



Transforming Autism Care Consortium - Third Annual Scientific Conference *TACC: The Next Generation*

OMNI Hotel Mont-Royal, 1050 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal
February 25th and 26th, 2020

Tuesday, February 25, PM

- 12:30 **Registration**
- 1:00 **Welcome & TACC Updates**
Information about the programs, activities and events organized and supported by the network over the past year as well as those planned for the coming year.
- 1:15 **Q1K Update**
The newly funded Quebec 1000 families (Q1K) project is the flagship of the TACC network. The project aims to integrate research protocol in clinics, in order to engage families in research as they access clinical services. It includes biological, clinical, cognitive and brain imaging data collection and will accelerate discoveries and their integration in practice and policies. During this session, projects PIs and key collaborators will discuss the development of this project on the scientific, experimental and organizational fronts, highlighting the successes, challenges and lessons learned as we move from development to implementation.
Chair: **Sylvie Lauzon**
Director of the Fondation les petits trésors, TACC Ambassador
Sébastien Jacquemont, PhD
Axis Lead – Genomics, CHU Ste-Justine, Université de Montréal
Emily Kirby, M. Env., LL.B.
Lawyer and Academic Associate at the Centre of Genomics and Policy (CGP), McGill University.
Laurent Mottron, PhD
Axis Lead – Cognition ; Hôpital Rivière-des-Prairies, Université de Montréal
Fabienne Samson, PhD
Senior Program Officer of TACC
- 2:15 **The Next Generation of Care**
The Q1K project integrated aspects of the **Learning Health System (LHS)** framework, mainly aiming towards an integration and harmonization of research protocols into clinical services to allow representative data and samples for research, as well as to facilitate transfer of evidence-based knowledge into practice. Representatives of other networks and initiatives who have led projects based on LHS principles will present their perspective and experience, advising on best practices for new initiatives in this field.
Chair: **Jonathan Lai, PhD**
Director of Strategies and Operations, Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorder Alliance (CASDA)
Christophe Bedos, PhD
Co-director of the Réseau de recherche en santé buccodentaire et osseuse (RSBO)
Associate Professor at the Faculty of Dentistry, McGill University
Adjunct Professor with the School of public health of Université de Montréal
Ashok Malla, MD, FRCPC
Lead investigator of ACCESS Open Minds
Professor of Psychiatry, McGill University
Canada Research Chair in Early Psychosis - Tier 1
Denis A. Roy, MD, MPH, MSc, FRCPC
Vice-president, Science and Governance Clinic, Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux (INESSS)

3:45 **Poster Session & Cocktail reception**

5:30 **Closing**

6:30 **Speakers' dinner**

Wednesday, February 26, AM

8:30 **Breakfast**

9:00 **The Next Generation of Fundamental Autism Research**

There is continued interest to bring innovative and new research methods and expertise relevant to neurodevelopment to the field of autism. The aim of this session is for researchers to present these novel ideas and approaches, and to discuss their potential relevance for autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions.

Chair: **Stefano Stifani, PhD**

James McGill Professor, Department of Neurology & Neurosurgery
Associate Director (Research), Montreal Neurological Institute

Timothy Kennedy, PhD

Co-director, McGill Program in NeuroEngineering
Professor, Departments of Neurology and Neurosurgery, and Anatomy and Cell Biology
Montreal Neurological Institute and McGill University

Aparna Suvrathan, PhD

Assistant Professor, Departments of Neurology & Neurosurgery, and Pediatrics
Center for Research in Neuroscience, McGill University

Oliver Hardt, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, McGill University

Ilse Gantois, PhD

Research Associate, Department of Biochemistry, McGill University

Thomas Durcan, PhD

Associate Director of the Early Drug Discovery Unit, Montreal Neurological Institute
Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery, McGill University

10:30 **Break/Networking Opportunity**

11:00 **The Next Generation of Clinical Autism Research**

This session will focus on novel approaches in clinical research applied to autism. Experts are invited to share their current work concentrating on genetics and social behaviours, interventions development and evaluation, as well as phenotype and prototypicality. They are also invited to reflect and share their vision of where autism research should centre its next efforts.

Chair: **Stefano Stifani, PhD**

James McGill Professor, Department of Neurology & Neurosurgery
Associate Director (Research), Montreal Neurological Institute

John Constantino, MD

Blanche F. Ittleson Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at Washington University in St. Louis
Psychiatrist-In-Chief at St. Louis Children's Hospital

Ashley de Marchena, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.

Isabel Smith, PhD

Professor, Joan & Jack Craig Chair in Autism Research and Departments of Pediatrics and Psychology & Neuroscience, Dalhousie University
IWK Health Centre in Halifax Nova Scotia

12:15 **Lunch**

1:15 **Quebec Autism Research Training (QART) Program trainees' presentations**

2:00 **The Next Generation Cohorts**

Much effort has been deployed internationally to build research resources to enable faster, collaborative and ambitious research projects. The existing cohorts have been tremendously helpful in advancing knowledge and can now serve as models for designing the next generation cohorts. Representatives of important international large-scale initiatives will be sharing their experiences, successes, challenges and lessons learned. They will also share their perception of current gaps and how the next generation of research cohorts, like the Q1K project, could address them.

Chair: **Mira Puri, PhD**

Manager of Science Initiatives, Azrieli Foundation

Eva Loth, PhD (EU-AIMS; LEAP)

Associate Professor, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London

Pamela Feliciano, PhD (SFARI; SPARK)

Scientific Director of SPARKforAutism.org

Senior Scientist at SFARI

Sara Webb, PhD (ABC-CT)

Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, University of Washington and Seattle Children's Research Institute

Stelios Georgiades, PhD (PATHWAYS)

Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences

Scientist, Offord Centre for Child Studies, McMaster University

Co-Principal Investigator for the Province of Ontario Neurodevelopmental (POND) Network

Annette Majnemer, PhD (RI-MUHC; CHILD-BRIGHT)

Vice Dean of Education, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University

Professor, School of Physical & Occupational Therapy, McGill University

Senior Scientist, Montreal Children's Hospital-MUHC & Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Rehabilitation

Christine Wu Nordahl, PhD (MIND Institute)

Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, UC Davis MIND Institute

5:00 **Closing Remarks, poster prizes and TACC Researcher Members General Assembly**

Mayada Elsabbagh, PhD

Fabienne Samson, PhD

Ellie-Anna Minogianis, PhD

5:30 **Closing**