



2265 Upper Middle Road East, Suite 602  
Oakville, ON L6H 0G5, Canada

## **Cardiol Therapeutics Announces Study Results Confirm the Cardioprotective Role of its Pharmaceutical Cannabidiol Formulation in a Model of Heart Failure**

Data Accepted for Presentation at the American College of Cardiology Annual Meeting

**Oakville, ON – April 1, 2020 – Cardiol Therapeutics Inc. (TSX: CRDL; OTCQX: CRTPF)** (“Cardiol” or the “Company”), a leader in the production of pharmaceutical cannabidiol (CBD) and the development of innovative cannabidiol medicines for heart disease, is pleased to announce that data submitted by its international research collaborators were accepted for presentation at the American College of Cardiology’s (ACC) 69th Annual Scientific Session & Expo together with the World Congress of Cardiology, held virtually from March 28-30. All accepted abstracts will be subsequently published.

The effects of Cardiol’s pharmaceutically produced (cGMP) cannabidiol formulation were assessed in a model of non-ischemic heart failure. Heart failure was induced by four weeks of infusion of angiotensin II, a substance that produces hypertension, cardiac enlargement, and subsequent heart failure. Two dosages of Cardiol’s cannabidiol formulation (or placebo) were administered by subcutaneous injection every three days for four weeks. In addition, the effects of CBD on angiotensin-induced hypertrophy (cell enlargement) and expression of B-type Natriuretic Peptide (BNP) in a cardiac cell line (H9c2) were assessed. BNP is a substance released from stretched heart cells which is a widely used clinical indicator of the severity of heart failure.

The study found that Cardiol’s cannabidiol formulation significantly reduced hypertrophy and produced a dose-dependent reduction of key inflammation markers, decreases in fibrosis, and lower BNP expression. These findings confirm the anti-inflammatory and anti-fibrotic activity of Cardiol’s cannabidiol formulation in a model of heart failure. Moreover, the data show that cannabidiol reduced the amount of BNP released, thereby confirming the role of Cardiol’s cannabidiol formulation as a cardioprotective therapy.

Results from this study are supportive of the Company’s plans for its Phase 2 international trial in acute myocarditis, an inflammatory form of heart failure that represents a leading cause of sudden cardiac death in children and young adults. This planned study will investigate the Company’s pharmaceutically produced (cGMP), high concentration, pure cannabidiol formulation that is THC free (<5ppm), in up to 100 patients with acute myocarditis. These data also support Cardiol’s plans to develop its cannabidiol formulation for the treatment of chronic heart failure, which remains a leading cause of death and hospitalization in North America with associated annual healthcare costs in the U.S. alone exceeding \$30 billion.

“The data accepted for presentation at the ACC underscore the importance of Cardiol’s research initiatives aimed at developing novel therapeutic strategies to address the devastating consequences of heart failure,” stated David Elsley, President and CEO of Cardiol Therapeutics. “The data also support our long-standing view concerning the powerful anti-inflammatory, anti-fibrotic, and cardioprotective properties of pharmaceutically produced cannabidiol, and serve as an encouraging scientific foundation for our planned international trial in acute myocarditis.”

### **About Cardiol Therapeutics**

Cardiol Therapeutics Inc. (TSX: CRDL; OTCQX: CRTPF) is focused on producing pharmaceutical cannabidiol (CBD) products and developing innovative therapies for heart diseases, including acute myocarditis and other causes of heart failure. The Company’s lead product, CardiolRx™, is formulated to be the most consistent cannabidiol formulation on the market. CardiolRx is pharmaceutically produced, manufactured under cGMP, and is THC free (<5 ppm). The Company also plans to commercialize CardiolRx in the billion-dollar market for medicinal cannabinoids in Canada and is pursuing distribution opportunities in Europe and Latin America.

In heart failure, Cardiol is planning an international clinical study of CardiolRx in acute myocarditis, a condition caused by inflammation in heart tissue, which remains the most common cause of sudden cardiac death in people less than 35 years of age. The Company is also developing proprietary nanotechnology to uniquely deliver pharmaceutical cannabidiol and other anti-inflammatory drugs directly to sites of inflammation in the heart associated with heart failure. Heart failure is the leading cause of death and hospitalization in North America with associated annual healthcare costs in the U.S. alone exceeding \$30 billion. For further information about Cardiol Therapeutics, please visit [cardiolrx.com](http://cardiolrx.com).

### **For further information, please contact:**

David Elsley, President & CEO +1-289-910-0850  
[david.elsley@cardiolrx.com](mailto:david.elsley@cardiolrx.com)

Trevor Burns, Investor Relations +1-289-910-0855  
[trevor.burns@cardiolrx.com](mailto:trevor.burns@cardiolrx.com)

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*This news release contains “forward-looking information” within the meaning of applicable Canadian securities laws. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, that address activities, events or developments that Cardiol Therapeutics Inc. (“Cardiol”) believes, expects or anticipates will, may, could or might occur in the future are “forward- looking information”. Forward-looking information is frequently identified by the use of words such as “plans”, “expects”, “projects”, “intends”, “believes”, “anticipates”, “forecasts”, and other similar words and phrases, including variations (and negative variations) of such words and phrases, or may be identified by statements to the effect that certain actions, events or conditions “may”, “could”, “should”, “would”, or “will” be taken, occur or be achieved. Forward-looking information contained herein may include, but is not limited to, statements with respect to: future events; the future performance or the intended business strategy of Cardiol, including, but not limited to, the*

*plan to commercialize CardiolRx and the planning of an international clinical study of CardiolRx in acute myocarditis; the potential for Cardiol's licensed drug encapsulation and delivery technologies to enhance the bioavailability of pharmaceuticals; management's expectations regarding estimated future pharmaceutical research and development opportunities, collaborations and prospects; the success and proposed timing of Cardiol's product development activities; the ability of Cardiol to develop its product candidates; Cardiol's plans to research, discover, evaluate and develop additional products; Cardiol's proposed future collaborations to advance Cardiol's lead nanoformulations into clinical development; and the potential for Cardiol's cannabinoid-based products to provide sources of future revenue. Forward-looking information contained herein reflects the current expectations or beliefs of Cardiol based on information currently available to it and is subject to a variety of known and unknown risks and uncertainties and other factors that could cause the actual events or results to differ materially from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking information. These risks and uncertainties and other factors include that the success of Cardiol's product candidates will require significant capital resources and years of clinical development efforts; the results of clinical testing and trial activities of Cardiol's products; Cardiol's ability to obtain regulatory approval and market acceptance of its products; Cardiol's ability to raise capital and the availability of future financing; Cardiol's lack of operating history; unforeseeable deficiencies in the development of Cardiol's product candidates; uncertainties relating to the availability and costs of financing needed in the future for Cardiol's research and development initiatives; Cardiol's ability to manage its research, development, growth and operating expenses; the potential failure of clinical trials to demonstrate acceptable levels of safety and efficacy of Cardiol's product candidates; Cardiol's ability to retain key management and other personnel; risks related to fluctuations in medicinal cannabinoid markets in Canada and worldwide; uncertainties regarding Cardiol's ongoing collaborative and manufacturing partnerships; uncertainties regarding results of researching and developing products for human use; Cardiol competes in a highly competitive and evolving industry; Cardiol's ability to obtain and maintain current and future intellectual property protection; and other risks and uncertainties and factors. These risks, uncertainties and other factors should be considered carefully, and investors should not place undue reliance on the forward-looking information. Any forward-looking information speaks only as of the date on which it is made and, except as may be required by applicable securities laws, Cardiol disclaims any intent or obligation to update or revise such forward-looking information, whether as a result of new information, future events or results or otherwise. Although Cardiol believes that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking information are reasonable, they do involve certain assumptions, risks, and uncertainties and are not (and should not be considered to be) guarantees of future performance. It is important that each person reviewing this news release understands the significant risks attendant to the operations of Cardiol.*