

Atlantic endMS Regional Research and Training Centre Fact Sheet

Leadership

- Dr. John D. Fisk, Capital Health, Dalhousie University, director of Atlantic RRTC

Participating Centres

- Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- Dalhousie MS Research Unit, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- Memorial University MS Clinic, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador
- Saint John MS Clinic, Saint John, New Brunswick
- Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation, Fredericton, New Brunswick

Total Number of Faculty Collaborators (as of May 2009): 31

Total Number of Trainees Working with Faculty Collaborators (as of May 2009): 23

Select Activities to be Launched in 2009

- Six endMS Summer Studentships are in place for the summer 2009
 - Undergraduate students have been selected and funded as trainees on MS-focused research projects in laboratories and clinics across the RRTC
 - Sample of questions being investigated include:
 - Can botulinum toxin (botox) improve gait in persons with MS?
 - What are the effects of stopping and/or switching disease modifying drugs on the progression of neurologic disability in persons with MS?
- Monthly Atlantic regional journal club
 - Gathering together clinicians, scientists and trainees from institutions across the RRTC to discuss clinical issues, their own research and newly published MS research, in person and via telemedicine (webcast, phone, networks..etc).
 - Trainees, in particular, will have the opportunity to present their work to peers and faculty members throughout the region

Quotes attributable to Dr. John Fisk

- "The RRTC will directly educate and train the next generation of leaders in Canadian MS research and will foster a new model of transdisciplinary training in applied neuroscience research into MS."
- "A major impediment to collaboration among investigators who are dispersed geographically and diverse in their interests and expertise is the lack of knowledge of what others are thinking and doing, and what resources are available to address their questions. The Atlantic endMS RRTC will address this impediment by providing a centralized focus of information and increased opportunities for student training and research collaboration that will ensure that MS related research in Atlantic Canada is accelerated."
- "The endMS Atlantic RRTC will provide opportunities for highly individualized training that will deliver the curriculum and skills necessary to train the next generation of MS researchers."

Financial Support:

- \$100,000/year for 3 years beginning in 2009 funded through the MS Society of Canada's endMS capital campaign.