



Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network Newsletter

Winter 2026

Sponsor:



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Co-PIs:

- Dr. Joy MacDermid (NPI)
- Dr. Trevor Birmingham
- Dr. Laurent Bouyer
- Dr. Deborah Marshall
- Dr. Rebecca Moyer
- Dr. Jean Sebastien Roy
- Dr. Alik Thomas

Announcements

Building Impactful MSK Health Research: Knowledge Mobilization Summer School

The Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network, in collaboration with the Western Bone and Joint Institute and the MSK Innovation Factory, is pleased to announce the Building Impactful MSK Health Research: Knowledge Mobilization Summer School.

When: July 6–10, 2026

Where: Western University, London, Ontario

This week-long summer school is designed to build capacity in knowledge mobilization and implementation among trainees, researchers, clinicians, and professionals working in MSK health.

The program will bring together participants from across Canada to engage in interactive learning, skill development, and collaboration with researchers, clinicians, and patient partners working in MSK health

More information: [MSK Summer School 2026](#)

A collaboration between the Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network, the Western Bone and Joint Institute and the MSK Innovation Factory



When: July 6-10, 2026

Where: Western University, London Ontario

Apply for a week of:

- ✓ Knowledge mobilization and implementation foundations
- ✓ Hands-on research dissemination skill-building
- ✓ Planning and evaluating impactful KM strategies

Students will learn from experts in knowledge mobilization, including leading academics, patient partners, and professionals working across healthcare, community, and policy settings!

- Catherine Hofstetter (Patient Representative)

Network Coordinator:

- Sierra Crocker
rehabnet@uwo.ca

Graduate Student Assistant:

- Marjan Saeedi

The Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network will be hosting an in-person meeting during the 10th WCB.

When: Monday, July 13, 2026 - 12:30 – 2:00 PM

Where: Vancouver, Canada

We warmly invite all MSK Network members and colleagues who will be attending WCB to join us. The meeting will include brief updates on Network activities, highlights of ongoing research and trainee initiatives, and an opportunity for discussion on future directions, collaborations and connections.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Recruiting Raters for REHAB+

[Rehab+](#) is a free email alerting service and searchable database that can bring high-quality evidence to your attention.

Please help us identify the best evidence for you and your peers! If you are currently practicing as an occupational therapist or physical therapist in a clinical setting or as a clinical practice leader or manager directly supervising clinical care, we invite you to become a rater for the McMaster Online Rating of Evidence (MORE) system. The MORE system collects your vote on the relevance and newsworthiness of hot-off-the-press articles within your clinical specialty. We supply online articles according to your clinical interests, and you rate the articles on 2 simple scales. This takes about **5 to 10 minutes**. You can tell us how often you are willing to receive articles.

Benefits to becoming a MORE rater:

- Stay current with the best evidence that has been critically appraised by methodology experts at McMaster's HiRU.
- See what your peers are saying about the same article.
- Help build an evidence-based information service for you and your colleagues (**Rehab+**).
- Receive an annual summary of your ratings activity to include in your professional practice portfolio.

If you would like to join us as a rater, please click on [this link](#) and provide your name and email address. You can also include the names and email addresses of any colleagues whom you feel would also be interested in joining us as a MORE rater.

Visit REHAB+ here: [Rehab+](#)

If you have any questions about MORE Rehab: morerehab@mcmasterhkr.com

Recent Award Winners

Dr. Jackie Whittaker has been awarded a **Killam Accelerator Research Fellowship** in recognition of her work advancing the prevention of knee osteoarthritis across the lifespan. Dr. Whittaker is a physiotherapist and epidemiologist whose research focuses on reducing osteoarthritis risk after injury, preserving long-term mobility, and addressing gender-related disparities in healthcare, sport, and recreation. Working in partnership with patients, clinicians, and communities, her team develops strategies to improve musculoskeletal health outcomes.

This fellowship will support the advancement and scaling of the SOAR (Stop OsteoARthritis) program, including expanding clinician training, strengthening international collaborations, and further investigating the role of purposeful weight-bearing exercise for cartilage health.

Dr. Joy MacDermid (Western University) has been awarded an **Ignite Innovation Grant** from *Arthritis Society Canada*, with additional support from the *Canadian Dupuytren Society*, for the project *“Enhancing Accessibility in Arthritis Care: Implementation of a Remote Orthotic Fabrication Workflow.”*

This competitive award (2025 competition) supports innovative research aimed at improving care for individuals living with arthritis. Dr. MacDermid’s project focuses on developing and implementing a remote orthotic fabrication workflow to enhance access to orthotic services, particularly for individuals who face barriers to in-person care. By leveraging digital technologies and novel care delivery models, this work aims to improve accessibility, efficiency, and equity in arthritis care, while supporting broader implementation of remote rehabilitation solutions.

Haithem M’barki’s Trainee Exchange

Congratulations to Haithem M’barki on completing a Trainee Exchange to the University of Geneva, Switzerland, supported by the MSK Network. Haithem’s research experience abroad was a very positive and formative opportunity that contributed to both his personal and professional development. Working within a new research environment allowed him to strengthen his knowledge in biomechanics, learn new skills, collaborate with experienced researchers, and gain exposure to different approaches to research.

This exchange represented an important and memorable step in his PhD journey, supporting his growth as an emerging researcher and fostering a valuable international research experience.



Emma Ratke's Trainee Exchange

Congratulations to Emma Ratke for completing an exchange to the University of Brescia, Italy, under the supervision of Dr. Francesco Negro.

During her visit, Emma worked closely with members of the Inception Lab to gain hands-on experience with high-density surface electromyography (HDsEMG). This included developing her skills in HDsEMG data collection and analysis, as well as piloting work related to her upcoming master's project. Emma also attended OT Day with the lab, where she learned more about HDsEMG applications and had the opportunity to network with experts in the field.

Overall, Emma's research visit to the University of Brescia strengthened her proficiency in HDsEMG methods, supported the development of her master's research, and fostered valuable connections within the international neuromuscular and MSK research community. She looks forward to sharing the knowledge and skills gained during her exchange with colleagues in Canada.



MSK Network Award at HRSGRC

We are pleased to congratulate **Doral Berinyuy** on receiving an **MSK Network Award** at the *Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Graduate Research Conference (HRSGRC)* at Western University.

This award recognizes trainee excellence and supports the dissemination of impactful research in musculoskeletal rehabilitation. Doral's work contributes to advancing MSK research and highlights the important role of emerging scholars in improving patient care and rehabilitation outcomes.



Current Network Plans – How to Get Involved

The Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network is currently planning multiple initiatives for 2026.

If you would like to support these initiatives or propose additional initiatives, please reach out to the Network Coordinator at rehabnet@uwo.ca

Summer School

The Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network is currently planning the Building Impactful MSK Health Research: Knowledge Mobilization Summer School from July 6-10, 2026. We are seeking members who are interested in supporting the planning and development of this Summer School. Opportunities to get involved may include contributing to program development, assisting with coordination, supporting trainee engagement activities, or helping shape knowledge mobilization content.

If you are interested in contributing in any capacity, please reach out to the Network Coordinator at rehabnet@uwo.ca. We welcome involvement from trainees, researchers, clinicians, patient partners, and collaborators across the Network.

Trainee Committee

The Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network consists of over 160 trainees, and this number is growing. The purpose of the Trainee Committee is to provide a trainee perspective on Network initiatives including summer school content, trainee support opportunities, and planning new initiatives that will enhance and engage trainees within the Network. During the winter months, the Trainee Committee has assisted in planning the Writing and Publication Webinar Series, and the Building Impactful MSK Health Research: Knowledge Mobilization Summer School.

The Trainee Committee is accepting new members! If you are interested in joining the Trainee Committee, please reach out to the Network Coordinator at rehabnet@uwo.ca

Knowledge Translation Committee

The purpose of the Knowledge Translation (KT) Committee is to mobilize knowledge produced by Network members and to disseminate information about MSK rehab research in general. The KT Committee currently consists of 4 members and a patient partner from across Canada, who are passionate about KT. The KT Committee is looking for ways to leverage AI in lay summaries and augmenting REHAB+. In addition, the KT Committee has formed a Patient Partner Review Committee to assist in reviewing the AI lay summaries.

The KT Committee and Patient Partner Review Committee are always accepting new members! The KT committee meets virtually on an ad-hoc basis to plan and implement KT initiatives. If you are interested in joining the KT Committee or Patient Partner Review Committee, please email the Network Coordinator at rehabnet@uwo.ca

MSK Network Working Groups Highlights

GaitNET

The two main objectives of the initiative were to: 1) provide mechanisms and supports to enhance multi-centre, collaborative research in the area of human movement biomechanics, and 2) enhance the visibility and impact of the research being conducted in this area.

To the first objective, a number of standardized data collection and analysis procedures have been developed that will facilitate multi-centre biomechanics research. This includes analysis pipelines that are flexible in inputs but result in the ability to generate the same data outputs. These advances have already been implemented in at least three ongoing studies (including one that has received CIHR Project funding), and training in their use has been delivered at three sites across Canada (UBC, Western, Dalhousie).

To the second objective, a number of online and in-person events have been held over the past few years to bring members together to learn and discuss network initiatives. These include planning meetings and opportunities to share research ideas. A further network meeting is planned for the 2026 World Congress of Biomechanics in Vancouver. Finally, members of the GaitNet initiative have taken on leadership roles in the Human Movement Biomechanics Discussion Group within the Osteoarthritis Research Society International. This group is a natural evolution of GaitNet, with a wider scope and reach than GaitNet, but adhering to the same principles of collaboration and support.

2025 Team Development Supports

Developing Arthrogyrosis Rehabilitation Expert Guidance - Dissemination through Partnership (DARE – Partnership)

Arthrogyrosis multiplex congenita (AMC) is a rare musculoskeletal condition that can significantly affect mobility and daily functioning. Due to its rarity, access to specialized rehabilitation care and evidence-based guidance is often limited, placing additional burden on patients and families. This project aims to improve access to rehabilitation knowledge by supporting the dissemination and uptake of consensus-based recommendations for children and youth with AMC.

A multidisciplinary team across Canada, the United States, and Spain - comprising experts in rehabilitation, physiatry, developmental pediatrics, neurology, orthotics, and caregivers and adults with AMC - was established to advance dissemination of rehabilitation recommendations for children and youth. Between September and December 2025, the team refined e-learning modules on the rehabilitation recommendations integrating clinical and lived-experience perspectives. Priority audiences were identified to guide dissemination efforts, ensuring meaningful reach and impact. This collaboration generated multiple national and international conference abstracts and expanded partnerships with community organizations to deliver education

sessions, strengthening knowledge translation across professional and community networks.

The Inclusive Rehabilitation Equity Assessment & Consensus Hub (iREACH) for Improving Cultural Safety Among Rehabilitation Providers in Canada

Since the funding was awarded, the project has progressed as planned, and several key foundational milestones have been achieved. The full study protocol has been completed, and the interview guides have been developed. The consent forms, participant information sheets, and recruitment materials are being finalized, with submission to research ethics anticipated by the end of this month. To support project implementation, a research assistant has been hired, with additional support from a Work Study student. In addition, members of the research team have met with the institutional research ethics office to discuss the planned submission and to ensure alignment with institutional requirements. The finalized study protocol is being prepared to be submitted for publication. Grant funds to date have been used primarily to support research personnel and essential project development activities. The research team meets on a biweekly basis to review progress, coordinate tasks, and plan next steps, supporting effective collaboration and timely advancement of the project.

2023 Team Development Supports

Working Group on Wearable Technologies for Movement Analysis (OpenWear)

In 2020, a national working group on wearable technologies for movement analysis was established to evaluate and support the integration of wearable sensing technologies in biomechanics and rehabilitation research. The group brings together experts from across the country (i.e., Quebec City, Vancouver, London, Sherbrooke) representing the fields of movement science, rehabilitation engineering, and biomedical technology. The subcommittee has met regularly since 2020, at intervals of 1 to 3 months, to advance work structured around three major activities: 1. A multicenter pilot study on spatiotemporal gait assessment using wearable sensors, 2. Development of custom hardware and software for long-term use in the network, and 3. Establishment of a community of practice to ensure sustainability and knowledge exchange.

Since the establishment of the OpenWear working group, several initiatives have advanced across the network. These include pilot testing of standardized protocols for spatiotemporal gait assessment using wearable sensors, development of in-house hardware and software solutions for movement analysis, and the creation of the OpenIMU data storage structure to facilitate standardized data sharing across research sites. The group has also contributed to grant submissions, obtained ethics approval for project activities, and supported the organization of the Wearables and Biomechanics Summer School (2025) in collaboration with the MSK Network and the Canadian Society of Biomechanics.

2022 Team Development Supports

A Multi-Centre Feasibility Study Assessing Shoe-Worn Insoles to Improve Clinical and Biomechanical Features of Knee Osteoarthritis

Knee osteoarthritis is a common and costly condition that can cause pain, reduced mobility, and long-term disability. Because many people with knee osteoarthritis also experience foot pain, this project was designed to examine whether shoe-worn insoles could serve as a practical, low-cost intervention to improve both clinical symptoms and biomechanical features of knee osteoarthritis in a multi-centre study. The project also aims to strengthen infrastructure for future collaborative trials across sites.

Recruitment of the proposed 30 participants has been met at the UBC site, and data collection there will be complete by Spring 2026. Approvals are being finalized to onboard the Western site by Summer 2026, with a proposed 5 additional participants necessary to finalize infrastructure and data collection and analysis procedures at the second site. This project will capitalize on shared resources and analysis pipelines developed as part of the GaitNet initiative.

A Pilot Feasibility Multicenter Study to Identify Risk Factors for Rapid Progression in those with Early Mild to Moderate Knee Osteoarthritis

The original objectives of this catalyst research were to develop the infrastructure and framework for a centralized gait data processing platform and repository to facilitate members of the Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network to complete multi-center studies through GaitNET OA. Gait studies of lower limb osteoarthritis were the focus of this project to develop this initial framework, and the original focus area was intended to be to further refine standardized gait studies for early to moderate knee OA using traditional lab-based protocols across multiple sites across Canada. However, since the time of writing the catalyst application, markerless motion capture has advanced to the point where it is becoming the dominant potential technology for multi-site knee OA gait studies. Further to this, there have been advancements in establishing multi-site collaborative knee OA cohort gait studies in more advanced stages of knee OA before and after arthroplasty surgery. Specific to this catalyst grant and the transfer of PI to Dr. Wilson, from a feasibility perspective, the infrastructure and framework are now being developed for a multi-site knee OA gait cohort study of patients during the perioperative period for arthroplasty surgery.

Since the transition of project leadership in 2024, the project has advanced substantially toward establishing infrastructure for multi-site gait analysis using markerless motion capture technology. Markerless motion capture systems have been installed at clinical sites in Nova Scotia to enable standardized gait assessment within orthopaedic clinic environments. Feasibility and repeatability studies have been completed, with results demonstrating strong reliability of gait outcomes and publications appearing in the *Journal of Applied Biomechanics* and *Journal of Biomechanics* in 2025. The work has also supported the development of centralized data processing systems and data-sharing agreements to facilitate expansion of multi-site knee osteoarthritis gait cohort studies across Canada and internationally.

Do Psychosocial Factors Predict the Persistence of Shoulder Pain?

This funding made it possible to bring together researchers from Quebec and British Columbia in rehabilitation and psychology who shared a common interest in tendinopathy and psychosocial factors. Meetings were held to define a set of psychosocial factors to be used in tendinopathy research, and subsequently to define the methodology to test these variables in individuals with shoulder tendinopathy. In total, 143 participants were recruited with shoulder tendinopathy. The objective was to determine whether psychosocial factors—such as resilience, perceived stress, catastrophizing, anxiety, depression, pain self-efficacy, and social support—could explain the persistence of pain and disability. This work sheds light on the role of psychosocial factors in persistent tendinopathy and highlights the importance of positive pain-related beliefs in pain management. Notably, pain self-efficacy emerged as a key factor associated with recovery.

The project is now completed, and all funds have been fully expended. This work has resulted in four peer-reviewed publications, further advancing understanding of the role of psychosocial factors in the persistence and recovery of shoulder tendinopathy.

Previous Initiatives – Webinars and Resources

See below for a list of recent webinars and resources available to MSK Network members via our website:

Webinars

From Experience to Evidence: Partnering with Patients in Rehab Research

<https://mskrehabnet.com/from-experience-to-evidence-partnering-with-patients-in-rehab-research/>

From Data to Discovery: Writing the Results Section

<https://mskrehabnet.com/from-data-to-discovery-writing-the-results-section-webinar/>

Writing Smarter: Leveraging Technology for Impactful Publications

<https://mskrehabnet.com/webinars/writing-smarter-leveraging-technology-for-impactful-publications-webinar/>

Resources

AI Lay Summary Tool

<https://mskrehabnet.com/patients/ai-lay-summaries/>

Slideshow Presentations from the Wearables and Biomechanics 2025 Summer School

<https://mskrehabnet.com/wearables-and-biomechanics-2025-summer-school/>

List of Programs Curated to Assist the Journal Writing Process

<https://mskrehabnet.com/research/program-list-journal-writing-process/>

Trainee Conference Travel Supports – January 2026 Recipients

The Network would like to congratulate our January Trainee Conference Travel Support recipients! The Administrative Committee was very pleased with the strong response for this call and the quality of the applications submitted.

Trainees were required to submit a lay summary of their presented project upon completion of their conference trip. Please visit the MSK Network website to read the lay summaries of the projects supported during this round.

Lay Summaries can be accessed here: <https://mskrehabnet.com/awards/>

Name	Institution	Project Title
Adam Dorrance	Dalhousie University	Using Inertial Sensors to Detect Clinically Meaningful Knee Kinematic Landing Asymmetries
Ben MacDonald	Dalhousie University	Representing Clinically Relevant Kinetic Gait Outcomes with a Wearable Inertial Sensor System in Patients Before and After Knee Arthroplasty
Chris Vellucci	Brock university	Can 3D kinematics from a single camera be used to estimate walking gait quality?
Grace Collins	University of Ottawa	The Impact of Intravaginal Support Devices on Pelvic Floor Strain in Females with Exercise-Induced Urinary Incontinence
Jenna Schulz	University of British Columbia	Life after sport: Mapping health outcomes and female/woman-specific gaps in retired athletes – a scoping review
Julie Masse	University of Montreal	Co-designing a Canadian adaptation of a lifestyle-oriented intervention for individuals living with chronic pain: rapid analysis of the patients

Maryam Abbasi	Western University	Impact of Aerobic and Resistance Exercise on Physical and Symptom-Related Outcomes in Post-Mastectomy Rehabilitation: A Retrospective Study
Maxime Acien	Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières	The effect of foot orthoses on center of pressure displacement and plantar pressure in individuals with minor lower extremity amputations
Ryan Matthews	Dalhousie University	Females Reach Meaningful Outcomes Faster Than Males After Femoroacetabular Impingement Surgery
Vincent McRorie	University of Alberta	Effects of Brace Weaning Compared to No Weaning on Curve Progression in Youth with Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

AI Lay Summary Assistance Tool

The MSK Network has updated its AI Lay Summary process to reflect recent advances in AI technology. The previous AI Lay Summary Tool relied on an older model and has now been replaced with a simpler and more flexible workflow that uses modern AI platforms such as Microsoft Copilot, ChatGPT, Gemini, or Claude.

Instead of uploading articles into a dedicated tool, members can now generate lay summaries by copying the full text of their research article and using the MSK Network lay summary prompt with one of these AI platforms. If you would like assistance generating a lay summary, requesting patient partner review, or hosting a lay summary on the Network website, please contact the Network Coordinator at rehabnet@uwo.ca.

The Network Coordinator will create the lay summary and send it to you for review. Please also inform the Network Coordinator if you would like to host the lay summary on the Network website.

Lay summary procedure:

1. Copy the full text of the research article.
2. Use the MSK Network lay summary prompt.
3. Paste the article text and prompt into Copilot (<https://m365.cloud.microsoft/chat>) or another AI platform.
4. Review and edit the generated lay summary carefully for accuracy.
5. Create an AI-generated image via Gemini, ChatGPT, Canva, or another platform.
6. Send the lay summary to the authors of the article to have them review for accuracy and appropriateness.
7. Reach out to the Network Coordinator rehabnet@uwo.ca to be connected to the Patient Partner Review Committee to review the lay summary and image.
8. Make any final edits and include the required acknowledgement statement.

9. All summaries produced using the MSK Network AI lay summary process must include the acknowledgement statement:
 - *“This summary is based on a scientific paper that was summarized with assistance of AI language and image support, and then revised by researchers, content experts, and patient partner.”*

For detailed instructions and accessing the prompt please visit:

<https://mskrehabnet.com/patients/ai-lay-summaries/>

The Network is currently creating lay summaries for all MSK rehab articles in REHAB+. To access these lay summaries please visit our website:

<https://mskrehabnet.com/patients/ai-lay-summaries/>

Network Support Opportunities

Trainee Exchanges

In 2026, the Network will provide trainees with reimbursements of up to \$5000 CAD to support learning at a different institution.

The Trainee Exchange will provide financial support for travel and lodging expenses, enabling trainees to spend an extended amount of time working in a host supervisor's laboratory/program of research. Host labs can be located within Canada or internationally. Through this exchange, trainees are expected to learn new skills and gain experience in new techniques which they can bring back to their institutions and apply to their research.

Please note that reimbursements are contingent upon securing a host site/lab, host supervisor, and matching funds from the host or home supervisor.

Application Timeframe: The Network will evaluate applications twice per year once on January 15th, the next on June 15th. Applications will be adjudicated by a committee.

To apply please read the Call for Trainee Exchanges on our website which can be accessed at this link: <https://mskrehabnet.com/trainee-support-opportunities/>

To apply after reviewing the call, please complete this Qualtrics form:

https://uwo.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0ixrzpM6zBwEqh0

Hosts must apply via this Qualtrics form:

https://uwo.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_87xY2n8SqWr7Aj4

Network Membership

New Members

We are pleased to announce the membership of our new Graduate Student Assistant Catherine George! Catherine George is a PhD candidate in the Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (Health Promotion) program at Western University. Her research interests are Patient-Oriented Research and the use of Integrated Knowledge Translation for low-resource and community settings. She enjoys reading, caring for her indoor plants, and creating illustrations.



We are happy to welcome the new members: Sarah Turgeon-Desilets, Angela Wang, Veronica Souza Santos, Audrey-Anne Cormier, Renara Gabuzyan, Domonique Clarke, Hannah Wynia, Isis Ostroski, Nicholas Tibert, Ronald Norman, Felix Fiset, Mona Frey, Philippe Meidinger, Ryan Evans, Gabriel Lonuzzo, Joel Weisberg, Aidan Loh, Ada Sevinc, Eden Daniel, Kamille Roy, and Yongni Zhang.

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 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 the network coordinator at rehabnet@uwo.ca

Network Members

A complete list of network members can be found at: [i-memo - MSK Network Members](#)

External Opportunities

Postdoctoral Fellowship – Join Dr. Kristine Godziuk Lab

Dr. Kristine Godziuk has an opportunity for a Postdoctoral Fellow in her lab in the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science at the University of California, San Francisco.

PhD candidates/grads with exceptional writing skills and relevant experience in obesity, aging and musculoskeletal health are requested to contact Dr. Godziuk by email with their CV and specific letter of interest/experience.

Email: kristine.godziuk@ucsf.edu

<https://profiles.ucsf.edu/kristine.godziuk>

Postdoctoral Fellowship – Rehabilitation Ethics and Living Labs

Professors **Anne Hudon, Matthew Hunt, and Eric Racine** are recruiting a **postdoctoral researcher** to undertake a fellowship within the *Laboratoire d'Éthique Vivante en Réadaptation (LEViER)*, located at the Gingras-Lindsay Rehabilitation Institute of Montreal (IRGLM).

The selected fellow will join a large and dynamic interdisciplinary research team including patient partners, researchers, clinicians, students, and managers working to advance a “living ethics” organizational culture in rehabilitation. The fellowship will involve contributing to ongoing participatory research projects, supporting arts-based ethics activities, mentoring graduate students, and conducting empirical and theoretical research on ethical considerations associated with living laboratory approaches in rehabilitation.

Funding is available to support the selected fellow. The successful candidate will also be expected to apply to relevant provincial and federal funding opportunities.

Applicants should hold a PhD in a related discipline (e.g., bioethics, sociology, anthropology, health sciences, philosophy, rehabilitation sciences) and have experience or strong interest in ethics and qualitative research methods.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please send your CV and cover letter to: camilledesforgeslevier@outlook.com

For more details about this opportunity please visit: [Postdoctoral Fellowship Opportunity - MSK](#)

Graduate Student Opportunities – Join Dr. Jesse Charlton (UBC)

We are pleased to share that **Dr. Jesse Charlton** has joined the School of Kinesiology at the University of British Columbia as an Assistant Professor in Biomechanics of Human Movement.

Dr. Charlton directs the Applied Musculoskeletal Biomechanics Lab, which encompasses an interdisciplinary research program spanning fundamental biomechanics and clinical applications. His research includes musculoskeletal modelling, wearable sensing, human-interfacing devices, and biomechanical rehabilitation for musculoskeletal disease and injury.

Dr. Charlton has been a long-standing member of the Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network, contributing to the GaitNET and OpenWear Working Groups, and previously served as Chair of the Network's Trainee Committee.

Students interested in joining **Dr. Charlton's lab** are encouraged to reach out via email: jesse.charlton@ubc.ca

Prospective Student Seeking Research Position – Dr. Norio Tomita

Dr. Norio Tomita recently completed their PhD in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, Faculty of Medicine, University of Montreal, successfully defending their doctoral thesis on January 23. Their research focused on investigating the mechanical and acoustic properties of the thoracolumbar fascia in individuals with non-specific low back pain (NSLBP).

Using advanced ultrasound techniques, Dr. Tomita quantified both the gliding motion and microstructure of the thoracolumbar fascia, identifying measurable differences between patients with NSLBP and healthy controls. These findings suggest potential applications for assessing treatment effects of interventions such as manual therapy and acupuncture.

Dr. Tomita has a background as an engineer involved in the development of ultrasound diagnostic equipment and also practices a fascia-focused therapeutic approach at a clinic in Old Montreal. Through their doctoral training, they have gained experience in clinical study design, ethics review processes, medical imaging analysis, and quantitative research methods.

Dr. Tomita is interested in continuing research related to fascia, musculoskeletal health, and ultrasound-based assessment methods, and would welcome opportunities to collaborate or join a research team.

For more information contact: norio.tomita@gmail.com

Training or Professional Development Opportunities

Introductory Course on Responsible Research Assessment

The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) has launched a free, self-paced online course introducing the principles of responsible research assessment. The course explores how research quality and impact are evaluated and provides practical guidance on improving assessment practices in funding, hiring, and promotion processes. This topic aligns with ongoing discussions around research evaluation in major funding agencies such as CIHR.

Learn more: [Introductory Course on Responsible Research Assessment](#)

Muscle Health Research Centre Seminar Series

The Muscle Health Research Centre at York University will be hosting a variety of Zoom seminars. All seminars begin at 3pm ET unless otherwise stated.

Registration information is available here: [MHRC Seminar Series](#)



MHRC Seminar Series Zoom Academic Year 2025/ 2026 Schedule

(all Seminars start at 3:00 pm EST unless otherwise specified)

Friday Date	Presenter	Affiliation	Seminar Title
Sept 26 (in-person and zoom)	Dr. David Wright	UBC & BC Children's Hospital Research Institute	Unintended consequences of GLP1ra treatment on skeletal muscle
Oct 21 (Tuesday; in-person and zoom)	Dr. Rémi Mounier	Universite Lyon	Metabolic regulations of adult muscle stem cell fate
Dec 5	Dr. Dylan Kobsar	McMaster University	Beyond the Lab: Real-World Applications of Biomechanics on the Court, in the Clinic, and Beyond
Feb 20 9AM	Dr. Johanna Lanner	Karolinska Institute	Elucidating Inflammation- Induced Mitochondrial Deficiency in Skeletal Muscle
Mar 20	Dr. Christopher Adams	Mayo Clinic	Investigating Mechanisms and Treatments of Skeletal Muscle Atrophy
April 24	Dr. Jonathan Little	UBC	Exercise and Anti-inflammatory Cytokine Function: A focus on Interleukin-10

Industry Collaboration Opportunity: Articulate Labs

Articulate Labs is seeking collaboration with MSK Network members to explore research applications of their wearable medical technology designed to enhance muscle activation and rehabilitation outcomes.

The company develops movement-synchronous electrical muscle stimulation devices that dynamically stimulate the quadriceps based on joint loading during movement. These devices are designed to support individuals with chronic knee conditions (e.g., osteoarthritis) or those recovering from knee surgeries such as knee replacement or ACL reconstruction. Early prototype testing has demonstrated promising results, including improved muscle activation, increased range of motion, reduced pain, and enhanced quadriceps strength.

Potential research areas include:

- Pre- and post-knee replacement rehabilitation
- Conservative management of knee osteoarthritis
- Pediatric sports injury prevention (e.g., ACL injuries)
- Mobility and fall prevention in older adults
- Validation of movement measurement data

Additional research ideas are welcome, and Articulate Labs is open to collaborating with researchers across a range of MSK topics

Website: [Articulate Lab](https://www.articulatelabs.com)

Contact: josh@articulatelabs.com

Evaluation of Digital Health Technology Usability Indicators

Evaluation of Digital Health Technology Usability Indicators

The OutcomesRUS Lab, based at the Centre for Outcomes Research and Evaluation, RI-MUHC McGill, is pursuing an answer to the question: Can people use digital health tools safely and effectively?

The OutcomesRUS Lab is seeking feedback from users of digital health applications or technology on their set of newly developed usability indicators designed to help determine whether digital health technologies are ready for clinical trials and medical practice

Anyone using a health-related technology like a Fitbit, an app (e.g. Strava or a health app), or an Oura ring is eligible to answer this survey.

The survey can be accessed here: [Survey Link](#)

Clinical Practice in Knee Osteoarthritis – Participants Needed

A graduate student at Western University, Victoria D'Alessandro, is inviting healthcare professionals to participate in a research study examining current clinical practices in the management of knee osteoarthritis.

This study aims to explore treatment approaches, clinical decision-making, and potential gaps between clinical guidelines and real-world care.

Who can participate?

Registered healthcare professionals who:

- Have experience treating or managing patients with knee osteoarthritis
- Have at least 1 year of clinical practice
- Can read and write in English

Eligible participants include general practitioners, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, rheumatologists, orthopedic specialists, and other related healthcare providers.

What does participation involve?

Participation involves completing a short online survey (approximately 5–10 minutes). Participation is voluntary and responses are confidential. Participants may also opt into a follow-up interview.

Access the survey here: [Survey Link](#)

Publications and Presentations

Recent Publications

Mounsef PJ, Laroche M, Ben Letaifa R, Legler J, Gagnon M, Dahan-Oliel N, Hamdy R.

Surgical timing and management patterns across joints in arthrogyrosis: a systematic review.

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Naghdi N, Farhat A, Amara M, Philippopoulos E, Dahan-Oliel N.

Use of artificial intelligence for outcome assessment in pediatric rehabilitation: a scoping review.

Journal of NeuroEngineering and Rehabilitation.

2026

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12984-026-01927-6>

Saeedi M, MacDermid JC, Ferreira L, Johari S, Szekeres M.

Exploring patient interpretation of an orthosis adherence checklist: A cognitive interview study.

PLOS ONE, 21(3):e0344771.

2026

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0344771>

Dahan-Oliel N, Cachecho S, Araujo C, Fafara A, Lacombe F, Samargian A, Costa C, Donohoe M, Flanagan A, Kowalczyk B, Krakie C, Wagner L, Navalón C, Pacey V, Steen U, Walker M, Wong T, Bussières A.

Consensus-based recommendations for the rehabilitation of children with arthrogryposis multiplex congenita: an integrated knowledge translation approach.

Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases.

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Zidan A, Snider L, Sions J, Donlevie K, Cirillo A, Pacey V, Dahan-Oliel N.

Content validity of mobility measures in arthrogryposis multiplex congenita: engaging clinicians and people with lived experience.

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Gross motor functional classification for arthrogryposis multiplex congenita: protocol for co-development involving public with lived and professional experience.

Research Involvement and Engagement.

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<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40900-025-00827-8>

Zidan A, Snider L, Rampakakis E, Hamdy R, Rauch F, Hyer LC, Manske MCB, Altioek H, Freese K, Mielke C, Nossov SB, Tavukcu S, Giampietro PF, Dahan-Oliel N.

Factors Associated With Functional Mobility in 256 Children With Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita: A Multicentric Cross-Sectional Study.

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2025.12.014>

Marc--Olivier Dubé, Kay M Crossley, Andrea M Bruder , Brooke E Patterson, Sean Kaplan, Melissa J Haberfield, Christian J Barton, Stephanie R Filbay, Michelle M Dowsey, Sean I Docking, Joshua R Zadro, Iliana N Ackerman, Joanna Kvist, Evangelos Pappas, Tenille Moselen, Adam G Culvenor

Traumatic knee injury healthcare pathways and outcomes: the Australian Knee Injury Inception Cohort Study (KIICS) protocol.

BMJ Open Sport & Exercise Medicine, 11(4):e002983.

2025

<https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjsem-2025-002983>

Outerleys J, Laende E, Malek M, Civiero S, Madden K, Ruder M, Dunbar M, Adili A, Kobsar D, Wilson J, & Deluzio K.

Clinical integration of markerless motion capture: A multicentre study of gait in knee osteoarthritis.

Journal of Biomechanics, 192:112952.

2025

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbiomech.2025.112952>

Osifeso TA, MacDermid JC, Berinyuy D, Szekeres M, Parikh P, & Faber KJ.

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Johari S, MacDermid JC, Graham LJ, Ziebart C, & Shafiee E.

A scoping review of principles of multisensory exercise training interventions in older adults emphasizing balance and fall incidence.

Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy, 00(0), 1–11.

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