

## 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):

Name	Institution	Project Title
Irshad Akbar	CHU de Québec - Université Laval	Deciphering the mechanism of autoimmune CD8 T cells in CNS autoimmunity.
Charbel Baaklini	University of Alberta	CNS's resident immune cells: microglia, the regulators of remyelination
Sharada Balaji	University of British Columbia	Development of quantitative Magnetic Resonance Imaging techniques to characterise multiple sclerosis
Renaud Balthazard	Centre de Recherche du Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal	Identification Of Immunosenescence Biomarkers In Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells Of People Living With Multiple Sclerosis
Hamidreza Barzegarpoor	Memorial University of Newfoundland	Creating and testing innovative rehabilitation treatments to improve sustained attention and feelings of mental fatigue in MS
Alexandra Beaudry-Richard	University of Ottawa	Dynamics of myelin sheath tiling during developmental myelination and remyelination of the mouse optic nerve
Syamala Buragadda	Memorial University of Newfoundland	Training to restore walking and promote nervous system repair in multiple sclerosis: A randomized controlled trial to determine the importance of exercise intensity
Thomas Carr	The University of Calgary	Repeated mild traumatic brain injuries during adolescence could contribute to the development of MS-like pathology later in life

Alex Ensworth	University of British Columbia	Hydrogen, sodium and phosphorus magnetic resonance: the development of multi-nuclear methods for characterizing multiple sclerosis brain tissue
Vladimir Grouza	Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital	Quantitative Non-Invasive Evaluation of Myelin g-ratio Using Microstructural MRI
Mona Hejazi	Memorial University of Newfoundland	Possibility of inducing neuroplasticity in multiple sclerosis using motor imagery
Baweleta Isho	University of Toronto	Impact of SARS-CoV-2 infection on the neuropathogenic potential of myelin-primed Th17 cells
Poljanka Johnson	University of British Columbia	Predicting multiple sclerosis diseases progression with machine learning using advanced magnetic resonance images and blood biomarkers from the Canadian Prospective Cohort study
Emily Kamma	University of British Columbia	Characterizing alterations in clinical disease and inflammatory neurodegeneration in a novel mouse model of progressive multiple sclerosis carrying the Nr1h3 (LXRA) R415Q mutation
Wendy Lasisi	Memorial University of Newfoundland	Investigating the role of sensorimotor integration in upper extremity dysfunction in MS
Vina Wenyu Li	Queen's University at Kingston	The reciprocal relationship between circadian rhythms and MS pathology through a neuroimmune mechanism
Brian Lozinski	The University of Calgary	Effect of Age on fibrosis in the central nervous system
Victoria Hannah Mamane	Centre de Recherche du 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
Dorsa Moezzi	The University of Calgary	Investigating the mechanisms of iron mediated neurodegeneration in the CNS

Yu Pu	University of Toronto	The role of the aging gut microbiome in modulating neuroinflammation
Kelsi Smith	Karolinska Institutet	Pigmentation genes and the timing of sun exposure in MS development and progression
Yves Carpentier Solorio	LMU University Hospital Munich	Contribution of regulated cell death mechanisms to inflammatory axon damage
Ateyeh Soroush	The University of Calgary	Effects of low cortical oxygen level (hypoxia) on brain functional connectivity (FC) and cognitive impairment (CI) in individuals with Multiple Sclerosis
Cassandra Thompson	Memorial University of Newfoundland	Elucidating the effects of inflammatory-mediated signaling cascades and microRNAs on oligodendrocyte progenitor cell differentiation
Carmen Ucciferri	St Michael's Hospital	Effect of postnatal over-nutrition on the development of a central nervous system autoimmunity
Muhammad Umair	CHU de Québec - Université Laval	To evaluate the role of sex hormones and sex chromosomes on Th17 mediated mouse model of chronic MS
Nasana Vaidya	St. Michael's Hospital	Single-cell immune profiling of peripheral blood mononuclear cells in men and women with multiple sclerosis
Emily Wuerch	The University of Calgary	Investigating the potential of MedXercise to promote remyelination in a model of multiple sclerosis
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

Amir Ziaee	University of Manitoba	Evaluating the role and therapeutic potential of Neuregulin-1 for remyelination in chronic MS
Yohan Ricci Zonta	The University of Calgary	Investigating the role of Cystatin C in astrocytes in Experimental Allergic Encephalomyelitis
Xiao Le Zuo	University of Toronto	Investigating the link between aging, meningeal inflammation, and cortical pathology in driving MS progression