Day	Time	Programme category (e.g., talk, break, keynote lecture etc.)	Speaker name and topic of talk
Day 0	**July 12, 2026**	**ARRIVAL**	
Day 1	**July 13, 2026**	**DAY 1**	
	7:00 – 8:45	**BREAKFAST /REGISTRATION**	
	8:45-8:50	**Land Acknowledgements**	Carol Schuurmans
	8:50-8:55	**OPENING REMARKS**	Bhavana Muralidharan and Shen-Ju Chou
	8:55-9:00	**Azrieli Foundation opening remarks**	Mira Puri
	9:00 – 10:00	**KEYNOTE**	Jeffrey Macklis (Harvard University), *Development and Regeneration of Function-Specific Cerebral Cortex Circuitry: Subcellular Molecular Machinery*
		SESSION #1	**Neuronal Diversification (Chairs: Carol Schuurmans, Puja Ghosh)**
	10:00 – 10:30	**TALK**	Carol Schuurmans (Sunnybrook Research Institute), *Transcriptional hubs in cortical neurogenesis and neuronal reprogramming*
	10:30-10:50	**SHORT TALK- PI**	Antonio del Sol (University of Luxemburg), *A Machine-Learning Approach Identifies Rejuvenating Interventions in the Human Brain*
	10:50-11:20	**COFFEE BREAK**	
	11:20 – 11:50	**TALK**	Lynette Lim (Leuven Brain Institute), *Cortical inhibitory neurons exhibit expanding and contracting mode of diversification*
	11:50-12:10	**SHORT TALK - PI**	Jesse Gillis (University of Toronto), *Replicable mapping of neural diversity across human brain development*
	12:10-12:30	**SHORT TALK - PI**	Cristina Gil Sanz (University of Valencia), *Beyond the Ventricle: A Functional Ectopic Neural Stem Cell Niche*
	12:30 – 13:00	**TALK**	Levi Todd (Upstate Medical University), *Reprogramming glia to regenerate neurons in the aged mouse retina*
	13:00-14:00	**LUNCH**	
	14:00-14:30	**TALK**	Ying Zhang (Dalhousie University), *Temporal-spatial delineation of spinal interneuron diversity.*
	14:30-15:00	**TALK**	Janelle Drouin-Ouellet (University of Montréal), *Cellular Age Matters: Maturation and Aging in Direct Neuronal Reprogramming*
		SESSION #2	**Neuronal maturation and circuitry (Chairs: Shen-Ju Chou, Hussein Ghazale)**
	15:00 – 15:30	**TALK**	Shen-Ju Chou (Institute of Cellular and Organismic Biology), *Patterning the cerebral cortex by transcription factor gradients*
	15:30-15:45	**SHORT TALK – trainee**	Sofia Erias (Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto), *TRACR: An anterograde transsynaptic tracing system for longitudinal analysis of circuit development, degeneration and repair*
	15:45 – 16:15	**COFFEE BREAK and group photo**	
	16:15 – 16:30	**SHORT TALK - trainee**	Kruttika Phalnikar (inStem), *Investigation of patient-iPSC derived neural organoids to understand neurodevelopmental and molecular mechanisms underlying psychiatric disorders*
	16:30-17:00	**TALK**	Alejandro Schinder (Leloir Institute), *Circuit remodeling by neurogenesis and activity in the adult and aging hippocampus*

	18:00-19:00	**OPENING RECEPTION/ WELCOME ADDRESSES**	Petros82 Don Mills (Azrieli Foundation opening reception speech)
	19:00-21:30	**GALA DINNER**	Petros82 Don Mills
Day 2	**July 14, 2026**		
	7:00 - 9:00	**BREAKFAST**	
		SESSION #2	**Neuronal maturation and circuitry (Chairs: Shen-Ju Chou, Hussein Ghazale)**
	9:00 - 9:30	**TALK**	Olutayo Ifedayo Ajayi (University of Global Health Equity), *Equity based design of therapeutics for neurogenesis - the global North and South perspectives*
	9:30 – 10:00	**TALK**	Marta Nieto (Centro Nacional de Biotecnologia), *Early Emergence of Projection-subtype Fated Radial Glial Progenitors Orchestrates Neocortical Neurogenesis.*
	10:00 – 10:15	**SHORT TALK - trainee**	Farinaz Katabat (University of Saskatchewan), *A gut-brain model for personalized medicine*
	10:15 – 10:30	**SHORT TALK- trainee**	Robert Duba-Kiss (University of Calgary), *iNeuron Reprogramming as a Treatment Strategy for Refractory Epilepsy*
	10:30-11:00	**COFFEE BREAK**	
	11:00-12:30	**POSTER SESSION #1**	
	12:30-13:30	**LUNCH**	
	13:30-14:30	**PAIR and SHARE: GRAND CHALLENGES** **(Hosted by the Azrieli Foundation)**	At Meet the Experts: Grand Challenges in the Translational Potential of Basic Science for Neuroregeneration, selected speakers will each host a lunch table, discussing a set list of Grand Challenges and critical questions in the field, with a focus on global accessibility challenges. Match participants from different fields and seniority levels for guided conversation on sustainability in science.
	14:30- 15:00	**TALK**	Ed Ruthazer (McGill University), *Contribution of glial cells to visual system circuit wiring and function*
	15:00 – 15:30	**TALK**	Santos Franco (University of Colorado Anschutz), *Developmental and Evolutionary Mechanisms of Gliogenesis*
	15:30 – 15:45	**SHORT TALK- trainee**	Deeva Uthayakumar (Sunnybrook Research Institute, University of Toronto), *Hypothalamic microglial responses during chronic stress-induced depression*
	15:45-16:15	**COFFEE BREAK**	
		SESSION #3	**Post-transcriptional regulation of neurogenesis (Chairs: Sergi Simo, Wen-Hsin Hsu)**
	16:15-16:45	**TALK**	Sergi Simo (UC Davis), *RNA epitranscriptomics control neural progenitor competence*
	16:45– 17:15	**TALK**	Guang Yang (University of Calgary), *Splicing decisions at the crossroad of stem cell fate and neurodevelopmental disorders*
	17:15 – 17:30	**SHORT TALK- trainee**	Jefferey Stulberg (University of Toronto), *Musashi1 sustains mTOR activity through Notch repression to drive Müller glial reprogramming*
	17:30	**(DINNER on own)**	
Day 3	**July 15, 2026**		
	7:00 – 9:00	**BREAKFAST**	

		SESSION #3	**Post-transcriptional regulation of neurogenesis (Chairs: Sergi Simo, Wen-Hsin Hsu)**
	9:00-9:20	**SHORT TALK- PI**	Taeko Kobayashi (University of Tokyo), *Caveolae regulate neural stem cell quiescence and lineage fidelity through lysosomal proteolysis.*
	9:20-9:50	**TALK**	Mateusz Ambrożkiewicz (University of Calgary), *Ubiquitin-driven proteome remodeling in developing neuronal lineages and the aging brain*
	9:50-10:05	**SHORT TALK- trainee**	Ajay David (McGill University), *Temporal Identity Factors Regulate Regeneration of the Mammalian Retina*
	10:05-10:35	**TALK**	Ryoichiro Kageyama (RIKEN Center for Biosystems Dynamics Research), *Regulation of neural stem cells for memory improvement*
	10:35-11:00	**COFFEE BREAK**	
	11:00-12:30	**POSTER SESSION #2**	
	12:30-13:30	**LUNCH**	
	13:30-14:00	**TALK**	Dimitra Thomaidou (Hellenic Pasteur Institute), *Astrocyte activation and reprogramming following brain injury*
		SESSION #4	**Epigenetic regulation of neurogenesis (Chairs: Bhavana Muralidharan, Robert Duba-Kiss)**
	14:00-14:30	**TALK**	Bhavana Muralidharan (InStem), *Chromatinopathies, Ciliopathies, and Brain Malformations: From Genetic Mechanisms to Disease Models*
	14:30 – 15:00	**TALK**	Nathalie Berube (Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry), *Epigenetic control of neurogenesis*
	15:00 – 15:15	**SHORT TALK- trainee**	Yu-Yun Gao (University of Calgary), *Decoding developmental switches in RNA regulation by "SaRTI-seq"*
	1`5:15-15:45	**COFFEE BREAK**	
	15:45-16:05	**SHORT TALK- PI**	Victor Archibong (University of Rwanda), *Neuroprotective and Reprogramming Potential of Tamarindus indica in Prenatal Aluminium-Induced Cerebellar Neurotoxicity*
	16:05 – 16:35	**TALK**	Pierre Mattar (Ottawa Hospital Research Institute), *Epigenetic control of cortical expansion via a novel chromatin remodelling complex*
	16:35-16:55	**SHORT TALK- PI**	Xinwei Cao (St. Jude Children's Research Hospital), *Distinct regulations of indirect neurogenesis during dorsal and ventral telencephalon development*
	16:55-17:15	**SHORT TALK PI**	Ian Tobias (University of Guelph), *Using gene regulatory programs in humans and mice to understand neuronal development*
	17:15-17:35	**SHORT TALK PI**	Isabelle Aubert (Sunnybrook Research Institute), *Promoting neurogenesis and oligodendrogenesis using focused ultrasound in the adult brain*
	17:35	**Free time – dinner on own**	
Day 4	**July 16, 2026**		
	7:00 - 9:00	**BREAKFAST**	
		SESSION #4 (continued)	**Epigenetic regulation of neurogenesis (Chair: Bhavana Muralidharan, Robert Duba-Kiss)**
	9:00-9:30	**TALK**	Michel Cayouette (IRCM and Université de Montréal), *Cell division orientation regulates neural tissue expansion*
	9:30-10:00	**TALK**	Esteban Mazzoni (NYU Grossman School of Medicine), *Distinct Retinoic Acid Response Elements Cooperatively Orchestrate Hox Epigenetic Memory Establishment.*

		SESSION #5	**Mapping Neural Diversity and Regeneration (CHAIR: Deborah Kurrasch, Alexia Cossard)**
	10:00-10:30	**TALK**	Deborah Kurrasch (University of Calgary), *Studying neural diversity in human brain organoids*
	10:30 – 11:00	**TALK**	Armen Saghatelyan (University of Ottawa), *Regulation of adult neural stem cells by molecular and mechanical stimuli*
	11:00-11:30	**COFFEE BREAK**	
	11:30 – 11:45	**SHORT TALK- trainee**	Nareh Tahmasian (Sunnybrook Research Institute, University of Toronto), *Neuronal reprogramming modulates neuroinflammation and pro-repair signaling pathways*
	11:45 – 12:00	**SHORT TALK- trainee**	Ashleigh Willis (University of British Columbia), *A role for injury-associated microglia in neural responses to cortical white matter and parenchymal damage*
	12:00 – 12:30	**TALK**	Scott Yuzwa (University of Toronto), *Differentiation of cortical progenitors to glial cells and the impacts of neurodevelopmental disorder-associated genes*
	12:30-13:30	**LUNCH**	
	13:30 – 14:00	**TALK**	Diogo Castro (i3S Institute for Research and Innovation in Health), *Temporal coordination of transcriptional programs during neurogenesis*
	14:00-14:30	**TALK**	Christina Kyrousi (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), *Decoding Brain Development Evolution and Disease*
	14:30-15:00	**TALK**	Jessica Rosin (University of British Columbia), *Maternal stress drives sex-specific shifts in neural lineages in the fetal brain*
	15:00-15:15	**CLOSING and AWARDS**	Sergi Simo and Deborah Kurrasch *Key scientific takeaways, summary of Grand Challenges lunch and sustainability in Science lunch*
	15:15	**DEPARTURE**	