



THE ONTARIO COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

A CHAPTER OF THE COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS OF CANADA

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO

August 25, 2004

Janusz Kaczorowski
Research Director
Department of Family Medicine
McMaster University
1200 Main Street West, HSC-2V12
Hamilton ON L8N 3Z5

Dear Professor Kaczorowski,

I am writing to indicate to you the Ontario College of Family Physicians' strong support for the *Community Cardiovascular Health Awareness Program (C-CHAP)* proposal being submitted to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research in September.

Hypertension is one of the key disorders that family physicians detect and treat and the physician's awareness of a patient's blood pressure and other cardiovascular risk factors is key to effective diagnosis and management. Cardiovascular health promotion initiatives that link volunteer-supported community-based programs with in-office patient care by family physicians are a promising approach to improve monitoring and management of high blood pressure among older adults.

The work thus far by the Hamilton-Ottawa team, on the *Community Hypertension Assessment Trial*, a randomized controlled trial of a multi-faceted intervention to provide feedback from pharmacy-based cardiovascular sessions to family physicians, and the *Cardiovascular Health Awareness Program*, a community-wide feasibility project, has demonstrated both the need and the potential of this type of program. As a member of the team working with the Heart and Stroke Foundation on Stroke Management and Stroke Prevention, I am very aware of the need for this project.

A larger trial is needed to examine the effect of the intervention at the community level. This is an opportunity for primary prevention of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. I look forward to working with you as you implement and evaluate the program in Ontario communities.

Sincerely,

Jan Kasperski, RN, MHSc, CHE
Executive Director and CEO