



Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2022

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Co-PIs:

- Dr. Joy MacDermid (NPI)
- Dr. Catherin Backman
- Dr. Trevor Birmingham
- Dr. Laurent Bouyer
- Dr. Deborah Marshall
- Dr. Rebecca Moyer
- Dr. Janet Ronsky
- Dr. Jean Sebastien Roy
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Network News

Network NPI Dr. Joy MacDermid Receives Numerous Accolades

Congratulations to MSK Rehab Research Network NPI, Dr. Joy MacDermid (Western) who was recently awarded the 2022 International Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy (IFSHT) Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2022 IFSSH, IFSHT & FESSH Combined Congress.

Among the ten awardees of 2022, Dr. MacDermid was the only Canadian to receive the honour.

“This award was created to recognize any person, alive or posthumous, who has made an outstanding contribution to hand therapy internationally. The enormous contribution of the award winner will influence generations of Hand Therapists to come and benefit countless patients into the future. The IFSHT Membership, therefore, expresses its sincere appreciation and gratitude to our pioneers for enriching our passion, Hand Therapy.” – IFSHT

Read more here: https://ifsht.org/awards_grants/lifetime-achievement-award/

Dr. MacDermid was also recently recognized by Western University with the prestigious Hellmuth Prize for Achievement in Research.

“MacDermid has made major contributions to musculoskeletal health by putting people first in health care, advancing evidence-based practice and applying innovations in research design.

She has been a tireless advocate for empowering patients, ensuring their perspectives are considered in health-care decisions and bringing issues of equity and diversity to the forefront in patient-centered care” (Western News)

Read the full news release here:

<https://news.westernu.ca/2022/08/macdermid-juan-luis-suarez-awarded-2022-hellmuth-prize/>

Network member receives NIH Funding

Congratulations to MSK Rehab Research Network member and Western University Associate Professor, Dr. Ryan Willing and his team for receiving a US\$2.3-million grant from the U.S. National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases.

The project is “working to develop and test a self-powered knee load sensor, encased in a flexible but durable material, to send signals of the knee’s health to the world outside the body” (Western News).

Read the full story from Western News here:

<https://news.westernu.ca/2022/07/big-step-in-knee-pain-research/>

Read all the latest news on our website: <https://mskrehabnet.com/news/>

We are always happy to share recent successes of our Network members! If you have any news you would like to share, please reach out to rehabnet@uwo.ca with details

Call for IMHA Patient Engagement Research Ambassador (PERA) Members

IMHA is seeking to enhance the diversity of experiences within its PERA group to build a more inclusive representation of patients and caregivers who live with, or represent conditions, related to bones, joints, muscles, connective tissue, skin and teeth.

IMHA commits to authentically engage those who have historically been excluded from participating as research partners, by ensuring equity, diversity and inclusion are of central focus in our recruitment to PERA.

IMHA is seeking members who reflect the breadth of intersectionality of the community (e.g. geography, age, race, language, sex and gender, etc.).

Call for Members: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/53091.html>

2022 Collaborative Catalyst Grant Recipients

The Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network is committed to supporting high-impact, high-potential research and teams across Canada. Our annual Collaborative Catalyst grants are aimed to encourage new, externally funded, transdisciplinary research initiatives.

We were thrilled with the both the number and quality of submissions in response to this year’s call. The Rehab Network initially intended to fund up to six projects at up to \$25,000 each – a total of \$150,000. However, our reviewers felt the quality of the submissions warranted funding additional applications. Therefore, we were happy to increase our budget for this call, funding a total of eight (8) applications at \$25,000 each – a total investment of \$200,000.

Below are the successful teams:

PI	Project Title
Cheryl Kozey	A pilot feasibility multicenter study to identify risk factors for rapid progression in those with early mild to moderate knee osteoarthritis
Kevin Deluzio	Characterizing patient mobility and functional status while on waitlist for total knee replacement: A multi-center feasibility pilot study
Hugo Masse Alarie	Spine motor control and pain processing as predictive and explanatory factors of chronic low back pain
JS Roy	Do psychosocial factors predict the persistence of shoulder pain?
Lora Giangregorio	Virtual Intervention for Vertebral fracture (VIVA): Feasibility of implementation in a multicentre trial
Luciana Macedo	Feasibility testing of a pre-surgical rehabilitation program for patients with lumbar spinal stenosis: a multi-center pilot randomized controlled trial
Michael Hunt	A multi-centre feasibility study assessing shoe-worn insoles to improve clinical and biomechanical features of knee osteoarthritis
Kamiar Ghoseiri	The effects of a novel phantom exercise execution program on phantom limb pain and mobility in people with unilateral transtibial amputation: a feasibility pilot study

2022 Trainee Travel Award Recipients

2022 marked the return of one of our most popular initiatives following two years of limited travel and networking opportunities. Our fourth edition of Trainee Travel Awards were intended to foster the development of future leaders in MSK health rehabilitation research, by providing financial assistance to trainees who had been accepted to present their thesis work at a rehabilitation research conference.

We were thrilled with the response to this call for applications, which highlighted the need for this form of financial support in the rehabilitation research community.

To answer the extremely high demand, the MSK Rehab Research Network adjusted its budget and awarded fifty percent more funds than initially planned. Below is the list of our 2022 recipients:

Amelie Desganges	Matthew Slopecki
Caroline Elfassy	Erika Renda
Chen Yang	Amanda Chen
Shirin Modarassi	Shahrzad Nematollahi
Tony Adebero	Sergio Alexander Salinas
Yiyang Chen	Emile Marineau
Yue Zhou	Dominique Cava
Emilie Houston	Jacquelyn Maciukiewicz
Harry Battersby	Alex Lizotte
Marc Olivier Dube	Frederique Dupuis
Jose Guillermo Colli Alfaro	Matteo Ponzano

Events

PAINTalks 2022

The Quebec Network of Junior Pain Investigators (QNJPI) is proud to announce the seventh edition of PAINtalks which will take place live, and as a webcast, from the Centre Mont-Royal in Montreal, on **November 3rd, 2022**. This bilingual and free initiative, open to the public, is inspired by TED-style presentations and aims to provide the audience with presentations focused on the field of pain. We are committed to delivering a high-quality event to our participants.

As always, each of our presenters will benefit from group and individual training sessions with a coach and expert in presentation skills development from PRESENTability. Once again, all presentations will be filmed, edited and subtitled by Vimetri, and will be shared on our website, YouTube channel, Twitter, and Facebook page. More than 900 participants registered for PAINtalks 2021 from across Quebec, other parts of Canada, and internationally.

The MSK Rehab Research Network is once again proud to support this annual initiative. You can learn more and register here: <https://qnjpirqecd.com/paintalks-2022/>

Event Recap: CBJC 2022

The Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network was thrilled to co-host the Canadian Bone and Joint Conference once again in 2022. The event was once again hosted virtually, including live-streamed oral presentations and pre-recorded video poster sessions focused on several engaging topic areas:

- Inflammation and Auto Immune Diseases
- Impact of Arthritis on youth and their care transitions
- Human & Technology Interaction for Health

- Patient Populations Characteristics & Perspectives
- New Ideas and Emerging Trends for MSK Health

In addition to the interactive scientific line up, the conference once again included the Young Investigator's Forum – a day of pre-conference workshops organized by trainees. Interactive sessions included Insider View of Tri-Council Scholarships, No Time to Be Human: Making Room for Self-Care in Graduate School, and Academia and Beyond: Career Opportunities After Graduate School.

Save the date for the next edition! **May 8-11, 2024**

More information available on the official conference website: <https://cbjc.ca/>

Opportunities & Availability

Post-Doctoral Position at the University of Toronto

The iMED (Innovative Medical Engineering Developments) lab at the University of Toronto headed by Prof. Ervin Sejdic is looking to hire a postdoctoral fellow. The successful candidate will be engaged in research relating to a novel medical device to predict falls in older adults. The candidate will work in a unique interdisciplinary team of engineers and clinicians as well as our industry partner.

The key responsibilities include the data acquisition and analysis of physiological signals across multiple hospital sites, along with contributing to our patenting and commercialization efforts. The candidate should have PhD in electrical/biomedical engineering or a related engineering/scientific discipline with strong data science skills (e.g., signal processing, machine learning).

Applicants should send their CVs to Prof. Sejdic (ervin.sejdic@utoronto.ca) along with copies of academic transcripts, sample journal publications, and contact details for at least three referees.

We are happy to circulate any job postings, collaboration opportunities (e.g. seeking additional researchers for a project), or strong candidates seeking a position. Please share your opportunities or availability to rehabnet@uwo.ca

Addressing Mobility Challenges During COVID-19

In partnership with Western's Bone & Joint Institute, the Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network has co-created an online resource database to support researchers, clinicians, patients and community members who are isolated and living with mobility challenges.

With the help of our research members and partners, we have compiled a collection of trusted resources, current research efforts and published research

studies that are focused on at-home exercise programs, remote rehab or self-management of MSK disorders and their related pain or mobility restrictions.

The current list of resources is available here:

<https://mskrehabnet.com/patients/>

Since creating this list of resources, it has been shared nationally by CIHR and by the Federal Government through the Canadian Pain Task Force.

If you are interested in learning more, contributing to our resources, or getting involved in any current ongoing research, please contact Ryan Power (rehabnet@uwo.ca)

New Members

We are always accepting new memberships from researchers, partners, patients and trainees who are involved in MSK health research. See the link below for details and the application form:

<https://mskrehabnet.com/about/>

We encourage our current Network Members to invite colleagues, partners or Pilot Grant team members who may be interested in joining the Network. Membership is open to researchers, collaborators, partners, trainees, or anyone with an interest in MSK rehab research.

Inquiries or applications can be forwarded to Ryan Power (rehabnet@uwo.ca)

Network Members

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Joy MacDermid (NPI)
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Laurent Bouyer
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