

OPEN SCIENCE IN ACTION

2025 SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

OCTOBER 29, 2025 | CALGARY, ALBERTA



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY



HOTCHKISS
BRAIN INSTITUTE



neuro

Montreal Neurological
Institute-Hospital
Tanenbaum Open Science Institute



McGill



7th ANNUAL NEURO OPEN SCIENCE IN ACTION SYMPOSIUM

8:30 – 9:00AM

REGISTRATION

Azrieli Atrium

9:00 – 9:30AM

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Theatre 4

Dr. David Park, Dr. Gabriel Pelletier, Dr. Richard Frayne

9:30 – 10:30AM

SESSION 1: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN SCIENCE AND PEOPLE

Theatre 4

Focusing on addressing questions and challenges related to patient partnerships, representation in open data, and tools for accessibility

Overview

- Building relationships and exploring the importance of community and patient partnerships
- Representation in open science and generalizability of large datasets
- Explore impactful collaboration between researchers and the people who use or benefit from the data

Opening Remarks: Linda Lafontaine

Panel Discussion/Q&A: Linda Lafontaine, Mark Jones, Dr. Katherine Rittenbach

10:30 – 11:30AM

MORNING BREAK & TRAINEE PRESENTATIONS

Hippocrates (HSC) Mall

11:30 – 12:40PM

SESSION 2: SOLUTIONS TO OPEN SCIENCE CHALLENGES

Theatre 4

Addressing common challenges in integrating open science, such as: de-identification challenges, limitations and ethical implications of large language models and artificial intelligence and using synthetic data or small datasets

Overview:

- Balancing Openness with Ethics, Privacy, and Legal Constraints
- Incentivizing and Empowering Researchers to Participate
- Developing and Sustaining Open Infrastructure

Rapid Talks/Q&A: Dr. Alex Lohman, Amanda Rande, Dr. Karl Martin Klein, Dr. Roberto Souza

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12:40 – 2:00PM

WORKING LUNCH

Azrieli Atrium

2:00 – 2:30PM

MORNING RECAP AND FLASH TALKS

Theatre 4

Recap: Dr. Richard Frayne

Flash talks: Erin Hodgson, Mansi Singhal, Adora Wang

Q&A Moderated by Emily Gordon

2:30 – 3:30PM

SESSION 3: INTERSECTION OF OPEN SCIENCE AND COMMERCIALIZATION

Theatre 4

Addressing challenges to open science and provide practical solutions to integrating both open science and commercialization into research outputs

Overview:

- Exploring the relationship between open science and commercialization
- Engaging in thoughtful conversations around the challenges of using both open science and commercialization
- Sharing examples and experiences where open science and commercialization have been successful together

Opening Remarks: Dr. David Park

Panel Discussion/Q&A: Dr. David Park, Dr. Deborah Kurrasch, Peter Fenwick and Crystal Phillips

3:30 – 4:00PM

CLOSING REMARKS

Theatre 4

4:00 – 5:00PM

RECEPTION & NETWORKING

Azrieli Atrium

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SPEAKERS | PANELISTS



ANNABEL SEYLLER

Annabel Seyller is the Chief of Staff at the Montreal Neurological Institute-Hospital (The Neuro) and the Chief Executive Officer of the Tanenbaum Open Science Institute (TOSI). At TOSI, she has transformed The Neuro into the first academic institution globally to fully embrace Open Science principles, fostering greater and lasting impact within the scientific community.



LINDA LAFONTAINE

Linda Lafontaine is a Patient Advocate for Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia (HSP). She is an HSP patient and an active member of the HSP, PLS and Ataxia communities. She has worked with multiple foundations, taken the stage as a speaker at events, and rallied the HSP, PLS and Ataxia communities to participate in research. Linda works directly with C-BIG, the open patient biobank at the Neuro within McGill University.



MARK JONES

Mark is the CEO of the Central Alberta Child Advocacy Centre. His passion for working with kids was fulfilled through his 36 years in the education world, as both a teacher and an administrator. Mark has always believed in putting children and youth first. Mark also helped build the Tennis Dome in downtown Red Deer and then spearheaded the Central Alberta Child Advocacy Centre. He also currently sits as the Regional Chair of the Red Deer area Alberta Motor association.

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DR. KAY RITTENBACH

Dr Kay Rittenbach has varied research interests, but all focus on understanding and improving the experience of marginalized populations as they navigate the mental health and substance use system. Their current projects focus on using system dynamic modeling to simulate and understand how the addiction treatment system is working in Calgary. Prior to joining the University of Calgary, Kay was the Director of Strategic Information, Research and Evaluation in the Government of Alberta Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction. In this role they led the analysis and interpretation of data for the ministry, with a strong focus on meaningful outcomes for individuals and the system.



DR. ROBERTO SOUZA

Dr. Roberto Souza is an Associate Professor and Associate Head of Research in the Department of Electrical and Software Engineering at the University of Calgary. His research focuses on developing novel machine learning strategies for data integration and data mining in neuroimaging applications. His work spans image acquisition, reconstruction, and analysis, with a particular interest in building models that bridge imaging data with data from other modalities.



DR. KARL MARTIN KLEIN

Dr. Karl Martin Klein, MD PhD FRCPC, is an Adult Epileptologist and Associate Professor in the Departments of Clinical Neurosciences, Medical Genetics and Community Health Sciences at the Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary. Dr. Klein's research focuses on the genetics of epilepsy including multiplex families with epilepsy, developmental and epileptic encephalopathy, precision medicine and somatic variants causing epilepsy.

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AMANDA RANDE

Amanda Rande is the Open Science Coordinator at the Hotchkiss Brain Institute and a Research Coordinator at the Pediatric Onset of Neuromotor Impairments (PONI) Lab. She is committed to making research transparent, accessible, and actionable. At the PONI lab, Amanda is leading the development of an open science database for robotic walking data to empower families and clinicians with evidence-based insights. Her work bridges scientific innovation with community impact, ensuring that those most affected are the first to benefit.



DR. ALEXANDER W. LOHMAN

Dr. Lohman studies how the brain and immune system talk to one another, as well as traumatic brain injuries (TBI). He serves as Director of the Cumming School of Medicine Optogenetics Facility (CSMOpto) which provides state-of-the-art infrastructure and expert support for imaging these biosensor tools in rodent models. Dr. Lohman and his team of staff scientists at CSMOpto lead annual open science workshops focused on advanced fiber photometry and miniature microscopy techniques which have gained international recognition.



DR DEBORAH KURRASCH

Dr Deborah Kurrasch is a Professor in the Department of Medical Genetics at the University of Calgary. Dr Kurrasch's core research is focused on characterizing the genetic programs that govern hypothalamic development, and how maternal stressors change these programs, including the maternal microbiome. Dr Kurrasch's lab also studies pediatric epilepsy using patient-derived brain organoids. Her lab has developed a patented drug screening platform to uncover new druggable targets for children with refractory epilepsy.

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PETER FENWICK

Peter Fenwick is a growth-strategy leader at the intersection of open science, health innovation, and commercialization. He has scaled technology and services businesses; led executive-education programs that help established SMEs 2X in 3–5 years; and advises / invests in health-tech ventures on evidence-driven adoption in clinical settings. He has served on investment committees, taught impact-oriented entrepreneurship, and partners with clinicians and researchers to translate research into deployed, trusted solutions



CRYSTAL PHILLIPS

Crystal Phillips is the Senior Director at the Opportunity Calgary Investment Fund (OCIF), where she leads strategic investments that strengthen Calgary's economic future. Her interdisciplinary background spans competitive sport, neuroscience, and venture capital. She founded and now chairs the Branch Out Neurological Foundation and is an angel investor through the emerging 1A Capital platform. Previously, she was part of the founding team at Thin Air Labs Fund I, helping raise and deploy capital into early-stage startups across Canada.

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THANKS TO THE OPEN SCIENCE COMMITTEE FOR FACILITATING THIS SYMPOSIUM

Jennifer Dotchin, Amanda Rande, Emily Gordon, Bianca Perry,
Cleo Hendrickson, Dr. Richard Frayne, Dr. Taylor Chomiak,
Dr. Ashley Harris, Dr. Mervynderjeet Singh, Dr. Mumu Aktar,
Dr. Eneko Uruñuela

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

