2027 NMD4C–RARE.Qc Basic Science Research Summer School Guidelines

Contents

Contents 1
Overview 1
Eligibility 1
Accommodation, Meals & Travel Support 1
Application Process 2
Selection 2
Deadline 2
Contact 3

Overview

NMD4C will host our fourth Basic Science Research Summer School for neuromuscular research trainees from May 12–14, 2027, at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (UQTR), led by Dr. Jean-Philippe Leduc-Gaudet.

The 2027 Summer School will be organized in partnership with RARE.Qc, bringing together the expertise of both of our networks to support the next generation of basic science researchers working on rare diseases, such as neuromuscular disorders. Supporting preclinical trainees and scientists is a key priority of both networks, and we aim to make this event as accessible as possible to trainees from across Canada. There will be no registration fee, and financial support will be available to help offset travel and accommodation costs in Trois-Rivières, Québec.

Program

The 2027 NMD4C–RARE.Qc Basic Science Research Summer School will be an intensive 3-day training event combining scientific lectures, trainee presentations, patient-partner perspectives, poster sessions, networking opportunities, and hands-on practical workshops. The program will bring together experienced basic and translational scientists with complementary expertise, including Drs. Jean-Philippe Leduc-Gaudet (UQTR), Marc Germain, Geneviève Pépin, Yannick Audet-Delage, Erwan Pernet, and Marie-Claude Sincennes, alongside invited researchers, clinicians, patient partners, and representatives from the rare disease community.

Day 1 – From Basic Science to Translational Research

On the first day attendees will receive lectures from leading researchers, patient partners, and industry members. The scientific program will include lectures covering inflammation, translational research, advanced cellular and molecular approaches, microscopy, flow cytometry, metabolomics, mitochondrial bioenergetics, and other emerging methodologies relevant to rare and neuromuscular diseases.

Days 2 and 3 – Hands-on Experimental Training

The second and third days will emphasize practical, hands-on training in experimental techniques. Through a combination of demonstrations, tutorials, lectures, and hands-on workshops, trainees will gain exposure to state-of-the-art wet-lab approaches.

Workshop Themes:

- Inflammation
- Assessment of mitochondrial function

Language: The 2027 NMD4C–RARE.Qc Basic Science 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 either NMD4C or RARE.Qc
- 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 (May 11-13th).
- **Meals:** We will provide meals on May 12th, 13th and the morning of the 14th.
- **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/2027-nmd4c-rare-qc-basic-science-research-summer-school-application-form/. 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.
- **Mandatory Biosafety and Laboratory Training:** To participate in the hands-on workshops, applicants must complete biosafety training at their home institution as well as a short Laboratory Safety module with UQTR. Applicants must submit copies of both certificates before the workshop.

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

- **Application Opens:** October 6, 2025
- **Application Deadline:** December 1, 2026
- **Anticipated Notice of Decision:** Mid December 2026
- **Program Dates:** May 12 to 14, 2026

Contact

Please direct all questions to our Network Manager, Erin Beattie at Ebeattie@cheo.on.ca.