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## 2021-2022 Annual Research Competition- Funding Decisions

### DOCTORAL AND MASTER’S STUDENTSHIPS

The MS Society of Canada is pleased to announce the funding decisions for the applications submitted to the 2021-2022 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. Master’s Studentship applicants will receive \$20,000 for one year.

In total, **25 Doctoral Studentships** and **10 Master’s Studentships** have been awarded as follows (listed in alphabetical order):

### Doctoral Studentships

First Name	Last Name	Institution	Project Title
Irshad	Akbar	Laval university	Deciphering the mechanism of autoimmune CD8+ T cells in CNS autoimmunity
Nima	Alaeiikhchi	University of British Columbia	Dietary treatment for MS
Renaud	Balthazard	Centre de Recherche du Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal	Identifying the impact of mitochondrial autoimmunity in multiple sclerosis
Stephanie	Blandford	Memorial University of Newfoundland	Investigating exosomal microRNAs as functionally relevant disease biomarkers in MS
Daryan	Chitsaz	McGill Montreal Neurological Institute	A microfabricated culture system to study myelin regulation in the central nervous system and identify remyelination therapies
Naomi	Fettig	University of British Columbia	The roles of the gut microbiome and infection in the development of multiple sclerosis
Sabrina	Galizia	Centre de Recherche du Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal	Uncovering the mechanisms whereby the NKG2D pathway shapes the experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis model of multiple sclerosis
Camille	Grasmuck	Centre de Recherche du Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal	The role of ALCAM and DICAM in leukocytes migration across CNS barriers

To be a leader in finding a cure for multiple sclerosis and enabling people affected by MS to enhance their quality of life.

Founding member of the Multiple Sclerosis Society International Foundation

Seth	Holland	University of British Columbia	Activating Transcription Factor 3: The critical mediator behind dimethyl fumarate's (Tecfidera) immunomodulation in multiple sclerosis
Baweleta	Isho	University of Toronto	Assessing the impact of lactation on the immune system during neuroinflammation
Hélène	Jamann	Centre de Recherche du Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal	Targeting molecular mechanisms underlying Th17 cell/oligodendrocyte interactions for neuroprotection in MS
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
Lisa Eunyong	Lee	University of Toronto	Quantitative magnetic resonance imaging biomarkers of disease progression in multiple sclerosis
Brian	Lozinski	University of Calgary	Pericyte scar formation following demyelination is exacerbated with age, and may be improved with exercise
Ali	Mirza	University of British Columbia	Assessing the functional capacity of the Gut Microbiome in Pediatric MS
Tautvydas	Paskevicius	University of Alberta	Targeting calnexin and fatty acid binding protein 5 complex in brain endothelial cells in multiple sclerosis
Yu	Pu	University of Toronto	How the aging gut microbiome alters microglia in demyelinating models of MS
Rose-Marie	Rebillard	Centre de Recherche du Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal	Characterization of the distinct contribution of sex hormones versus sex chromosomes to the clinical sexual dimorphism in multiple sclerosis
Julia	Segal	Queen's University	Neuroimmune mechanisms underlying circadian control of pain in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis
Kelsi	Smith	Karolinska Institutet	Pigmentation genes and the timing of sun exposure in MS development and progression
Alexandra	Tremblay	Université du Québec à Montréal	Aging and cognition in multiple sclerosis: The role of cognitive reserve
Nasana	Vaidya	University of Toronto	Single-cell immune profiling of peripheral blood mononuclear cells in men and women with multiple sclerosis
Anran	Wang	University of Toronto	Localization and survival of regulatory IgA+ Plasma Cells in MS/EAE

Darrin	Wijeyaratnam	University of Ottawa	From motor command to performance: Training upper limb sensory, motor and cognitive function in individuals affected by multiple sclerosis
Fardowsa	Yusuf	University of British Columbia	The pediatric-onset multiple sclerosis prodrome

### Master's Studentships

First Name	Last Name	Institution	Project Title
Charbel	Baaklini	University of Alberta	CNS's resident immune cells: Microglia, the regulators of remyelination
Sana	Bibi	University of Alberta	Role of multiple sclerosis genetic variants in developmental myelination
Felix	Distefano-Gagne	CHU de Québec - Université Laval	Role of microglial Irf5 activity in the demyelinating brain
Jean-Pierre	Falet	McGill University	Development of a deep learning algorithm to predict disability progression and treatment response in progressive multiple sclerosis using baseline clinical information and magnetic resonance imaging of the brain
Jason	Fernandes	University of Alberta	Mechanistic characterization of pyroptosis in multiple sclerosis pathogenesis
Tigris	Joseph	University of British Columbia	Histological validation of a machine learning approach for Myelin Water Imaging analysis
Maxime	Kusik	CHU de Québec - Université Laval	Role of interleukin-1 in the pathogenesis of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis: A focus on hematopoietic stem cells and early multipotent progenitor cells
Olivia	La Caprara	University of Alberta	Novel pathways in neuropathic pain: examining the miR-21:TLR7 signalling axis for pain in MS
Risavarshni	Thevakumaran	McGill University	Assessing sub-pial demyelination in progressive MS using multimodal high field MRI and PET neuroimaging
Adrienne	Watson	University of Alberta	The role of fractalkine signalling in precursor cells and implications for remyelination