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2025-2026 Annual Research Competition- Funding Decisions

DOCTORAL STUDENTSHIPS

MS Canada is pleased to announce the funding decisions for the applications submitted to the 2025-2026 Annual Research Competition. Doctoral Studentship applicants will receive $22,000 for one year. Doctoral Studentship applicants that hold an MD degree receive $50,500 for one year.

In total, **35 Doctoral Studentships** have been awarded as follows (listed in alphabetical order):

Name	Institution	Project Title
Jennifer Auvergnon	University of Montreal	ICAM-1-mediated T cells-microglia interactions contribute to disease pathology and neuroinflammation during MS and EAE
Charbel Baaklini	University of Alberta	CNS's resident immune cells: microglia, the regulators of remyelination
Hamidreza Barzegarpoor	Memorial University of Newfoundland	Creating and testing innovative rehabilitation treatments to improve sustained attention and feelings of mental fatigue in MS
Rochelle Benoit	Memorial University of Newfoundland	Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitors alter phenotype and function of myeloid cells in healthy controls and multiple sclerosis patients
Margherita Louise Calderaro	Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal	Characterizing CD57+CD8+ T cells in the periphery and in the central nervous system of people with multiple sclerosis
Thomas Carr	University of Calgary	Repeated mild traumatic brain injuries during adolescence could contribute to the development of MS-like pathology later in life
Diala El Masri	Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal	Uncovering the mechanisms whereby the NKG2D pathway shapes EAE
Alex Ensworth	University of British Columbia	Hydrogen, sodium and phosphorus magnetic resonance: the development of multi-nuclear methods for characterizing multiple sclerosis brain tissue

Erin Evans	University of British Columbia	The role of endogenous retroviruses in onset of disease in multiple sclerosis
Jason Fernandes	University of Alberta	Examining the role of pyroptosis as a driver of progressive multiple sclerosis
Kali Heale	Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital	Investigation of miRNA203-3p as a neuroprotective agent in multiple sclerosis and experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis
Tamanna Islam	University of Ottawa	Identifying and addressing the needs of those with multiple sclerosis-related cognitive fatigability
Lisa Eunyoung Lee	University of Toronto	Quantitative magnetic resonance imaging biomarkers of disease progression in multiple sclerosis
Vina Wenyu Li	Queen's University at Kingston	The reciprocal relationship between circadian rhythms and MS pathology through a neuroimmune mechanism
Victoria Hannah Mamane	Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal	Sex-specific impact of methionine intake on activation, metabolism and epigenetic of T cells and gut microbiota in multiple sclerosis
Hamza Mechchate	University of Montreal	Investigating the role of MRC2+ CD8+ T cells in BBB disruption and oligodendrocyte cytotoxicity in MS
Maryam Mobarakabadi	University of Calgary	Investigating roles of versican in the development and progression of EAE using transgenic mice
Dorsa Moezzi	University of Calgary	Iron-induced oxidative stress leads to neuronal death and motor deficits in a mouse model of neurodegeneration
Jonathan Monteiro	University of Toronto	Investigating the role of microglia in the pathology of multiple sclerosis
Daniel Mario Morelli	The University of Western Ontario	Evaluating B cell antigen acquisition and presentation in chronic inflammation
Roseanne Nguyen	University of Toronto	Modelling demyelination using hPSC-derived neuro-immune myelinating organoids

Sarah Popple	University of British Columbia	Novel characterization of helminth induced sex-specific differences in glial cell initiated MS remission
Gurleen Randhawa	University of Calgary	Investigating the impact of CSPG perturbation on remyelination in the EAE model of multiple sclerosis
Vahid Safdari	Laval University	Characterization of GPR160, as a novel putative immune biomarker of MS progression
Tayma Shaaban	Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal	Methionine dietary intake restriction as a means to shape gut microbiota and regulate neuroinflammatory processes in MS
Yves Carpentier Solorio	LMU University Hospital Munich	Contribution of regulated cell death mechanisms to inflammatory axon damage
Ashvene Sureshkumar	University of Toronto	Developing an implementation toolkit for building online mindfulness-based interventions for people with multiple sclerosis across Canada
Doriana Taccardi	Queen's University at Kingston	CircaMS: Circadian rhythmicity as a biomarker for symptomatic phenotypes in Multiple Sclerosis
Cassandra Thompson	Memorial University of Newfoundland	Elucidating the effects of microRNAs on inflammatory signalling and oligodendrocyte progenitor cell differentiation
Ruiqi Wang	University of Calgary	The role of the gut microbiota in the onset of progressive experimental allergic encephalomyelitis
Thomas Worthington	University of British Columbia	Therapeutic strategies targeting latent gamma herpesvirus infection in an autoimmune animal model of multiple sclerosis.
Marius Ygonia	McGill University	Genetic colocalization of multiple sclerosis and Epstein-Barr virus immune response and persistence
Jennifer Zagrodnik	Memorial University of Newfoundland	Investigating extracellular vesicles as functionally relevant disease biomarkers in MS
Aliyah Zaman	Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital	Investigating exosomal microRNAs as blood-based biomarkers of neurodegeneration and oligodendrocyte injury in multiple sclerosis

Yohan Ricci Zonta	University of Calgary	Investigating the role of Cystatin C in astrocytes in experimental allergic encephalomyelitis