

Canadian-Led Global Type 2 Diabetes Mega-trials: The Effect of Novel Therapies on Diabetes- Related Serious Health Outcomes

Dr. Gerstein pioneered the application of large simple international outcomes trials to people with diabetes. Several of these global collaborations are coordinated and led by Canada. All have been designed to determine whether new or established therapies or therapeutic approaches can reduce or prevent heart attacks, strokes, death, kidney disease, eye disease, dementia, and other serious health problems in people with diabetes and/or in people at high risk for developing diabetes. Other collaborations are testing or have tested whether novel therapies can prevent or even reverse diabetes.

In addition, Dr. Gerstein has developed and popularized the concept of dysglycemia as a potential cause of the serious health outcomes that afflict people with a high glucose level regardless of whether they have diabetes. He has tested this possibility in his outcomes trials as well as in epidemiologic studies comprising thousands of patients; he has also collaborated with laboratory scientists to understand the reasons for this relationship. In addition to funding by the Canadian and US government, Dr. Gerstein has developed strong win-win collaborations with industry to create and translate knowledge that improves the lives of patients with diabetes while investing in Canada. His work and ideas have been published in more than 300 papers, chapters, editorials and commentaries on diabetes-related issues.

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