



September 1, 2004

Larry W. Chambers
President
Elisabeth Bruyere Research Institute
43 Bruyere Street
Ottawa ON K1N 5C8

Dear Professor Chambers,

I am writing to indicate to you VSM MedTech Ltd.'s strong support for the *Community Cardiovascular Health Awareness Program (C-CHAP)* proposal being submitted to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research in September. Our company is pleased to be the supplier of the BpTRU instruments to be used in the participating communities.

Cardiovascular health awareness is a major public health issue in Canada. The series of studies conducted by you and your colleagues is unique in that it is innovative, while at the same time including a strong evaluation component. CHAP builds on community partnerships such as public health units and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario in the prevention of chronic disease. The deployment of volunteers is a low cost approach and extends the work of health services as well as increasing community capacity by developing a cadre of informed volunteers. Partnership with pharmacists and family physicians to increase their 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 conducted in Grimsby and Brockville, has demonstrated both the need and the potential of this type of program.

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

Sincerely,

Mark Gelfer, MD