

PEDIATRIC PRESSE

2016 PEDIATRIC TRAINEE AWARD WINNERS

Eberhard Lurz



Dr. Lurz is currently a research fellow in the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, under the supervision of Drs. Binita Kamath and Vicky Ng. He completed his pediatric residency training at the University of Berne in Switzerland in 2013. He was Chief Fellow in 2015 and received the Dick Hamilton Award in June 2015 for showing excellence in clinical care, research and education.

His current research focus is on pediatric liver transplantation and how the current imperfect organ allocation system could be improved using frailty as a clinical phenotype and sarcopenia as a biomarker.

His overall aim is to integrate results from his earlier lab work on how diet and gut microbes impact intestinal barrier function in future targeted intervention studies to decrease frailty and morbidity in children listed for liver transplantation.

Abstract Title: A Multi-Centre Prospective Study of Frailty in Children with Liver Disease

Ibrahim Adam

Mr. Adam developed a keen interest in the biomedical sciences very early in his studies. His entry point to this field was an honours BSc of Medical Laboratory Sciences, followed by an MSc in Genetics & Molecular Biology, in the University of Khartoum in Sudan. He has worked as a Medical Lab Technologist in Sudan and also worked with Doctors without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (www.MSF.org), in the National Health Laboratory.

When he came to Canada, he decided to undertake a PhD in transplantation immunology in the laboratory of Dr. Lori West at the University of Alberta. Allowing him to explore an area of special interest: tolerance in transplantation immunology. Ibrahim's research is focused on understanding how tolerance develops in the setting of infant ABO-mismatched transplants, with the hopes of finding solutions for older patients with mature immune systems.

Abstract Title: Anti-A Immune Response in Mice to ABO-blood Carbohydrates Antigen is T-cell Dependent



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UPCOMING EVENTS

CST Annual Scientific Meeting
Québec City, QC
October 13-16, 2016
View the website [here](#).

Banff-SCT Joint Scientific Meeting
Barcelona, Spain
March 27-31, 2017
View the website [here](#).

American Transplant Congress
Chicago, IL
April 29 - May 3, 2017
View the website [here](#).

15th Transplantation Science Symposium
Victoria, BC
May 24-26, 2017
View their website [here](#).

International Pediatric Transplant Association 2017 Congress
Barcelona, Spain
May 27-30, 2017
Sign up to receive more details [here](#).

18th Congress of the European Society for Organ Transplantation
Barcelona, Spain
September 24-27, 2017
View the website [here](#).

CST Pediatric Group AGM Meeting Details

Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 7:30 pm

Montmorency Room

Hilton Quebec, Quebec City

Guest Presentation: **Kathryn Tinckam** MD MMSc FRCPC

The Match Game: The Prevention Potential of HLA Matching in Transplantation

Objectives:

1. To review the association of HLA mismatching with DSA development and chronic rejection
2. To understand the concept of eplet mismatching and eplet load in the quantification of HLA mismatching
3. To explore the role of HLA matching in allocation as an intervention before transplant

2016 CST PEDS AGM GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Kathryn Tinckam



Dr. Tinckam is a Transplant Nephrologist, Medical Director of the HLA Laboratory at the University Health Network. She is also Medical Advisor in Transplantation (for Interprovincial Listing and Allocation and the Canadian Transplant Registry) for Canadian Blood Services. She completed undergraduate medical and Internal Medicine residency training at the University of Manitoba, Nephrology and Transplant fellowships at the University of British Columbia and Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics Training at Harvard University.

Her clinical and research interests encompass the standardization of HLA laboratory testing, clinical programs to increase transplant in highly sensitized patients, the contribution of HLA antibodies to antibody mediated rejection pathways and outcomes and the management of HLA related alloimmune injury. She is currently the Secretary of the Canadian Society of Transplantation.



**Transplant & Regenerative
Medicine Centre**

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Teens Take Charge Transplant: Website Launch December 1, 2016

teens.aboutkidshealth.ca/transplant

A new website for transplant patients aged 12 to 18 years has been developed by the Transplant and Regenerative Medicine Centre (TRMC) at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), Toronto. The website provides education and support to teen kidney and liver transplant patients and their parents across Canada as they navigate the transplant journey.

The site features a number of plain language, interactive modules. For instance, teens can access:

- ◆ video clips of peers talking about medications, lifestyle changes and their transition to adult care
- ◆ step-by-step animations showing what happens before, during and after transplant surgery
- ◆ a range of tips and guidelines about how best to prepare for and manage their transplant
- ◆ downloadable tools such as a health journal, medication schedules, diet sheets and more

The website was developed through a partnership between the TRMC and AboutKidsHealth, the patient education unit at SickKids, with funding from Astellas Foundation and the Kidney Foundation of Canada. It emerged following a needs assessment with teen patients at SickKids, which had highlighted the need for a range of tailored resources about their medical condition, what to expect and how to network with past patients to help them cope with a transplant. The website responds to these needs by helping teens learn how their peers have successfully coped with difficult issues and how they can manage their own long-term health. By providing a range of resources and advice, it offers hope to teens that they too can live successfully with a transplant.

Please bookmark teens.aboutkidshealth.ca/transplant and share the link with your colleagues. Be sure to check back when it launches on **December 1, 2016!** If you have any feedback or would like further information, please contact transplantandregenerativemedicine.centre@sickkids.ca.

ATC TRAINEE AWARD PROGRAM



The American Transplant Congress will grant a number of travel awards to assist young investigators to attend the joint meeting. To be eligible for an award, an individual must be the first author on a submitted abstract, a trainee and as such must be within two (2) years completion of their training and/or fellowship, and in a program in which either an ASTS or AST member is associated. Awardees will be selected from the pool of eligible applicants based upon the abstract's degree of excellence as determined by the Joint Planning Committee. This award is open to Canadian Trainee's.

The travel award is designed to help offset expenses directly incurred to attend the meeting. Therefore, the award applicant must be the presenting author on an abstract and be present at the meeting to receive the award. No exceptions will be made. Travel award applicants must upload a letter signed by their training program director requesting travel support and identifying need. Authors will not be considered for a travel award if the required letter is not attached.

The deadline for abstract submissions is **December 2, 2016**. Please see the [ATC website](#) for further details regarding the abstract and travel award applications.

National Child Health Transplant Team Grant Competition 2016
Application Deadline Nov 1 2016

TRANSPANT RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
ALBERTA TRANSPLANT INSTITUTE
astellas
BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
CNTRP/PNRTC

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

Groundbreaking National Partnership Aims to Improve Outcomes for Pediatric Transplant Patients

Addison McArthur isn't sure what she wants to be when she grows up, though at the moment her list includes either an astronaut or astronomer, possibly a chocolate factory owner. The five-year old Vancouver girl says she has lots of time to decide, but her parents know that may not be the case. Addison received a heart transplant at three weeks of age and the stark reality is that only about half of pediatric heart transplant patients survive 15 years past surgery.

"Every day we have our daughter is an incredible gift, but we want her to live a long and healthy life like any normal child. That's why we have dedicated our efforts to raising money for research. Research is how we will get there."

Now a groundbreaking new national partnership aims to change that. With the sole purpose of funding Canadian research to improve outcomes for pediatric solid organ transplant patients, the Canadian National Transplant Research Program (CNTRP) has launched a \$100,000 Team Grant competition. Dr. Lori West, CNTRP Director and a world leader in pediatric cardiac transplantation, says, "This will provide a unique opportunity to conduct research with a team of experts from centres across Canada that would not be possible at a single centre. These connections are vital if we really want to make a difference for our young patients."

The National Child Health Transplant Team Grant is initiated by the Addison Fund of the Transplant Research Foundation of BC and supported by Astellas Canada, the Alberta Transplant Institute and the BC Children's Hospital Foundation. "Every day we have with our daughter is an incredible gift, but we want her to live a long and healthy life like any normal child," says Addison's mom Elaine Yong. "That's why we have dedicated our efforts to raising money for research. Research is how we will get there."

Between 2004-2013, over 1250 children in Canada have undergone a life-saving organ transplant. Due to their growth and development and the severity of their end-stage diseases, these young patients face a unique set of challenges that impact not only the success and side effects of transplantation, but increase the complexity of transplantation. Yet, much of their care is based upon clinical trials and studies conducted on adults. That is why it is so important to encourage and support research that focuses exclusively on children.

The CNTRP is now accepting applications until November 1 for a peer-reviewed team project that is patient-focused and aims to have direct impact on improving health outcomes of pediatric solid organ transplant patients. The successful application will support a team of junior and senior researchers working together across disciplines and across Canada.

For more details visit www.cntrp.ca/child_health_team_grants

Questions, comments, or to submit anything for future publications, please contact Lorraine at lorraine.hamiwka@ahs.ca

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