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2022-2023 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 2022-2023 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, **30 Doctoral Studentships** and **4 Master’s Studentships** have been awarded as follows (listed in alphabetical order):

Doctoral Studentships

First Name	Last Name	Institution	Project Title
Irshad	Akbar	CHU de Québec - Université Laval	Deciphering the mechanism of autoimmune CD8 T cells in CNS autoimmunity
Nima	Alaeiikhchi	University of British Columbia	Dietary treatment for MS
Charbel	Baaklini	University of Alberta	CNS's resident immune cells: microglia, the regulators of remyelination
Renaud	Balthazard	Centre de Recherche du Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal	Identifying the impact of mitochondrial autoimmunity in 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
Daryan	Chitsaz	McGill Montreal Neurological Institute	A microfabricated culture system to study myelin regulation in the central nervous system and identify remyelination therapies
Nicole	Dittmann	University of Alberta	Pro-regenerative effects of striatal-neuron secreted factors

To connect and empower the MS Community to create positive change.

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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
Seth	Holland	University of British Columbia	Activating Transcription Factor 3: Mediating dimethyl fumarate's (Tecfidera) immunomodulation in multiple sclerosis
Baweleta	Isho	University of Toronto	Impact of SARS-CoV-2 infection on clinical and pathological presentation of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE)
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
Brian	Lozinski	University of Calgary	Fibrosis of PDGFR β + cells following spinal cord demyelination is exacerbated with age and may be therapeutically targeted
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
Florence	Millette	Centre de Recherche du Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal	Targeting methionine metabolism to protect oligodendrocytes in neuroinflammation
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	Effect of the aging gut microbiome on microglia in models of demyelination

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
Yohan	Ricci Zonta	University of Calgary	Assessing the role of Cystatin C in astrocytes in experimental allergic encephalomyelitis
Kelsi	Smith	Karolinska Institutet	Pigmentation genes and the timing of sun exposure in MS development and progression
Karine	Thai	University of Montreal	Investigation of novel blood biomarkers to predict disease activity, disease stage and treatment response in multiple sclerosis
Risavarshni	Thevakumaran	McGill University	Assessing sub-pial demyelination in progressive MS using multimodal high field MRI and PET neuroimaging
Muhammad	Umair	CHU de Québec - Université Laval	Role of sex difference on disease severity in Th17 mediated mouse model of MS
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	Regulatory mechanisms of BAFF 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
Emily	Wuerch	University of Calgary	Investigating the potential of MedXercise to promote remyelination in a model of multiple sclerosis
Xiao Le	Zuo	University of Toronto	Investigating the link between aging, meningeal inflammation, and cortical pathology in driving MS progression

Master's Studentships

First Name	Last Name	Institution	Project Title
Sana	Bibi	University of Alberta	Role of multiple sclerosis genetic variants in developmental myelination
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