembolism Clinical Trials and Outcomes Research, Canada
- CTH: Center for Thrombosis and Hemostasis, Mainz, Germany
- DTN: Dutch Thrombosis Network, The Netherlands
- INNOVTE: The Investigation Network on Venous Thrombo-Embolism, France
- INViTE: The Irish Network for Venous Thromboembolism Research
- NorVECTOR: The Norwegian Venous Thrombosis Network, Norway
- THANZ: Thrombosis & Haemostasis society of Australia and New Zealand
- TRIP: Thrombosis Research Italian Partnership, Italy
- VENUS: Venous Thromboembolism Network U.S., United States
An outline for a more formal communication about how to build and grow a national thrombosis research network has been drafted with the intention to write a manuscript on the topic in 2020. Input will be sought from members of new and developing networks as well as those in more established national networks.

**PROMOTION**

**INVENT Branding**

The network uses social media - predominately Twitter, to promote network activities, achievements, and milestones and recruitment updates for endorsed studies. The network now has over 700 Followers - a 27 percent increase since the Dragons’ Den Competition in Melbourne, Australia at ISTH 2019.

The network also invested into a professional website, launched in June 2019, allowing it to be showcased and promoted in-person at ISTH 2019 at our Annual General Meeting, Dragons’ Den Competition, Council and EAB meetings, and at our Booth.

**Study Promotion and Acceleration**

INVENT has now endorsed 15 studies that are in various phases of completion. These studies are promoted by INVENT through various media, including in-person at the INVENT booth in Melbourne (ISTH congress), on our website, and through social media (Twitter).

**Endorsed Studies By Stage**

- **Development**: PEITHO III; Pilot PARTUM; TILE; REDUCE
- **Recruiting**: VERDICT; RIVASVT-100; RENOVE; Highlow; ALIFE2; ADJUST-DVT; RHEA; COBRA
- **Follow-up or Analysis**: PLATO-VTE; SAVER Pilot
- **Completed**: THEIA
STUDY SUPPORT

In addition to providing networking opportunities and promoting endorsed studies, INVENT Council is in favour of providing funding that will facilitate international collaboration for INVENT-endorsed academic studies.

**Dragons' Den Competition**

The network launched a call for applications in April 2019 and received 9 applications from investigators in 8 countries. The applications were peer reviewed and 3 investigators were selected for participation in the competition to convince the Dragons and the audience to support their study. Dr. Leslie Skeith was selected as the winner of the International Collaboration Grant for the **Pilot Partum Trial: Postpartum Aspirin to Reduce Thromboembolism Undue Morbidity (PARTUM)**.

The presenters received oral feedback about their studies from the Dragons and all applicants were provided with written feedback based on the review by Council Members who considered the studies for endorsement. Importantly, two of the investigators who participated were early in their careers; one was a PhD student and the other had become an independent investigator in the last year. Many of their early career peers attended both to provide support and learn from the protocol strengthening opportunity, and to network with the INVENT community.

**Kickstarter Awards**

The Kickstarter Awards were first launched in 2019 and two open competitions were held. These awards are intended to provide a small grant to cover "launch costs" to expand an endorsed study to another country. Pairs of investigators from two INVENT countries apply jointly to this opportunity. Three applications were approved, enabling endorsed studies (ADJUST-DVT, REDUCE, COBRRA) to expand recruitment to France, the Netherlands, and Australia. Two of the successful principal investigators were early career investigators.

**LEVERAGING INVENT SUPPORT**

INVENT funding to enable new collaborations has provided impetus and advantage to secure additional funding:

- A joint grant application between COBRRA investigators in Australia and Canada was awarded over $1 million from the Australian Government.
- The new ADJUST-DVT study team in France was able to secure local funding to support patient enrollment after receiving an INVENT Kickstarter Award.

Be the key facilitator for international collaboration among VTE clinical investigators, including networking for young investigators.

INVENT NETWORK

ASPIRATION

PAGE 04
COLLABORATIONS

Identify key unanswered VTE clinical research questions and design/conduct the studies to answer them

James Lind Alliance

The CanVECTOR Network has engaged with the James Lind Alliance and is in the process of conducting a Priority Setting Partnership (PSP). The purpose of this partnership is to enable patients, carers and clinicians to come together on an equal footing to identify research questions, and then to prioritise these. The results of this initiative are expected in the first half of 2020 and will be communicated to the INVENT community so that the priority areas that were identified in Canada can be considered for their international relevance. Going forward, this can be used to guide the research agenda of INVENT investigators.

International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH)

INVENT’s Chair, Vice-Chair, and many members participated in the Steering Committee and Working Groups of an ISTH-led initiative to create common research data standards for VTE clinical research throughout the world. A team of 50 experts identified core data elements throughout 2019, ending in an open public comment period that opened on December 11. INVENT communicated with members and encouraged participation by all members during this phase. The common data elements (CDEs) will be finalized in 2020 and will become available to INVENT researchers and other VTE investigators. Adoption of the CDEs will accelerate and elevate clinical research around the world.

We are pleased to now have ISTH representation through our External Advisory Board. ISTH has provided valuable advice and in-kind support of meeting space and resources to enable our activities. Our network’s main networking and promotional activities have always occurred alongside the ISTH Annual Congress and SSC meetings.
2020: PLANS FOR YEAR 4

**Continue building brand equity by supporting high quality research**
- Promote and Award studies answering unmet medical needs
- Hold a third and fourth Kickstarter Awards Competition (April / September 2020)
- Hold a third Dragon’s Den Competition (July 2020)

**Revisit 2015 priorities and establish aspirations for 2020-2025**
- Implement our new focused communications plan to increase awareness of our network and endorsed studies
- Target research priority areas that were identified by clinicians and patients in the James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership
- Seek continued partnership support to continue working towards achieving our aspirations

**Invest in activities to increase international research capacity**
- Support development and growth of new national VTE research networks
- Create opportunities for trainees/early career investigators (fellowship exchange, start-up funds, networking)

**Promote international research standardization efforts**
- Create tools incorporating new Common Data Elements, developed with ISTH
- Leverage proprietary online platforms, including adjudication platform

**INVENT**