

NMD4C Annual Meeting Agenda



Date: Thursday September 11th (8:30am - 3:10pm ET)

Venue: University of Ottawa's Desmarais Building (Rm 12102; 55 Laurier Ave E)

Time	Topic	Session Chairs
8:15-8:30am	Registration	
8:30-8:35am	Land Acknowledgement	Dr. Kerri Schellenberg
8:35-9am	Welcome & overview of network achievements	Drs. Hanns Lochmüller & Homira Osman
9-10:30am	FIRST PARALLEL GROUP DISCUSSIONS	
	Clinical session (Rm 11161): Upcoming SBMA guidelines: promoting awareness and advocacy (45 min) Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the scope of the guidelines and their relevance for Indigenous people Address barriers and facilitators for guideline implementation 	Dr. Kerri Schellenberg
	Update on SBMA/OPMD/SMA/DMD - data linkage via health administrative data and CNDR (45 min) Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an overview of the progress made to date for this health administrative project for neuromuscular disease in Canada Discuss the challenges encountered so far and interim solutions Highlight the opportunities/need for the input of NMD4C members and CNDR investigators to ensure this project is as relevant to NMD in Canada as possible 	Dr. Reshma Amin
	Cross-disciplinary session (Rm 12102): Explore funding pathways; design a collaborative grant strategy from bench to bedside Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capture insights from successful grant teams to inform strategic planning and empower participants to pursue international and large-scale funding opportunities. Identify and explore major funding streams that support translational research and collaborative grant initiatives across disciplines. Facilitate team formation and idea generation for future grant applications, emphasizing clinician-researcher partnerships. 	Drs. Hanns Lochmüller, Michael Schlossmacher, Natasha Chang, Rashmi Kothary, and Kessen Patten
10:30-11am	Coffee Break	



Time	Topic	Session Chairs
11am-12pm	SECOND PARALLEL GROUP DISCUSSIONS	
	Clinical session (Rm 11161): Address barriers to implementing MRI/ultrasound in Canadian neuromuscular clinical practice Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the landscape of imaging techniques (MRI/US) used for NMDs in Canada • Discuss the barriers and solutions to implementing MRI/US in Canadian neuromuscular practice 	Drs. Jodi Warman-Chardon & Grayson Beecher
	Basic science session (Rm 12102): Boost academic retention through networking; address challenges in the transition from postdoc to PI Overview of the basic science training committee's accomplishments and plans (10 min) Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate networking to boost academic retention and foster collaborative opportunities across institutions. • Promote transparency and best practices in basic science research science (SOPs, reproducibility, addressing poor practices) • Discuss strategies for navigating the transition from postdoc to PI, including common challenges and solutions. • Explore diverse career pathways and funding opportunities (eg. Mitacs, industry partnerships, co-applicant roles on grants) for trainees and ECR's. 	Dr. Jean-Philippe Leduc Gaudet Dr. Emma Sutton, Rebecca Yaworski
12-1pm	Lunch break (Joint with Clinical Summer School) Recognition Ceremony: EC Awardees and Clinical/Postdoctoral Fellowship Funding Recipients (12:40pm - 1pm)	
1-2pm	THIRD PARALLEL GROUP DISCUSSIONS	
	Clinical session (Rm 12102): Towards a plan for gene therapy in Canada Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Canada's capacity and unique challenges with gene therapy implementation, including infrastructure, safety, long-term monitoring, and advocacy. • Evaluate the need for a national gene therapy plan to prepare and address identified gaps. 	Drs. Craig Campbell, Hugh McMillan, Hernan Gonorazky, and Lisa Marie Langevin, and Nicola Worsfold
	Basic science session (Rm 11161): Improve access to resources; foster preclinical-clinical collaborations Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore paths that connect scientists and clinicians who share research interests • Map infrastructure gaps and propose collaborative solutions 	Drs. Natasha Chang, Rashmi Kothary, Kessen Patten, and Cynthia Gagnon



Time	Topic	Session Chairs
2-3pm	FOURTH PARALLEL GROUP DISCUSSIONS	
	Clinical session (Rm 11161): Development of Combination SMA Treatment Guidelines Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share data on current clinical practices 8 years after the approval of SMA DMTs• Present the current limitations related to switching, bridging, and combining SMA DMTs• Discuss best practices for the administration of SMA DMTs	Dr. Nicolas Chrestian
	Adult clinical session (Rm 3102): Development of a DM1 outcome measure working group and integration with CNDR DM1 dataset Objectives: Discuss the feasibility of implementing key DM1 motor function OMs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify clinical priorities for motor symptom assessment in DM1, focusing on what is realistic in a routine clinical context.• Determine what is needed to support the implementation of a standardized evaluation protocol.• Discuss the role of NMD4C and MDC in facilitating and sustaining standardized assessments in clinics.	Drs. Cynthia Gagnon and Isabelle Demers
	Basic science session (Rm 12102): Summarize and prioritize next steps from cross-disciplinary and basic science sessions Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Synthesize key insights from previous cross-disciplinary and basic science discussions to identify unresolved topics and areas requiring follow-up.• Develop and prioritize an actionable roadmap for next steps, ensuring alignment with strategic goals and collaborative opportunities across disciplines.	Drs. Natasha Chang, Rashmi Kothary, and Kessen Patten
3-3:10pm	Take-homes from group discussions & concluding remarks	Drs. Hanns Lochmüller & Homira Osman