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Exciting Initiatives | Spring Edition

Ruth Slack, PhD, FRSC,
Director, uOBMRI

Over the past several months, the University of Ottawa Brain and Mind Research Institute (uOBMRI) has diligently supported research initiatives in Ottawa and internationally. In this spring edition of Brain and Mind Buzz, we are very pleased to share some of these exciting highlights from our research community and our plans for the coming months.

As April marks Parkinson’s Disease (PD) Awareness Month, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the vital work being done by the Parkinson Research Consortium and the successes it shares through its research partnerships and community support. Most notably, we are extremely grateful for the Tallman family’s support for Parkinson’s Disease research in Ottawa. The uOBMRI is also pleased to co-host a Parkinson’s Research Update on May 26th with Parkinson Canada and looks forward to welcoming members from our research community and the public for a highly interactive forum.

The uOBMRI is proud to be considered one of the largest research institutes in Canada with international recognition. We are thrilled to announce a unique collaboration with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel (HUJI) Faculty of Medicine and its Brain Disease Research Centre to spearhead research in Alzheimer’s Disease. We hope to share more exciting updates on this collaboration in the coming months.

On February 15th and March 8th, the uOBMRI celebrated the exceptional women leading our research themes and our next generation of researchers. As part of International Women’s Day and International Day of Women and Girls in Science, we highlighted these women’s meaningful impact on our research community and are proud to call them colleagues.

In addition to these few highlights, our researchers continue to make meaningful discoveries through multidisciplinary collaborations and research innovations. We hope that you enjoy this edition of Brain and Mind Buzz and look forward to continuing to share updates with you again soon!
The Tallman family has a long history of generosity. When Don Tallman was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease in 2018, he and his wife Diana became involved in many fundraising activities in the greater Ottawa area.

Don’s brother and sister-in-law, Gordon and Bev Tallman, manage a wide-ranging, family-sponsored, annual donations program in Calgary. They were inspired by the collaborative efforts of the Ottawa area Parkinson’s research community.

**The Tallman family’s generous commitment of $655,000** will fund a promising research project aimed at alleviating neuroinflammation in PD, led by Drs. Michael Schlossmacher, David Grimes, and Tiago Mestre at the uOBMRI and The Ottawa Hospital.

Join us on May 26th (details in our community section below) to meet the Tallman family in person and hear about their impact!

To read more about the Tallman family and the TALLER THAN PD project, read our article [here](#).
As one of the largest research institutes in Canada, the University of Ottawa Brain and Mind Research Institute (uOBMRI) is thrilled to announce a unique collaboration with Hebrew University’s Faculty of Medicine and its Brain Disease Research Centre in Jerusalem, Israel (HUJI) to spearhead research in Alzheimer’s Disease.

This partnership was made possible due to the generosity of the Jewish National Fund (JNF) and Canadian Friends of Hebrew University (CFHU) under the leadership of Ron Prehogan. In the Fall of 2022, Ron, a philanthropic leader and community ambassador in the city of Ottawa was honoured at the annual Negev Gala. Ron and his spouse Avalee, along with Co-Chairs Ian Sherman and Bram Bregman, chose to direct the proceeds to this joint initiative, recognizing the local, national, and international impact on this progressive brain disorder.

As global leaders committed to advancing research on the brain and mind, both uOBMRI and HUJI are profoundly grateful for the generosity of Ron and Avalee, partners JNF & CFHU, plus all the supporters from the Negev Gala. We look forward to sharing more details in the coming months. Stay Tuned!

We are excited to disclose the first two projects that have been selected and the exceptional team of researchers and clinicians who are at the helm:
Project 1: Enhancing mitophagy to counteract the cellular processes leading to Alzheimer's Disease  
Leads: Dr. Mireille Khacho from uOBMRI and Dr. Einav Gross from HUJI

Project 2: A novel strategy to mitigate disorientation in Alzheimer’s Disease.  
Leads: Dr. Clifford Cassidy from uOBMRI / IMHR and Dr. Shahar Arzy from HUJI
Meet the uOBMRI's Research Lead in Neuroethics, Law, and Society

"Our network pursues a unified theoretical approach to the ethical-legal assessment of intelligent neuroprostheses, informed by the perspectives of users, the neuroengineering community and other key stakeholders."

- Jennifer Chandler, LLB, LLM

Vice-Dean, Research, Faculty of Law & Bertram Loeb Research Chair, University of Ottawa Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics
Meet **Jennifer Chandler**, who leads the uOBMRI’s research hub on Neuroethics, Law, and Society. She is a Professor of Law in the faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa and a founding member of the Centre for Health Law, Policy, and Ethics. Her main areas of research relate to the ethical, legal, and social issues raised by the brain sciences and neurotechnologies. Jennifer Chandler’s recent feature in a **MIT Technology Review** for her keynote address on Brain Stimulation Law at the 5th International Brain Stimulation Conference in Lisbon. This impactful talk touched on the legal concerns raised by brain stimulations technologies and some key findings in research. Read the full article [here](#):
On March 8th #InternationalWomensDay we celebrated our next generation of researchers. Featured are some of uOBMRI’s recent scholarship and fellowship awardees.
As we reflected on this year’s International Day of Women and Girls in Science, the uOBMRI is proud to highlight the exceptional women leading our research pillars and the meaningful impact that they have on our research community. **Follow this link to learn more about these research areas and the inspiring women at the forefront**
A new publication from uOBMRI member Dr. Michael Schlossmacher’s lab reveals how a Parkinson’s-linked gene protects the brain. Read more from the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute here.
A new publication from uOBMRI member Dr. Natalia Jaworska focuses on better understanding auditory hallucinations in bipolar disorder. Read The Royal’s article here.
A report from the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute details findings from a study co-led by uOBMRI’s Dr. Jing Wang and Dr. Laurie Chen regarding prenatal exposure to methylmercury. Read the article here.
On May 26th the Parkinson Research Consortium, Parkinson Canada and the uOBMRI are pleased to jointly host Parkinson’s Update 2023: Moving Forward Together!

Join our interactive forum to hear how exciting research in Parkinson’s disease (PD) can have an impact now, understand the importance of training the next generation of scientists, and learn from the perspective of those living with PD.
generation of scientists and learn from the perspective of those living with PD.

This event also welcomes Parkinson’s disease experts **Dr. Lorraine Kalia** from the University of Toronto and **Dr. Ronald Postuma** from McGill University. They will share their insights on when Parkinson’s disease starts and how to find future treatments.

We are hosting this event in person at uOttawa Roger Guindon Hall, 451 Smyth Road and and **ALL are welcome!**

Admission is free. Registration is now open.

Learn more [here](#).
MS IN MOTION
2023

Thank you for supporting the next generation of MS researchers!

A beautiful day for skiing
Après Ski Event with live music
Exciting silent auction prizes
Addresses from Dr. Walker, Dr. Freedman, John Chafe, and Gordon Keith

We exceeded our fundraising goal of $20,000!

OVER $30,000 was raised for MS research

On behalf of the MS in Motion Planning Committee and MS Trainees,

THANK YOU!
To read past editions of the Brain and Mind Buzz Newsletter, click here!

Join the uOBMRI Community!