

2024-2025 Annual Research Competition- Funding Decisions

DOCTORAL STUDENTSHIPS

MS Canada is pleased to announce the funding decisions for the applications submitted to the 2024-2025 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, **40 Doctoral Studentships** have been awarded as follows (listed in alphabetical order):

Name	Institution	Project Title
Jennifer Auvergnon	University of Montreal	Targeting ICAM-1 on T cells to limit chronic neuroinflammatory processes and progression in MS
Charbel Baaklini	University of Alberta	CNS's resident immune cells: Microglia, the regulators of remyelination
Renaud Balthazard	Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal	Identification of immunosenescence biomarkers in peripheral blood mononuclear cells of people living with multiple sclerosis
Hamidreza Barzegarpour	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
Rochelle Benoit	Memorial University of Newfoundland	Investigating the effects of Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibition in myeloid cells in the context of multiple sclerosis
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	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
Jason Fernandes	University of Alberta	Examining the role of pyroptosis as a driver of progressive multiple sclerosis
Vladimir Grouza	Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital	Quantitative non-invasive evaluation of myelin g-ratio using microstructural MRI
Kali Heale	Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital	Investigation of miRNA203-3p as a neuroprotective agent in multiple sclerosis and experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis
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 development and progression of neuroinflammation in animal models of MS
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
Lisa Eunyoung Lee	University of Toronto	Quantitative magnetic resonance imaging biomarkers of disease progression in multiple sclerosis
Vina Wenyu Li	Queen's University	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
Maryam Mobarakabadi	University of Calgary	Investigating roles of versican in the development and progression of EAE using transgenic mice

Dorsa Moezzi	University of Calgary	The consequences of iron overload and oxidative stress in the mouse spinal cord and in vitro
Sarah Popple	University of British Columbia	Novel characterization of helminth induced sex-specific differences in glial cell initiated MS remission
Yu Pu	University of Toronto	The role of the aging gut microbiome in modulating neuroinflammation
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
Ateyeh Soroush	University of Calgary	Effects of low cortical oxygen level (hypoxia) on brain functional connectivity (FC) and cognitive impairment (CI) in individuals with multiple sclerosis
Ashvene Sureshkumar	University of Toronto	Developing an implementation toolkit for building an online mindfulness-based intervention for people with multiple sclerosis
Doriana Taccardi	Queen's University	CircaMS: Circadian rhythmicity as a biomarker for symptomatic phenotypes in multiple sclerosis
Andrew Joseph Thompson	University of British Columbia	Validating the palmitoylating enzyme, ZDHHC9, as a therapeutic target for multiple sclerosis
Cassandra Thompson	Memorial University of Newfoundland	Elucidating the effects of inflammatory-mediated signaling cascades and microRNAs on oligodendrocyte progenitor cell differentiation
Muhammad Umair	Laval University	To evaluate the role of sex hormones and sex chromosomes on th17 mediated mouse model of chronic MS
Ruiqi Wang	University of Calgary	The role of the gut microbiota in the onset of progressive experimental allergic encephalomyelitis

Emily Wuerch	University of Calgary	Investigating myelin debris uptake by microglia/macrophages and modulation with extracellular cholesterol and cyclodextrin therapy
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	University of Calgary	Investigating the role of Cystatin C in astrocytes in experimental allergic encephalomyelitis
Xiao Le Zuo	University of Toronto	Depletion of leptomeningeal neutrophils ameliorates age-dependent grey matter demyelination in an animal model of MS