



## 2026 NMD4C Basic Research Summer School Guidelines

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### Overview

The Neuromuscular Disease Network for Canada (NMD4C) will be hosting its third Basic Research Summer School for neuromuscular research trainees from the **8th to 10th of June 2026**, at the **University of Ottawa**. The annual NMD4C Basic Research Summer School offers demos, tutorials, lecture-based and hands-on training workshops to neuromuscular trainees in cutting-edge wet lab techniques. In tandem with this vital training, trainees have an opportunity to present their research and network in-person with colleagues, senior investigators and patient-partners from across Canada.

The 2026 NMD4C Basic Research Summer School will be a 2.5-day event led by Dr. **Mireille Khacho**, and will be delivered by experienced instructors; CNMD Basic Scientists, **Dr. Vahab Soleimani**, **Dr. Keir Menzies**, **Dr. Michael DeLisio**, **Dr. Junio Dort**, and **Dr. Yan Burelle**; members of our Basic Science Training Committee (BSTC) **Dr. Jean-Philippe Leduc-Gaudet** (UQTR), **Dr. Emma Sutton**, **Dr. Rebecca Yaworski** (Kothary Lab); **Dr. Sally Spendiff** (Lochmüller Lab), **Dr. Alex Green** (Algonquin College), and **Jonathan Mesiano-Crookston** (Patient Partner).

The program will cover an interactive computer session on Bioinformatics and Genetic Reference populations, Muscle Organoids, histopathological Basis of Muscle in NMD: From Normal Structure to Pathological Changes on Day 1; 3D muscle cultures, human muscle biopsy, ex vivo muscle function, Resipher analysis, and immuno/histological labelling on Day 2; and single-cell transcriptomics, muscle stem cell biology, and Image Analysis using FIJI, MiraVision, and NMJ-morph on Day 3.

**Language:** The 2026 NMD4C Basic Research Summer School will be delivered in English.

**Eligibility:** Placements at the summer school are subject to a competitive application process. Successful applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Be a **member of the NMD4C**.
- Current full-time graduate student, postdoctoral research fellow, or other trainee\* conducting neuromuscular disease-focused research at a Canadian institution\*\*.



*\*Participation of other trainees will be based on placement availability; graduate students and postdoctoral fellows will be given preference.*

*\*\*Placements may be restricted to one trainee per lab based on the number of applications received.*

**Accommodation, Meals & Travel Support:** Supporting trainees and early career scientists is a key focus of the network, and we are aiming to make this event as accessible as possible for trainees to attend from across Canada. There will be no registration fee, and support will be available for accommodation and travel for non-local participants.

- **Accommodation:** We will provide accommodation for non-local attendees for **three** nights (June 7, 8, and 9<sup>th</sup>).
- **Meals:** We will provide meals on June 8, 9, and on the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup>.
- **Travel:** We will provide financial support (sufficient to cover all/most of your travel to and from summer school) for all non-local attendees.

**Application Process:** You may submit your application for the summer school by completing the application form available online at: <https://neuromuscularnetwork.ca/2026-basic-research-summer-school-application/>. Please complete your application form in English as the summer school will be delivered in in the same language.

**Applicants will need to include the following in their application:**

- **Contact information:** Applicants must include their name, email, institution, role, their supervisor(s) contact information, and neuromuscular disease(s) researched.
- **Research and Training Goals:** Applicants must provide a short paragraph describing why they would like to attend the summer school, how they anticipate this to benefit their training and career goals and how the training may be impactful for their home lab and research colleagues.
- **Flash Talks:** Attendees will give a 2-min flash talk at the beginning of summer school to introduce themselves and provide an overview of their research interests. Applicants must provide a short description of their research.
- **CV:** Maximum of 4 pages, PDF attachment. Please ensure your CV includes your education, research experience, professional affiliations and activities, publications, presentations and awards.
- **Accommodation and Travel Support:** For non-local applicants, applicants will need to indicate whether they would like university accommodation during the summer school, and if they would require travel support.
- **Supervisor Approval:** Applicants will require their supervisor's approval to attend the summer school. Supervisors must sign the following **approval form** to be uploaded during the application.
- **Biosafety Training:** To participate in the hands-on workshops, the University of Ottawa requires you to have completed biosafety training at your own institution and will require you to provide a copy of your biosafety training completion certificate before the event.

## Selection

- Applicants will be chosen based on training and career goals, commitment to NMD research, and equity, diversity, inclusion, and indigeneity considerations.
- Priority will be given to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.



- The number of participants attending per lab may be limited.
- Priority for attending the hands-on workshops will be given to non-local participants.

#### **Deadline**

- **Competition Opens:** December 2, 2025
- **Application Deadline:** January 27, 2026
- **Anticipated Notice of Decision:** Early February 2026
- **Program Dates:** June 8 to 10, 2026

#### **Contact**

Please direct all questions to our Network Manager, Erin Beattie at [Ebeattie@cheo.on.ca](mailto:Ebeattie@cheo.on.ca).