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2025-2026 Annual Research Competition - Funding Decisions

DISCOVERY RESEARCH GRANTS

MS Canada is pleased to announce the funding decisions for the applications submitted to the 2025-2026 Annual Research Competition.

In total, **12 Discovery Research Grants** have been awarded as follows (listed in alphabetical order):

Principal Investigator	Institution	Project Title	*Approved Budget
Dr. Marcia Finlayson	Queen's University at Kingston	Evaluating an MS Rehabilitation ECHO® to prepare non-specialist occupational therapists and physiotherapists to provide evidence-based care to people with MS in Canada (MS Rehab ECHO)	$299,220.40
Dr. Nader Ghasemlou	Queen's University at Kingston	Cell-autonomous circadian rhythms control EAE pathophysiology	$300,000.00
Dr. Jennifer Gommerman	University of Toronto	Ascertaining the mechanism of action of BTKi in an animal model of MS	$300,000.00
Dr. Jack Greenblatt	University of Toronto	Using Epstein-Barr Virus/host synthetic genetic interactions to identify targets for the development of host-directed drugs to prevent or treat multiple sclerosis	$299,730.00
Dr. Marc Horwitz	University of British Columbia	Pre-clinical humanized mouse studies aimed at EBV to limit MS	$300,000.00
Dr. Steve Lacroix	Laval University	Identifying the role of proinflammatory cytokines in pain in multiple sclerosis	$300,000.00
Dr. Kei Masani	University Health Network	Innovative approaches to enhance balance and neuroplasticity in multiple sclerosis: evaluating the combined effects of transcutaneous spinal cord stimulation, functional electrical stimulation, and visual feedback balance training	$280,607.53
Dr. Michelle Ploughman	Memorial University of Newfoundland	Next-generation high-challenge motor tests to detect covert multiple sclerosis-related progression	$299,029.74
Dr. Alexandre Prat	Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal	The role of DICAM in the migration of pro-inflammatory myeloid cells into the CNS in MS	$300,000.00

Dr. Manu Rangachari	Laval University	Oxidative phosphorylation drives neuroinflammatory B cell and Tph cell responses in progressive CNS autoimmunity	$300,000.00
Dr. Peter Stys	University of Calgary	The DM-20-overexpressing mouse as a realistic model of progressive MS	$299,990.00
Dr. Luc Vallieres	Laval University	Fighting fire with fire: eradicating harmful antibody-secreting cells in autoimmune neurological diseases using an improved antibody that overcome their resistance	$300,000.00

**Approved budget may change based on eligible expenses.*