

**2017 endMS Summer School and SPRINT  
Presenter/Facilitator/Mentor Biographies**



**Dr. Tania Rosaria Bruno**  
**UHN-Toronto Rehab**  
**2016-2017 SPRINT Mentor**  
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Dr. Tania R. Bruno is a specialist physician in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and a Clinician-Teacher/Lecturer in the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto. She achieved an Honors Bachelor of Science at the University of Toronto with a Major in biophysics, trained at Queen's University in undergraduate medicine and went on to carry out specialist training at Dalhousie University, being awarded a Killam Scholarship upon graduation. Thereafter, she completed a Clinical Neuromuscular and Electromyography fellowship at McGill University. She was invited to spend a great deal of time at the Montreal Neurological Institute's MS Clinic where she was later brought on as the Staff Psychiatrist and was cross-appointed in the Departments of Neurology and Neurosurgery and Medicine. Since 2010, she has been dedicating herself to optimizing symptoms and maximizing functional independence in persons with MS at Toronto Rehab—UHN where she is the Clinician Lead of the MS Rehab service and Director of EMG. Her interests extend to research collaboration in the field of MS and exercise, peer review, as well as MS rehabilitation advocacy. Her current research projects are focused on establishing the health utilization and impairment/disability characteristics of persons living with MS and high Expanded Disability Status Scores attending a tertiary MS Rehab service as well as co-chairing a systematic review of relevant MS Rehab topics.



**Dr. Alyson Byrne**  
**Memorial University**  
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Dr. Alyson Byrne is an assistant professor in organizational behaviour and human resource management at the Faculty of Business Administration at Memorial University. She received her PhD in organizational behaviour

from Queen's University in 2013. Prior to arriving at Memorial, Dr. Byrne also worked at the University of Manitoba and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in leadership at the Ivey Business School at Western University. Dr. Byrne's research interests lie primarily in leadership, status, gender and relational outcomes. She has been published in journals such as Organization Science, the Journal of Management Studies, the Leadership Quarterly and the Journal of Business Ethics. She has presented her research at numerous international conferences and has been the keynote speaker for a number of public events concerning her research on leadership and gender. Her teaching interests are primarily in leadership, team dynamics, and diversity.



**Dr. Stephen Czarnuch**  
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Dr. Czarnuch specializes in the development of activity monitoring technologies targeted at supporting aging and vulnerable populations (e.g., dementia, multiple sclerosis, and stroke), and has experience using an interdisciplinary approach when conducting research that integrates all stakeholders throughout the design process. His research is inherently interdisciplinary, lying at the intersection of engineering, computer science, medicine, gerontology and rehabilitation. Specifically, he seeks to not only develop relevant and necessary technological interventions to help such vulnerable populations, but also to evaluate their efficacy by connecting his academic research with end users in a real-world context. A significant part of this process is through community-based needs assessments at the outset of his research projects, and both academic and community-based dissemination activities at key milestones throughout the projects.



**Ms. Angela Dunn**  
**Memorial University**  
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Angela Dunn is the Research Manager for the Faculty of Medicine. She completed a Joint Honours in Biology and Behavioural Neuroscience Science in 2003 and her Masters of Science (Medicine) in Human Genetics in 2007. Angela started her

career in industry as the Head of Genomics at a local Genomics Research company for 6 years before transitioning to the public sector. In her current role at Memorial University, she is responsible for overseeing the administration of grants, contracts, and awards for all faculty members in Medicine as well as managing several internal research committees.



**Dr. Marcia Finlayson**  
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Dr. Finlayson's research program focuses on developing, implementing and evaluating self-management programs and rehabilitation services to enhance the health and well-being of people affected by multiple sclerosis (MS). These people include both individuals with the disease and their family caregivers. The ultimate goal of Dr. Finlayson's scholarship is to enable people affected by MS to lead healthy, meaningful lives, and exert choice and control over their participation in daily activities at home and in the community particularly as they age. Her specific topical interests include falls prevention, fatigue management, and utilization of health-related services. She is the lead and co-founder of the International MS Falls Prevention Research Network, which includes 9 other MS rehabilitation researchers from the US, Ireland, Italy, and the UK.



**Dr. Nader Ghasemlou**  
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Dr. Nader Ghasemlou received his BSc in Life Sciences, followed by an MSc in Anatomy and Cell Biology from Queen's University. He then completed his PhD at McGill University, where he studied the role of the immune response to spinal cord injury and demyelinating diseases. He then completed a Fellowship supported by the Banting Foundation at Harvard, where he examined the immune contribution to pain outcomes. More recently, he established his own laboratory at Queen's University in the Departments of Anesthesiology and Biomedical & Molecular Sciences. He leads a multi-disciplinary research program focused on understanding the

contribution of the immune response to the development of acute and chronic pain in models of central injury, with a focus on MS and spinal cord injury.



**Dr. Matthew Grimes**  
**Memorial University**  
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My current passion is translating research into innovative partnerships and commercial activities. I am achieving this through my current position as Manager of Business Development and Technology Commercialization for Memorial University. My educational background consists of a Bachelor of Science degree with joint honours in behavioural neuroscience and biochemistry, a Doctorate (PhD) of Medicine in Behavioural Neuroscience, and a Masters of Business Administration (MBA).

I have 10+ years experience in the areas of academia, research and development, post-secondary instruction, intellectual property management and business development. I have 5 academic publications with numerous conference proceedings in the area of behavioural neuroscience. My current academic research and scholarly output is focused on the areas of finance, entrepreneurship, and organizational strategy and governance through the Faculty of Business at Memorial University. I work with multiple sectors of industry both nationally and internationally and run a personal consulting group that specializes in the areas of business strategy and governance, finance, intellectual property strategy and management, marketing, public relations and communications for small and medium sized enterprises.



**Dr. Rashmi Kothary**  
**Ottawa Hospital Research Institute**  
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Dr. Kothary is the Deputy Scientific Director and Senior Scientist at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI). He received a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of British Columbia and pursued postdoctoral research in the laboratories of Dr. Janet Rossant in Toronto and Dr. Azim Surani in Cambridge, U.K. In 1990, he returned to Canada to begin his independent research career at the Institut du cancer de Montréal. In 1998, Dr. Kothary joined the OHRI. He held the University Health Research Chair

in Neuromuscular Disorders and is a Professor at the University of Ottawa. He and Dr. Bernard Jasmin created as co-Directors, the University of Ottawa Centre for Neuromuscular Disease. His current research focuses on investigating extrinsic and intrinsic factors important for oligodendrocyte mediated myelination and remyelination of the CNS, and understanding Spinal Muscular Atrophy pathogenesis and identifying novel therapeutics for this devastating children's disease. He has served on the scientific advisory board for MDA and Cure SMA, and is a reviewer for the MS Society of Canada, NIH and Shriners Hospitals for Children. He has organized several international research conferences and serves on the Governing Advisory Committee of the Canadian Neuromuscular Disease Network.



**Dr. Craig Moore**  
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**2017 endMS Summer School Co-Host**  
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Dr. Craig Moore is an Assistant Professor and Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Neuroscience and Brain Repair within the Division of BioMedical Sciences and cross-appointed in the Discipline of Medicine (Neurology) in the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University (MUN). His primary research interests include basic and clinical neuroimmunology, glial cell biology, elucidating pathogenic mechanisms of neurodegenerative diseases, and novel drug and biomarker discovery. Dr. Moore's research has significantly contributed to our understanding of the interactions between cells of the immune and central nervous system (CNS) and has demonstrated how novel markers of inflammatory injury (e.g. microRNAs) are clinically and pathologically relevant in the injured brain. At Memorial University, Dr. Moore is a Co-PI with the Health Research Innovation Team in MS (HITMS), a multi-disciplinary team of dedicated MS researchers and clinicians that are collecting prospective and longitudinal data relating to the health, disease symptoms and progression, neuro-immune profiles, and physical and cognitive performance among people with MS in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.



**Prof. Lynn Morrissey**  
**Memorial University**  
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Lynn Morrissey has over 20 years' experience as a facilitator, consultant, and educator, specializing in organizational effectiveness. Lynn is an Assistant Professor in communications with the Faculty of Business Administration at Memorial. She has received the Dean's Teaching Award in recognition of her teaching excellence; the Dean's Service Award and the Dean's Citizenship Award for exemplary service to the faculty. Most recently, Lynn was awarded the President's Award for Distinguished Teaching, the highest teaching award given at Memorial University; and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Lynn is also the proud Faculty Advisor and Coach for Enactus Memorial, a student-run organization on campus. For the past 12 years she has held this volunteer role. She leads the student team and works closely with the student executive. As well, she is the presentation team coach; to date she has coached over 70 teams at the regional, national, and international levels. Under her guidance, the team's success has been unprecedented. They have won the national championship eight times, and the global competition twice, including in 2016, making them the current Enactus World Cup Champions.



**Prof. Robert Motl**  
**University of Alabama at Birmingham**  
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Robert Motl is a Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Prof. Motl is further the Associate Director of Research for the UAB/Lakeshore Research Collaborative, University Center for Exercise Medicine, and NIH-funded REACT Center. Prof. Robert Motl has systematically developed a research agenda that focuses on physical activity and its measurement, predictors, and consequences in persons with neurological diseases, particularly multiple sclerosis (MS). Prof. Motl has generated a body of research on the validity of common physical activity measures in persons with MS. This has resulted in foundational research on quantifying differences in physical activity, particularly rates of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity, in persons with MS. These two lines of research have provided the basis

for examining the outcomes of physical activity in MS, particularly beneficial adaptations in brain structure, cognition, depression, fatigue, walking disability, and quality of life. Prof. Motl has undertaken research on social-cognitive predictors of physical activity that has informed the design of behavioral interventions for increasing physical activity in MS. This agenda serves as a test-bed for application and expansion into other conditions such as spinal cord injury and Parkinson's disease.



**Dr. Sylvia Leonard**  
**MS Society of Canada**

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Sylvia Leonard has served the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada as Interim President and CEO since April 1, 2017. Since joining the MS Society in 2011, Sylvia held the position of National Vice-President, Talent, Programs and Services; as well as the dual role of President of Ontario Division and National Vice-President of Programs and Services. In her role as National Vice-President, Talent, Programs and Services, Sylvia provided leadership and vision to the development of the MS Knowledge Network. She brings with her a breadth of not-for-profit and health services experience spanning member-based associations, hospital corporations and health charities.

Sylvia's 30 years of experience working in the health sector includes working at the Canadian Diabetes Association as Vice-President Research and Professional Education; and at the Canadian Cancer Society, Ontario Division as Vice-President Community Engagement. She's also served as Director, Medical Affairs and Risk Management at Hamilton Health Sciences; and as Director, Public Complaints, Investigations and Discipline with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. Since 2014, Sylvia has volunteered as a member of the board of directors at Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington, and currently serves as Chair of the Quality Committee and member of the Governance & Nominating Committee.

Originally from Toronto, ON, and now living in Burlington, ON, Sylvia graduated from the University of Toronto. During our short Canadian summers, she enjoys swimming in the cold waters of Georgian Bay at the cottage.



**Dr. David Owen**  
**Imperial College London**

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I am a clinical pharmacologist and my interest is in the interplay between inflammation and neurodegeneration. So I spend about 20% of my time on the medical wards, and the rest in the lab. My original

research training revolved around using PET imaging to quantify a microglial protein called TSPO, in humans in vivo. However, latterly I have been more involved in molecular biology, trying to understand the function of this protein and modulate it as a means of altering microglial function.



**Dr. Lisa Osborne**  
**University of British Columbia**  
**2017-2018 SPRINT Mentor**

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Dr. Osborne completed her graduate training at the University of British Columbia, investigating how signals from a stromal cell-derived cytokine, interleukin (IL)-7, support generation of host-protective immune responses. During her postdoctoral studies at the University of Pennsylvania, she investigated the immunological mechanisms that coordinate immunity to intestinal viral infection. In 2015, she started her lab in the Department of Immunology at the University of British Columbia and is a Canada Research Chair in Host-Microbiome Interactions. Her current research goals include defining mechanisms by which host-derived cytokine networks regulate diverse members of the intestinal ecosystem (viruses, bacteria and helminthic worms) in the context of infection and pathologic inflammation. She has a strong interest in the hygiene hypothesis and understanding how early exposure to infectious and commensal microbes can shape long-term immunity.



**Dr. Matthew Parsons**  
**Memorial University**

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Dr. Parsons completed his graduate training at Memorial University before moving to Vancouver where he worked as a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Dr. Lynn Raymond at the University of British Columbia. In 2015, Dr. Parsons returned to Memorial to take a position as Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences (Neuroscience) in the Faculty of Medicine. Dr.

Parsons uses a combination of conventional electrophysiological and novel optical techniques to study the regulation of synaptic neurotransmission in the healthy brain and in neurodegenerative diseases.



**Prof. Lara Pilutti**  
**University of Ottawa**  
**2017-2018 SPRINT Mentor**

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Lara Pilutti is an Assistant Professor in the Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences and the Director of the Clinical Exercise Physiology Laboratory at the University of Ottawa. She obtained her doctorate degree in Kinesiology from McMaster University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Exercise Neuroscience Research Laboratory at the University of Illinois. Professor Pilutti's research focuses on the role of exercise in the management and treatment of disability in people with multiple sclerosis. She has specific interests in the development and evaluation of adapted exercise rehabilitation approaches. Her research has also focused on the role of exercise in the management of comorbid health conditions that affect those with neurological disorders and mobility disability.



**Dr. Michelle Ploughman**  
**Memorial University**  
**2017 endMS Summer School Co-Host**

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Dr. Ploughman is a recognized expert in neuroplasticity and neurorehabilitation in stroke and multiple sclerosis. Her research focuses on the effects of aerobic exercise, intensive training paradigms and lifestyle habits on the brain challenged by injury, disease and aging. Dr. Ploughman is a Canada Research Chair in Neuroplasticity, Neurorehabilitation and Brain Recovery. Her work is published in journals such as Stroke, Neuroscience, Brain Research and Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. She is the Principal Investigator for the Canadian Survey of Health, Lifestyle and Aging with Multiple Sclerosis, the largest study of aging with MS in Canada with over 740 participants from 10 study sites. Dr. Ploughman continues to practice as a neurological physiotherapist in St John's and her Recovery and Performance Laboratory is located in the Rehabilitation Research Unit (RRUNL), L.A. Miller Centre, St. John's NL.



**Dr. William Pryse-Phillips**  
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William Pryse-Phillips has been on the Faculty of Memorial University since 1972 and has been Professor of Medicine (Neurology) at Memorial since 1980 and Professor emeritus since 2004. Following

medical school at Guy's Hospital, London and further training in Medicine, Psychiatry and Neurology in England, he came to Canada in 1970. He first worked in primary care in Flin Flon, Manitoba and then in Neurology at Queen's and McGill before heading as far east as one can go in Canada without actually drowning.

His clinical and research interests have included genetic neural, muscular and cerebellar diseases, migraine, dementia and the epidemiology of multiple sclerosis. He is a reviewer for three journals, on the editorial boards of three others and is the author of over 120 peer-reviewed papers or book chapters and of books *Epilepsy* (1969); *Essential Neurology* (with T J Murray; in four English, two Spanish and one Arabic edition since 1976), and *Companion to Clinical Neurology* (Little, Brown, 1995; 2nd edition Oxford Univ. Press 2003; 3rd edition 2009).

He created the original neurology teaching programmes at Memorial for under- and post-graduates. His hobbies are salmon fishing, very long (900 K) walks, extreme gardening, questionable cooking, iconoclasm and writing for pleasure. He is a University Orator. *Free Flight* (2013) is his first published work of fiction.



**Ms. Emma Quinlan**  
**Memorial University**  
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Emma is a PhD candidate in Dr. Mani Larijani's lab in the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University of Newfoundland. She studies the DNA-mutating enzyme activation induced cytidine deaminase (AID), which is responsible for initiating the antibody diversification processes of class switch recombination (CSR) and somatic hypermutation (SHM). Her research consists of the purification, characterization and comparison of AID orthologs from different species, with a focus on early-diverged fish species such as the lamprey. She has a passion for teaching, art and science communication, illustrating animal figures for scientific publications and taking part in the CBC's radio special "PhD's On the Go". She was also recently awarded an NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship.

Emma has a joint B.Sc. (biochemistry) and B.A. (French) degree from Memorial University (2013).



**Mr. Luke Richard**  
**Thermo Fisher Scientific**  
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Luke Richard is an Account Representative for Fisher Scientific, a part of Thermo Fisher Scientific, and is responsible for managing accounts within Newfoundland and Labrador. Having grown up within NL, Memorial University was the chosen place of study. Luke graduated in 2011 with a B.Sc (Biochemistry) and his MBA in 2014. With three summers of lab work under NSERC grants and just under three years of experience in the banking industry, his current role provides an interesting balance between science and business.



**Dr. Mark Stefanelli**  
**Memorial University**  
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Dr. Mark Stefanelli is a neurologist at the Eastern Health Authority and the Director of the provincial MS Clinic. He is Associate Professor of Neurology at Memorial University and has been site investigator for many disease-modifying drug trials over the past 20 years.



**Ms. (Lidewij) Eva Vat**  
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(Lidewij) Eva Vat is NL SUPPORT's Training and Capacity Development Lead. She is a Health Scientist and holds a Master's degree in Management, Policy Analysis and Entrepreneurship in Health and Life Sciences. Furthermore, she has 5 years' experience working as a consultant with the Dutch Centre of Expertise for long term and chronic care. Eva joined the NL SUPPORT team in January 2016. She provides education and support for researchers, patients, health professionals and policymakers to increase the capacity in patient-oriented research.



**Dr. Christina Wolfson**  
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Dr. Christina Wolfson received her BSc in Mathematics; MSc in Mathematical Statistics and PhD in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from McGill University. She is a Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Occupational Health and in the Department of Medicine at McGill University. She is an Associate Member in the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the Division of Geriatric Medicine at McGill University and a Fellow of the American College of Epidemiology. She is also the Program Director for the endMS National Training Program. Her program of research in the epidemiology of neurodegenerative disorders includes: dementia, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and Parkinson's disease. She is the Co-Principal Investigator on the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA) on which she leads both the Neurological Conditions Initiative and the Veterans Health Initiative and on EnvIMS (Environmental factors in Multiple Sclerosis), a 5 country epidemiological study of risk factors for MS.



**Dr. Ann Yeh**  
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Dr. Yeh is a graduate of Harvard University, received an MA from McGill University (Montreal, Canada), and her MD at McMaster University (Hamilton, ON). She completed pediatrics training at McMaster University and pediatric neurology training at SUNY Buffalo, where she developed and co-directed the Pediatric MS and Demyelinating Disorders Center of Excellence. She is currently an Associate Professor of Pediatrics (Neurology) at the Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto, Canada, where she is the director of the MS and Demyelinating Disorders Clinic. She is the director of the pediatric neurology training program at the University of Toronto. Her research interests are in visual and neuro-cognitive outcomes in pediatric demyelinating conditions, rehabilitative interventions for this population, as well as therapies for pediatric MS.