2023-2024 Annual Research Competition- Funding Decisions

DOCTORAL STUDENTSHIPS

MS Canada is pleased to announce the funding decisions for the applications submitted to the 2023-2024 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, **33 Doctoral Studentships** have been awarded as follows (listed in alphabetical order):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irshad Akbar</td>
<td>CHU de Québec - Université Laval</td>
<td>Deciphering the mechanism of autoimmune CD8 T cells in CNS autoimmunity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charbel Baaklini</td>
<td>University of Alberta</td>
<td>CNS’s resident immune cells: microglia, the regulators of remyelination</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharada Balaji</td>
<td>University of British Columbia</td>
<td>Development of quantitative Magnetic Resonance Imaging techniques to characterise multiple sclerosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renaud Balthazard</td>
<td>Centre de Recherche du Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal</td>
<td>Identification Of Immunosenescence Biomarkers In Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells Of People Living With Multiple Sclerosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamidreza Barzegarpoo</td>
<td>Memorial University of Newfoundland</td>
<td>Creating and testing innovative rehabilitation treatments to improve sustained attention and feelings of mental fatigue in MS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexandra Beaudry-Richard</td>
<td>University of Ottawa</td>
<td>Dynamics of myelin sheath tiling during developmental myelination and remyelination of the mouse optic nerve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syamala Buragadda</td>
<td>Memorial University of Newfoundland</td>
<td>Training to restore walking and promote nervous system repair in multiple sclerosis: A randomized controlled trial to determine the importance of exercise intensity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Carr</td>
<td>The University of Calgary</td>
<td>Repeated mild traumatic brain injuries during adolescence could contribute to the development of MS-like pathology later in life</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Ensworth</td>
<td>University of British Columbia</td>
<td>Hydrogen, sodium and phosphorus magnetic resonance: the development of multi-nuclear methods for characterizing multiple sclerosis brain tissue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vladimir Grouza</td>
<td>Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital</td>
<td>Quantitative Non-Invasive Evaluation of Myelin g-ratio Using Microstructural MRI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mona Hejazi</td>
<td>Memorial University of Newfoundland</td>
<td>Possibility of inducing neuroplasticity in multiple sclerosis using motor imagery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baweleta Isho</td>
<td>University of Toronto</td>
<td>Impact of SARS-CoV-2 infection on the neuropathogenic potential of myelin-primed Th17 cells</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poljanka Johnson</td>
<td>University of British Columbia</td>
<td>Predicting multiple sclerosis diseases progression with machine learning using advanced magnetic resonance images and blood biomarkers from the Canadian Prospective Cohort study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Kamma</td>
<td>University of British Columbia</td>
<td>Characterizing alterations in clinical disease and inflammatory neurodegeneration in a novel mouse model of progressive multiple sclerosis carrying the Nr1h3 (LXRA) R415Q mutation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wendy Lasisi</td>
<td>Memorial University of Newfoundland</td>
<td>Investigating the role of sensorimotor integration in upper extremity dysfunction in MS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vina Wenyu Li</td>
<td>Queen's University at Kingston</td>
<td>The reciprocal relationship between circadian rhythms and MS pathology through a neuroimmune mechanism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Lozinski</td>
<td>The University of Calgary</td>
<td>Effect of Age on fibrosis in the central nervous system</td>
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<td>Victoria Hannah Mamane</td>
<td>Centre de Recherche du Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal</td>
<td>Sex-specific impact of methionine intake on activation, metabolism and epigenetic of T cells and gut microbiota in multiple sclerosis</td>
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<td>Dorsa Moezei</td>
<td>The University of Calgary</td>
<td>Investigating the mechanisms of iron mediated neurodegeneration in the CNS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yu Pu</td>
<td>University of Toronto</td>
<td>The role of the aging gut microbiome in modulating neuroinflammation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelsi Smith</td>
<td>Karolinska Institutet</td>
<td>Pigmentation genes and the timing of sun exposure in MS development and progression</td>
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<td>Yves Carpentier Solorio</td>
<td>LMU University Hospital Munich</td>
<td>Contribution of regulated cell death mechanisms to inflammatory axon damage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ateyeh Soroush</td>
<td>The University of Calgary</td>
<td>Effects of low cortical oxygen level (hypoxia) on brain functional connectivity (FC) and cognitive impairment (CI) in individuals with Multiple Sclerosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cassandra Thompson</td>
<td>Memorial University of Newfoundland</td>
<td>Elucidating the effects of inflammatory-mediated signaling cascades and microRNAs on oligodendrocyte progenitor cell differentiation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carmen Ucciferri</td>
<td>St Michael’s Hospital</td>
<td>Effect of postnatal over-nutrition on the development of a central nervous system autoimmunity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muhammad Umair</td>
<td>CHU de Québec - Université Laval</td>
<td>To evaluate the role of sex hormones and sex chromosomes on Th17 mediated mouse model of chronic MS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nasana Vaidya</td>
<td>St. Michael's Hospital</td>
<td>Single-cell immune profiling of peripheral blood mononuclear cells in men and women with multiple sclerosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Wuerch</td>
<td>The University of Calgary</td>
<td>Investigating the potential of MedXercise to promote remyelination in a model of multiple sclerosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Zagrodnik</td>
<td>Memorial University of Newfoundland</td>
<td>Investigating extracellular vesicles as functionally relevant disease biomarkers in MS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aliyah Zaman</td>
<td>Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital</td>
<td>Investigating exosomal microRNAs as blood-based biomarkers of neurodegeneration and oligodendrocyte injury in multiple sclerosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amir Ziaee</td>
<td>University of Manitoba</td>
<td>Evaluating the role and therapeutic potential of Neuregulin-1 for remyelination in chronic MS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yohan Ricci Zonta</td>
<td>The University of Calgary</td>
<td>Investigating the role of Cystatin C in astrocytes in Experimental Allergic Encephalomyelitis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Xiao Le Zuo</td>
<td>University of Toronto</td>
<td>Investigating the link between aging, meningeal inflammation, and cortical pathology in driving MS progression</td>
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