

# **Annual Report of the Inhibitor Subcommittee of the AHCDC**

## **April 2008**

The members of the Inhibitor Subcommittee are Jerry Teitel (Chair), Manuel Carcao, David Lillicrap, Georges Rivard, and Irwin Walker. Morel Rubinger, a former active member of AHCDC, is no longer involved in hemophilia care; he therefore resigned from the Subcommittee after completing his lead role in the project looking at inhibitor incidence after switching from Kogenate to Kogenate-FS, and publishing the results<sup>1</sup>. This paper is considered to be a follow up to the paper published by the subcommittee after the original switch from plasma-derived to recombinant and monoclonal factor VIII<sup>2</sup>; it has already drawn a great deal of attention from a number of sources, including members of the Factor VIII and IX Subcommittee of the SSC of the ISTH.

The Subcommittee has drafted guidelines for orthopedic surgery in inhibitor patients. Dr. Jean Saint-Louis assisted in this project, as did two of our physiotherapist colleagues (Kathy Mulder and Nichan Zourikian) and an orthopedic surgeon from McMaster University (Dr. Frank Smith). This manuscript has been submitted for publication, and the data were presented at the Novo Nordisk Hemostasis Symposium in Barcelona in late 2007 by Dr. Teitel, on behalf of the Subcommittee and the AHCDC.

The Subcommittee, with Dr. Lillicrap as Principal Investigator, successfully submitted a research grant application to the Canadian Hemophilia Society for a 2-year project titled "An evaluation of the functional significance of non-neutralizing antibodies to factor VIII". The amount of the award is \$99,978. This project will involve further inhibitor analysis of samples previously sent for Bethesda inhibitor assays, with patient consent, to determine the prevalence and significance of non-inhibitory anti-FVIII antibodies. Although the facility at Queen's University is no longer funded as a national inhibitor laboratory for analysis of routine samples, it will be the site for the laboratory testing for this project.

The Subcommittee is surveying AHCDC members regarding their experience with immune tolerance induction using VWF-containing FVIII concentrates. Dr. Rivard is leading this survey on behalf of the Subcommittee.

<sup>1</sup> Rubinger M, Lillicrap D, Rivard GE, Teitel J, Carcao M, Hensman C, Walker I; Association of Hemophilia Clinic Directors of Canada. *Haemophilia*. 2008 Mar;14(2):281-6.

<sup>2</sup> Giles AR, Rivard G-E, Teitel JM, Walker I. Surveillance for factor VIII inhibitor development in the Canadian Hemophilia A population following the widespread introduction of recombinant factor VIII replacement therapy. *Transfus Sci*. 1998 Jun;19(2):139-48.