

Translational Science in Neuromuscular Disease

Fundamental Research Program



September 25-27, 2026 | Hotel Arts, Calgary, AB, Canada

FRIDAY | September 25, 2026

Located in Spectrum 4/5

4pm-5:45pm

REGISTRATION AND WELCOME RECEPTION

5:45pm-6pm

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

6pm-6:30pm

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

6:30pm-8:30pm

CLINICOPATHOLOGIC CASE SERIES

Chaired by Dr Collin Luk

SATURDAY | September 26, 2026

All sessions in Galleria room. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and breaks in Spectrum 4/5

8am-9am

BREAKFAST

9am-10:30am

TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE SESSION 1

9am: **Keynote** Dr Rita Horvath, Cambridge University, United Kingdom.

Modelling mitochondrial disease to develop treatments

9:40am: Dr Fabio Rossi, University of British Columbia.

Skeletal muscle stroma in inflammation and cancer cachexia

10:05am: Dr Natasha Chang, McGill University.

Muscle stem cell-targeted approaches for Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

10:30am-11am

COFFEE, SNACKS, POSTERS, NETWORKING

11am-12pm

TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE SESSION 2

11am: Dr Antoine Dufour, University of Calgary.

Multi-omic analysis of limb girdle muscular dystrophy 2A/R1 in human and animal models.

11:20am: Dr Jodi Warman Chardon, University of Ottawa.

Biomarkers of inclusion body myositis.

11:40am: Dr Jan Luenemann, University of British Columbia.

Complement activation in neuromuscular disease.

12pm-1:30pm

LUNCH, POSTERS, NETWORKING

1:30pm-3pm

TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE SESSION 3

Translational science platform sessions (15 minutes each)

Pharmacological modulation of translation initiation factor eIF4A enhances myogenic differentiation in DMD muscle stem cells. | Romina Filippelli, McGill University

Environmental and genetic modifiers unmask hepatobiliary disease in X-linked myotubular myopathy. | Dr Emanuela Pannia, University of Toronto

Maternal-fetal transplacental drug delivery postpones disease onset in a murine model of Spinal Muscular Atrophy. | Dr Emma Sutton, University of Ottawa

Inflammation and myopathies through the lens of Mitofusin2-mediated mtDNA release. | Mashiat Zaman, University of Calgary.

Systemic peptide-mediated antisense oligonucleotide delivery enables CNS penetration and durable, body-wide rescue in severe Spinal Muscular Atrophy. | Umme Sabrina Haque, University of Alberta.

3pm-3:30pm

COFFEE, SNACKS, POSTERS, NETWORKING

Cont'd >

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3:30-4:30PM

TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE SESSION 4

Translational science platform session (15 minutes each)

A male-specific immunometabolic peripheral blood mononuclear cells transcriptomic signature linked to sex-related susceptibility in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. | Abdu Bura, University of Calgary.

Transcriptome Analysis of Sexual Dimorphism in Skeletal Muscle of Individuals with Myotonic Dystrophy Type 1. | Wanda Dupêbe, Université de Québec à Trois Rivières.

Myotonic Dystrophy type 1 biomarker discovery via multi-omic profiling of stem cell-derived neurons and cardiomyocytes. | Dr Haley Geertsma, University of Ottawa.

Concluding remarks and abstract awards for Translational science sessions

4:30-6pm

BREAK, POSTER VIEWING

6pm-7pm

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

7pm-9pm

DINNER AND GUEST SPEAKER