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2026-2027 Annual Research Competition- Funding Decisions

DOCTORAL STUDENTSHIPS

MS Canada is pleased to announce the funding decisions for the applications submitted to the 2026-2027 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, **32 Doctoral Studentships** have been awarded as follows (listed in alphabetical order by first name):

Name	Institution	Project Title
Alejandro Mejia Garcia	McGill University	Multimodal, multiomics biological age clocks and its association with multiple sclerosis risk and progression
Alex Ensworth	University of British Columbia	Hydrogen, sodium and phosphorus magnetic resonance: the development of multi-nuclear methods for characterizing multiple sclerosis brain tissue
Aliyah Zaman	Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital	Investigating exosomal microRNAs as blood-based biomarkers of neurodegeneration and oligodendrocyte injury in multiple sclerosis
Aysika Das	Memorial University of Newfoundland	EMMPRIN assisted glycolytic programming within microglia drives brain pathology in a mouse model of MS
Bianca Hill	University of Toronto	Investigating mechanisms by which monocytes reduce remyelination efficiency
Cassandra Thompson	Memorial University of Newfoundland	Elucidating the effects of inflammatory-mediated signaling cascades and microRNAs on oligodendrocyte progenitor cell differentiation
Daniel Mario Morelli	The University of Western Ontario	Evaluating B cell antigen acquisition and presentation in chronic inflammation
Diala El Masri	Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal	Uncovering the role of NKG2D pathway in the pathogenesis of EAE

Doriana Taccardi	Queen's University at Kingston	CircaMS: circadian rhythmicity as a biomarker for symptomatic phenotypes in multiple sclerosis
Erin Evans	University of British Columbia	The role of endogenous retroviruses in onset of disease in multiple sclerosis
Erin Josephine Goldberg	University of British Columbia	Epstein–Barr virus and its murine homologue exacerbate disease in a translationally relevant model of multiple sclerosis
Gurleen Kaur Randhawa	University of Calgary	Investigating the impact of CSPG perturbation on remyelination in the EAE model of 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
Hamza Mechchate	Université de Montréal	Investigating the role of MRC2+ CD8+ T cells in BBB disruption and oligodendrocyte cytotoxicity in MS
Jennifer Auvergnon	Université de Montréal	Targeting ICAM-1 on T cells to limit chronic neuroinflammatory processes and progression in MS
Jennifer Zagrodnik	Memorial University of Newfoundland	Investigating extracellular vesicles as functionally relevant biomarkers in MS
Jimin Lee	Karolinska Institutet	Unravelling the impact of infections and antivirals on multiple sclerosis risk
Kali Heale	Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital	Investigation of miRNA203-3p as a neuroprotective agent in multiple sclerosis and experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis
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
Marius Ygonia	McGill University	Genetic colocalization of multiple sclerosis and Epstein-Barr virus immune response and persistence
Maryam Mobarakabadi	University of Calgary	Investigating roles of versican in the development and progression of EAE using transgenic mice

Mavi Sorella	McGill University	Neuroimaging genomics to inform risk and progression in multiple sclerosis
Molly Pitkethly	University of British Columbia	Targeting Epstein-Barr virus in multiple sclerosis: model development, characterization and optimization of prophylactic vaccination to protect against immune-mediated neurological damage in a mouse model of disease
Nitya Khetarpal	Université de Montréal	Distinguishing primary progressive multiple sclerosis via peripheral immune cell transcriptomic profiles
Roseanne Nguyen	University of Toronto	Modelling demyelination using hPSC-derived neuro-immune myelinating organoids
Ruiqi Wang	University of Calgary	The role of the gut microbiota in the onset of progressive experimental allergic encephalomyelitis
Sarah Popple	University of British Columbia	Novel characterization of helminth induced sex-specific differences in glial cell initiated MS remission
Tamanna Islam	University of Ottawa	Identifying and addressing the needs of those with multiple sclerosis-related cognitive fatigability
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
Thomas Worthington	University of British Columbia	Therapeutic strategies targeting latent gamma herpesvirus infection in an autoimmune animal model of multiple sclerosis
Vina Wenyu Li	Queen's University at Kingston	The reciprocal relationship between circadian rhythms and MS pathology through a neuroimmune mechanism
Yves Carpentier Solorio	LMU University Hospital Munich	Contribution of regulated cell death mechanisms to inflammatory axon damage