

# CNS Research Bootcamp

September 15, 2020



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# WELCOME NOTE

Dear Attendees,

On behalf of Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University, we are happy to welcome you to the first-ever CNS Research Bootcamp. We are thrilled to host this informative webinar designed to provide attendees with an understanding of the basics of research from prominent researchers from Western University and beyond. Our aim is to inspire and empower you to pursue your clinical and scientific interests through research in these early stages of neurology training.

Thank you for attending our event and we hope that this learning experience provides you with opportunities that lead you to a successful career in research and academia.

We want to recognize the efforts of our distinguished speakers and researchers for making this a successful learning event. I would like to thank Dr. Liz Finger for her advice and mentorship. We would also like to recognize the technical support from the team at Elite Digital, our distinguished sponsor Roche Canada, and administrative support from Ashley Shaw and many others who have come together to plan this occasion.

We hope you will have an enjoyable experience.

Sincerely,

**Courtney Casserly, MD, FRCPC**  
CNS Research Bootcamp Chair & Assistant Professor  
Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences,  
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry,  
Western University

# ITINERARY

## Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences

*presents*

### the 2020 CNS Research Bootcamp on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

This is a virtual event through Zoom

Topic: Clinical Neurological Sciences (CNS) Resident Research Boot Camp

Time: Sep 15, 2020 07:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84563570652?pwd=Qm1obStgai91ZWJ5R0xreXdJdUFnZz09>

Meeting ID: 845 6357 0652

Passcode: 688893

One tap mobile: [+16475580588](tel:+16475580588).,[84563570652#](tel:+16475580588).,[.....0#](tel:+16475580588).,[688893#](tel:+16475580588) Canada

*If you have any questions regarding Zoom, please contact [Ashley Shaw](#).*

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>8:00 to<br/>9:00 a.m.</b>  | <b>Grand Rounds Presentation - “Finding NeMO”</b><br><i>Dr. Michael Levy<br/>Research Director<br/>Division of Neuroimmunology &amp; Neuroinfectious Disease,<br/>Massachusetts General Hospital</i> |
| <b>9:00 to<br/>9:15 a.m.</b>  | <b>Event Introduction</b><br><i>Dr. Courtney Casserly<br/>CNS Research Bootcamp Chair<br/>Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences,<br/>Western University</i>                                   |
| <b>9:15 to<br/>9:45 a.m.</b>  | <b>Research Productivity – “Orientation to Scholarly Activity”</b><br><i>Dr. Nairmeen Haller<br/>Director of Research,<br/>Cleveland Clinic Akron General</i>  |
| <b>9:45 to<br/>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Break</b>   |

**10:00 to  
10:45 a.m.**      **Research Ethics - “The Illusion of Protection: Whistleblowing, and Whistleblowers, in Medical Research”**

*Dr. Nancy F. Olivieri*

*Senior Scientist*

*Toronto General Hospital Research Institute (TGHRI)*

**10:45 to  
11:30 a.m.**      **Neurosurgery from New York – “Leadership in Research”**

*Dr. David Langer*

*Chair of Neurosurgery*

*Lenox Hill Hospital*

**11:30 a.m. to  
12:00 p.m.**      **Workshops**

**Education Research**

*Dr. Chris Watling*

*Centre of Education Research & Innovation (CERI)*

*Western University*

**Imaging Research**

*Dr. Rob Bartha*

*Robarts Research Institute*

*Western University*

**Basic Science**

*Dr. Ana Suller Marti*

*Brain and Mind Institute,*

*Western University*

**12:00 to  
1:00 p.m.**      **Research Speed-Dating**

*\*Please note that special registration was required for this portion of the event due to limited number of spots.*

## NOTE FROM OUR SPONSOR



### **Roche: Doing Now What Patients Need Next**

At Roche, we are working on understanding how diseases differ down to the molecular level, so we can develop new tests and medicines that prevent, diagnose and treat these diseases. With our combined strengths in diagnostics and pharmaceuticals, our personalized healthcare strategy aims to fit the right treatment to the right patient.

As the world's largest biotech company, we develop breakthrough medicines, improving the standard of care across oncology, immunology, infectious diseases, ophthalmology and neuroscience. Our track record has allowed us to build lasting and meaningful partnerships across the world with research academia and public healthcare institutions. Going forward, our ability to capture and understand unprecedented amounts of data from multiple sources will allow for a higher resolution and a more in-depth view of each patient, thus putting the promise of truly personalized healthcare within reach.

With a strong and diverse portfolio covering the most common to the rarest neurological conditions, Roche is approaching neuroscience and rare disease with curiosity, passion and rigour. Our mission is rooted in our formula: follow the science to improve the lives of people.

## GUEST PRESENTERS

### Dr. Michael Levy



Dr. Michael Levy, MD, PhD, is an Associate Professor in Neurology who was recently recruited to lead the research unit in the new Division of Neuroimmunology at the Massachusetts General Hospital. His mission is to build a combined clinical and research neuroimmunology program to develop therapies for patients with autoimmune diseases of the central nervous system. Dr. Levy moved from Baltimore, MD, where he was on the faculty at Johns Hopkins University since 2009 and Director of the Neuromyelitis Optica Clinic.

Clinically, Dr. Levy specializes in taking care of children and adults with rare neuroimmunological diseases including neuromyelitis optica, transverse myelitis, MOG antibody disease and acute disseminated encephalomyelitis. In addition to four monthly clinics, Dr. Levy is the principal investigator on several clinical studies and drug trials for these conditions.

In the laboratory, Dr. Levy's research focuses on four main areas:

1. Development of animal models of neuromyelitis optica (NMO) with the goal of tolerization as a sustainable long-term treatment.
2. Genetic basis of transverse myelitis. We discovered a genetic mutation in *VPS37a* found in a group of patients with a familial form of transverse myelitis (TM).
3. The immunopathogenesis of MOG antibody disease.
4. Biomarker assays for other autoimmune diseases of the central nervous system.

## Dr. Nairmeen Haller



Dr. Haller earned her Master's Degree in Immunology from the University of Akron and Doctorate in Biopsychology from Kent State University. She is currently the Director of Research at Cleveland Clinic Akron General where she has been employed for over 25 years. With a passion for educating students, residents, and clinical faculty and staff on the research process, her key accomplishments include building an institution-wide educational research program, developing a competency-based research curriculum within an Internal Medicine residency program, as well as many peer-reviewed basic science, translational, and clinical publications and national presentations.

Additional appointments include Associate Professor in Internal Medicine at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NOMU) and Clinical Assistant Professor at Ohio University Heritage College of Medicine.

A graduate of the Fellowship of Academic Medicine program at NOMU, Dr. Haller is also widely involved in the greater Akron community and resides in Northeast Ohio with her husband and three children.

## Dr. Nancy Olivieri



Nancy Olivieri, Professor of Pediatrics, Medicine and Public Health Sciences, University of Toronto, has worked for over 30 years in thalassemia, a disease endemic in emerging countries. In 1996, Dr. Olivieri found herself within a controversy involving the protection of patients in a clinical trial she had initiated in children with thalassemia at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. She was targeted first by threats, later lawsuits, from industry and academic enemies (involving Apotex CEO Barry Sherman, U of T, Sick Kids, and others), legal proceedings ultimately and successfully settled – the final one 18 years after the first legal threats.

The CPSO ruled Dr. Olivieri's advocacy for patients "commendable" and she was honoured including by The Nader Foundation, CAUT, Drug Safety Canada and several honorary degrees. Awarding its Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, the AAAS observed: "*Nancy Olivieri is honoured for indefatigable determination that patient safety and research integrity come before institutional and commercial interests, and for courage in defending these principles in the face of severe consequences.*"



Dr. Olivieri obtained a Masters in Medical Ethics and Law (Kings' UK 2003), established a charity *Hemoglobin*® (2004) which works with children with thalassemia in Asia. and in 2009 created *Health and Pharmaceuticals*, a course she continues to teach to help students understand the pharmaceutical industry's influence in research.

## Dr. David Langer



David Langer, MD, is the chair of neurosurgery at Lenox Hill Hospital and Vice President of neurosurgery for Northwell Health's Western Region. He is Professor of Neurosurgery and Radiology at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. Internationally recognized as an expert in cerebral revascularization and cerebral aneurysms, his work focuses on diseases of the brain vessels. Dr. Langer's work has been featured in numerous peer-reviewed publications and he has spoken nationally and internationally on vascular disorders such as aneurysms and arteriovenous malformations (AVMs) of the brain. He is one of the few cerebral bypass surgeons in the country.

A third generation physician, Dr. Langer attended the University of Pennsylvania for undergraduate and medical school. He stayed on at Penn and completed his neurosurgical residency under the direction of Eugene Flamm, MD. He later joined Dr. Flamm at a new neurosurgical institute in New York City in 1998. Dr. Langer also completed a mid-career fellowship at the University at Buffalo in cerebrovascular disease treatment including aneurysms, AVMs, and carotid disease.

Dr. Langer worked at the Continuum Health System at Mount Sinai in New York until 2010, when he joined the neurosurgery department at Northwell Health. Dr. Langer established the **Moyamoya Center of Neuroscience Institute** and developed a project focused on the use of social networking technology and video to enhance the patient experience and improve the medical record. This project has grown into the health system, supported Cirrus Health, which continues to creatively disrupt the status quo in patient communication and the current electronic medical record.

In 2013 Dr. Langer was recruited as director of neurosurgery at Lenox Hill. His goal is to further expand this outstanding clinical entity by creating an entirely new environment for patients and their families. He also maintains an active practice in spinal disease and benign brain tumors including acoustic neuromas and meningiomas. He is currently involved in the study, development and adoption of the use of 3 dimensional exoscopic surgery in spine and cranial surgery.

Dr. Langer has been recognized as a Top Doctor and Best Doctor by numerous publications. He is currently a peer reviewer for the journals *Neurosurgery* and American Association of Neurological Surgeons' *Neurosurgeon*. He is on the medical advisory boards of Box Inc. and Cisco Systems. He is also a founding member of the board of the Brain Technology Institute and an active member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, as well as the cerebrovascular subsection of these organizations. In addition, Dr. Langer serves on the editorial board for Operative Neurosurgery's digital platforms in the journal's Surgical Video section. In 2015, Dr. Langer received North Shore-LIJ Health System's President's Award. In 2018, Dr. Langer received The Sally Harrington Goldwater Memorial Visiting Professor Award from the Barrow Neurological Foundation.

He has appeared on CNN, FOX, ABC, and CBS as well as the *Dr. Oz Show*. He has also frequently quoted in *The New York Times* and numerous other print news sources. In November 2015, Dr. Langer was featured in *The Wall Street Journal* article "**What Patients Need to Remember After Leaving the Hospital**" for his innovative technology to record crucial steps of patient's experience in the hospital

# WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

## Dr. Chris Watling



Dr. Watling is Professor in the Departments of Oncology, Clinical Neurological Sciences, and Family Medicine, and the Director of Schulich's Centre for Education Research and Innovation. From 2010-2019, he was the Associate Dean for Postgraduate Medical Education at Schulich. He has a Masters in Medical Education from the University of Dundee and a PhD in Health Professions Education from Maastricht University. His research, widely published in the medical education literature, explores how and why feedback influences learning, and how medicine's professional culture shapes its educational practices.

## Dr. Rob Bartha



Dr. Robert Bartha is Director of the Imaging Research Laboratories at the Robarts Research Institute and Professor of Medical Biophysics at Western University. He specializes in the development of high-field magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and spectroscopy techniques to examine brain metabolism for early diagnosis of disease and monitoring of treatment response. Since joining the Robarts Research Institute in 2001, he has worked closely with numerous members of the CNS department on collaborative projects including in epilepsy, brain cancer, neurodegenerative diseases, and cervical myelopathy.

## Dr. Ana Suller Marti



Dr. Suller Marti studied medicine at the Universidad de Valencia in Spain, spending one academic year at the University of Turku, Finland. She completed the Neurology residency at Hospital Lozano Blesa in Zaragoza, Spain. During that time, Dr. Suller Marti acquired her Master's degree in Initiation in Medical Investigation at the Universidad de Zaragoza. In July 2018, she moved to Canada to complete her epilepsy training, with a two-year clinical epilepsy fellowship and one-year research fellowship, while working on her PhD. In July 2019, Dr. Suller Marti started her position as Assistant Professor in the Department of CNS at Western University.

# RESEARCHERS

## **Dr. Reza Azarpazhooh**

*Stoke*



Dr. M. Reza Azarpazhooh earned his medical degree from Mashhad University of Medical Sciences (MUMS) at Mashhad, Iran in 1995 and completed Neurology Residency Training at Ghaem Hospital in 2000. Subsequently, Dr. Azarpazhooh completed fellowships at the National Stroke Research Institute, Melbourne University in Australia with an emphasis on Stroke and Neurosonology and a Stroke fellowship here at Western University. Prior to joining the department, Dr. Azarpazhooh was the Head and Founder of the Neurosonology Unit in the Neurology Intensive Care Unit and Stroke Unit at Ghaem Hospital in Iran. In addition, Dr. Azarpazhooh held the positions of Associate Dean of Graduate and Postgraduate Studies and Vice President of Treatment Affairs at MUMS in Iran.

Dr. Azarpazhooh joined the department in 2018 as a stroke neurologist and clinician-researcher with the Stroke Program. He is working in the Stroke Prevention and Atherosclerosis Research Center (SPARC) with special interest in atherosclerosis. He is also a co-investigator in multicenter-international studies, including the Multi-National survey on Epidemiology, Morbidity, and Outcomes in Intracerebral Haemorrhage (MNEMONICH), the ITAS-90+ registry and the global burden of neurological disorders (GBD).

## **Dr. Rob Bartha**

*Imaging*



Dr. Robert Bartha is Director of the Imaging Research Laboratories at the Robarts Research Institute and Professor of Medical Biophysics at Western University. He completed his doctoral degree in Medical Biophysics at the Western University in London, Ontario. Since joining the Robarts Research Institute in 2001, he has worked closely with numerous members of the CNS department on collaborative projects including in epilepsy, brain cancer, neurodegenerative diseases, and cervical myelopathy. Dr. Bartha's research program specializes in the development of high-field magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and spectroscopy techniques to examine brain metabolism for early diagnosis of disease and monitoring of treatment response.

## **Dr. Jorge Burneo**

### *Epilepsy*



Dr. Jorge Burneo is a Professor of Neurology and Epidemiology in the Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences at Western University. He completed his Neurology residency at The Henry Ford Health Hospital and a fellowship in Epilepsy and Clinical Neurophysiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he also worked for a year while obtaining a Masters in Public Health with specialization in Epidemiology.

Dr. Burneo is a Co-Director of the Epilepsy Program at Western University and the London Health Sciences Center. In addition, Dr. Burneo is the past-President of the Canadian League Against Epilepsy (CLAE), and the Vice-Chair of the communications council at the American Epilepsy Society. He is the Co-Leader of EpLink and a member of the Provincial Epilepsy Strategy. His research interests include Epidemiology of Epilepsy (He has been recently named an ICES Scientist) and neuroimaging assessment of epileptic malformations of cortical development in collaboration with the Neuroimaging group at the Robarts Research Institute.

## **Dr. Elizabeth Finger**

### *Cognitive Neurology*



Dr. Finger is an Associate Professor and the Director of Research for the Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences at Western University. Dr. Finger received her MD from Cornell University. She completed an internship in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, followed by residency in Neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Finger completed a clinical research fellowship at the National Institutes of Health in the Unit on Affective and Cognitive Disorders at the NIMH.

Dr. Finger joined the Department in 2007 and specializes in cognitive neurology.

Dr. Finger's research focuses on understanding the cognitive, neural, and genetic substrates of abnormal decision-making, emotion, and social behavior. The research program combines neuropsychological tasks with functional MRI, diffusion tensor imaging, lesion studies, pharmacologic challenges and randomized clinical trials to delineate and treat the cognitive and neural systems affected in patients with Frontotemporal Dementia, related disorders and their at-risk family members.

**Dr. Teneille Gofton**

*Neurocritical Care and Palliative Care*



Dr. Teneille Gofton completed medical school in Halifax, Nova Scotia at Dalhousie University in 2005. She then finished a Neurology Residency at Western University in London, Ontario in 2010. Dr. Gofton has two years of fellowship subspecialty training. The first year of fellowship training focused on Hospice and Palliative Medicine and was completed in 2011 at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York, New York. The second year of fellowship training focused on Neurocritical Care, which Dr. Gofton completed under the mentorship of Dr. Young at Western University and during which she obtained certification for

electroencephalography.

Dr. Gofton joined the faculty in the Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences at Western University in July of 2012. She specializes in and Palliative Care for patients living with neurological illnesses and in adult Neurocritical Care.

**Dr. Matthew Hebb**

*Neurosurgery*



Dr. Hebb holds BSc degrees in both Biology and Mathematics from Dalhousie University. He attained his PhD from Dalhousie in Pharmacology and Neuroscience in 1998. Dr. Hebb attained his MD from the University of Toronto in 2002 before completing his Neurosurgery residency training at Dalhousie University and a fellowship in neurosurgery and Skullbase surgery at the Barrow Neurological Institute under Robert Spetzler in Phoenix Arizona.

Dr. Hebb joined the Department in 2009 specializing in glial biology/neuro-oncology , and movement disorders. In addition to his position with CNS, Dr. Hebb is also an Associate Professor of Neuroscience, an Associate Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology, an Associate Professor of School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, an Associate Professor of Otolaryngology and Head & Neck Surgery, and an Associate Professor of Department of Oncology.

He is a Fellow of the International Parkinson and Movement Disorders Society, the North American Skull Base Society, The Congress of Neurological Surgeons, RCPSC, the American College of Surgeons, and the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. He is a member of the Society for Neuroscience, the Society for Neuro-Oncology, the Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation, the Ontario Medical Association, and the Canadian Medical Association.

**Dr. Steve Kerfoot**

*Immunology*



Steve Kerfoot obtained his PhD from the University of Calgary, where he trained with Dr. Robert Bell and later with Dr. Paul Kubes studying brain inflammation. He then spent six years at Yale University investigating different aspects of basic B cell biology, first with Dr. Philip Askenase and then with Drs. Ann Haberman and Mark Shlomchik (now at U Pitt).

Dr. Kerfoot returned to Canada in the fall of 2011 to join the Department of Microbiology & Immunology at Western University, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. He is currently an

Associate Professor in the Department and an Associate Scientist with Robarts Research Institute.

**Dr. Alexander Khaw**

*Stoke*

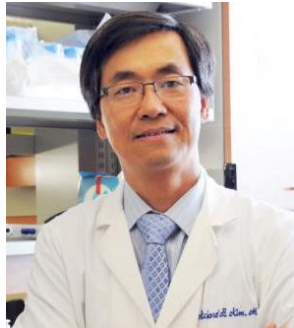


Dr. Khaw graduated medical school at the Johannes Gutenberg Universität of Mainz, Germany. He is board certified in Neurology after training at Mannheim University Hospital of Ruprecht Karls Universität of Heidelberg, University of Ulm, and Ernst Moritz Arndt Universität of Greifswald, Germany. His residency comprised extensive training in stroke medicine and epileptology. His doctoral thesis on the fetal evolution of glycoconjugate patterns in human vertebral column tissues was rewarded magna cum laude at Johannes Gutenberg Universität of Mainz.

He completed an 18-month clinical research fellowship at the Stroke Centre of the Neurological Institute, Columbia University, New York City, with Dr. J.P. Mohr and Dr. Ralph L. Sacco. Dr. Khaw was Director of the Stroke Unit and Neuro-IMC, Ultrasound Laboratory and Cerebrovascular Clinic at the University Hospital Greifswald before joining Western University and London Health Sciences Centre in 2014.

He is Co-Medical Director and Steering Committee member of the Southwest Ontario Stroke Network, Steering Committee member of the Regional Stroke Project with the Southwest and Erie St. Claire LHIN to reorganize and continuously improve care provided to stroke patients in the region by evidence-based standards, and member of CorHealth Ontario's Stroke Evaluation and Quality Committee (SEQC), which advises stroke care evaluation, quality improvement and reporting strategies to the Stroke Leadership Council.

**Dr. Richard Kim**  
*Pharmacology*



Dr. Kim received his medical degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1987. After completing an internship and residency training in Internal Medicine, he went on to carry out fellowship training in Clinical Pharmacology at Vanderbilt University from 1991-1994, and then remained at Vanderbilt as a faculty member in Clinical Pharmacology where he rose to the rank of tenured full Professor by 2004.

Dr. Kim was recruited to Western from Vanderbilt University in 2006 to head the Division of Clinical Pharmacology, which has now become the largest clinical pharmacology training program in Canada, and second largest in North America. He also holds the Wolfe Medical Research Chair in Pharmacogenomics at Western.

He has been actively leading a program of excellence in Personalized Medicine. In 2008, he started the first personalized medicine clinic in Canada and since 2011, personalized medicine inpatient consultation service has been available for patients who are at risk for toxicity or subtherapeutic benefit from a number of drugs in clinical use whether for children or the elderly, for cardiovascular disease, inflammatory conditions, and cancer.

He is an elected Member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) and Fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) and Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS).

**Dr. Ravi Menon**  
*Imaging*



Dr. Ravi Menon is a Professor of Medical Biophysics, Medical Imaging and Psychiatry at Western University, where he is also a member of the Graduate Program in Neuroscience and the Graduate Program in Biomedical Engineering and Founding Director of Western's Centre for Functional and Metabolic Mapping (CFMM), Canada's only ultra-high field MRI facility. He holds a Ph.D. in Medicine from the University of Alberta (1990), a M.Sc.(A) in Medical Physics from McGill University and a B.Sc. (Hons) in Physics from the University of British Columbia.

He was awarded one of the inaugural Canada Research Chairs in 200 and has held grants from a broad spectrum of national and international funding agencies including a CIHR Foundation Grant in 2016. He currently serves as co-Scientific Director of BrainsCAN, a \$66M grant from the Canada First Research Excellence Fund.



He is a Senior Fellow of the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences and was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2019.

He has served in numerous advisory capacities, including 7 years on the Canada Gairdner Foundation and the Board of Scientific Councilors of NIMH/NIH. He served for 7 years (the last 4 as Chair) on the Institute Advisory Board of the Institute for Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction of the CIHR. He currently serves on the Board of the Brain Canada Foundation along with several of Canada's leading Philanthropists.

### **Dr. Sarah Morrow**

*Multiple Sclerosis Cognition*



Dr. Sarah Morrow is an Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences at Western University (London, ON) and Director of the London MS Clinic. She received her MD from the University of Calgary and completed her residency training in neurology at Western University. This was followed by a clinical fellowship in MS at the London MS clinic at Western University and a research fellowship on Cognition and MS with Dr. Ralph Benedict, a neuropsychologist, at the Jacobs Neurologic Institute in Buffalo, New York. Dr. Morrow has also completed a Master's of Science in Epidemiology at the State University of New York in Buffalo.

In addition to her clinical work in the London MS clinic, she established the first MS Cognitive clinic in Canada located at Parkwood Institute. She is a Board member for the Consortium of MS Centers and on the editorial board of both the International Journal of MS care and the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences. She is on the steering committee of the International MS Cognition Society and of MS in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, an international collaboration with the aim of defining how MS treatment and standard of care should look in the 21st century. She currently has over 100 peer-reviewed publications on the area of MS.

### **Dr. Maryam Nouri**

*Paediatrics*



Dr. Nabavi-Nouri received her medical degree from Iran University of Medical Sciences in Tehran in 2009. She completed her paediatric neurology residency at the Hospital for Sick Children/University of Toronto in 2016. Through a fellowship grant from Canadian League against Epilepsy, she finished her Neurophysiology/Pediatric epilepsy fellowship at University of British Columbia with a focus on pediatric EEG interpretation and epilepsy surgery evaluations. She is pursuing a Masters in Clinical epidemiology through London School of Health of Tropical

Medicine. She is expanding the pediatric epilepsy research program focusing on multi-center studies to understand the pathophysiology of autoimmune causes of epilepsy, while improving diagnostic accuracy, access to disease-modifying therapies, and patient outcomes. Her research interests further include medically refractory epilepsy, epilepsy surgery, epidemiological studies in epilepsy and global burden of neurological disorders.

### **Dr. Sachin Pandey**

#### *Neuroimaging*



Sachin K. Pandey is a practicing Interventional Neuroradiologist LHSC. Dr. Pandey received both his BA and MD degrees from Boston University as part of the 7-year combined liberal arts and medical education program. From there, Dr. Pandey completed a residency in Diagnostic Radiology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center at Harvard University, graduating in 2012. He then pursued clinical fellowship training, first in Diagnostic Neuroradiology also at Beth Israel Deaconess. Dr. Pandey then completed a fellowship in adult and pediatric Interventional Neuroradiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Boston Children's Hospital, also at Harvard University.

Following his time in Boston, Dr. Pandey then joined the faculty at Western University Schulich School of Medicine. He now serves as the city-wide Division Head for Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology. Dr. Pandey maintains an active interest in organized medicine and academic leadership and is the current Section Chair for the division of Neuroradiology at the Ontario Medical Association as well as the current President of the LHSC Professional Staff Organization. Dr. Pandey's research interests are primarily clinical and focused on cerebrovascular disease, with emphasis on radial access for cerebrovascular procedures and hyperacute stroke thrombectomy.

### **Dr Michael Silverman**

#### *Infectious Diseases*



Dr. Silverman received his medical degree and Residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Toronto. He carried out his fellowship in Infectious Diseases at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, and an HIV post-doctoral fellowship (1991-2) at the University of California, San Francisco, USA. He has extensive experience conducting research and doing Humanitarian medical relief in developing countries including Guyana, South America; Zimbabwe, Zambia, Uganda and Thailand. He is currently Chair/Chief of Infectious Diseases, Western University; Medical Director of the HIV Clinic, St Joseph's Hospital, London; Medical Director of Infection Control, St. Joseph's Hospital; POEM Scientist in the Department of Medicine; Associate Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases, Microbiology & Immunology, Epidemiology & Biostatistics.

Dr Silverman is an Associate Scientist at the Lawson Health Research Institute, London, and has been conducting research on the use of Fecal Microbial Transplantation for several medical indications since 2003 with recent trials involving recurrent *C. difficile*, Non-Alcoholic fatty liver disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Melanoma, Renal Cell carcinoma, Atherosclerosis and HIV. He also is very involved in the study of infections in People who inject drugs, antimicrobial stewardship in primary care and has extensive experience in the study of infectious diseases in developing countries. He is site PI on several multinational RCT's including in HIV care and community acquired influenza. He is a member of several Professional organizations, including the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (AMMI), Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research (CCGHR), American Society of Microbiology (ASM) and Society for Health Care Epidemiology of America (SHEA).

### **Dr. David Spence**

*Stoke*



Professor Spence has focused on prevention of stroke throughout his career. He pioneered the measurement of 2-dimensional carotid total plaque area beginning in 1986, and since 1994 has collaborated with Prof. Aaron Fenster and Dr. Grace Parraga at the Robarts Research Institute in measurement of 3D plaque volume, plaque ulceration and assessment of vulnerable plaque. His research program focuses on measurement of atherosclerosis by ultrasound, for risk stratification, genetic and biological study of atherosclerosis, and for assessing effects of new therapies. He pioneered a new approach to vascular prevention – “treating arteries instead of treating risk factors” – that has markedly reduced risk among high-risk patients with carotid stenosis. Other areas of expertise include vitamin therapy for homocysteine, the clinical pharmacology of stroke prevention, physiologically individualized therapy for resistant hypertension, identification of high-risk asymptomatic carotid stenosis and the role of the intestinal microbiome in atherosclerosis. His publications include 4 books and over 500 publications in peer-reviewed journals. In 2015 he received the Research Excellence Award from the Canadian Society for Atherosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology. In 2019 he was appointed to the Order of Canada, “for his contributions to the understanding of atherosclerosis and Stroke Prevention”.

**Dr. Luciano Sposato**  
*Stroke*



Dr. Luciano Sposato is a stroke neurologist, Associate Professor at the Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences, London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC), and Scientist at Lawson Health Research Institute and Associate scientist at Robarts Research Institute. Dr. Sposato completed his medical degree at University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, followed by training in Internal Medicine and Neurology at Hospital de Clinicas, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and a Stroke fellowship at UWO. Dr. Sposato leads the LHSC/Western University Stroke Program and holds the Kathleen and Dr. Henry Barnett Chair in Stroke Research. Dr. Sposato's has established the Heart & Brain Lab at Western University and his research focuses on the heart and brain connection, including, stroke, atrial fibrillation and dementia; and on stroke epidemiology, to investigate how brain damage affects the heart and vice-versa through experimental, clinical and population-based research.

**Dr. Ana Suller Marti**  
*Epilepsy*



Dr. Suller Marti studied medicine at the Universidad de Valencia in Spain, spending one academic year at the University of Turku, Finland. She completed the Neurology residency at Hospital Lozano Blesa in Zaragoza, Spain. During that time, Dr. Suller Marti acquired her Master's degree in Initiation in Medical Investigation at the Universidad de Zaragoza. She completed a clinical-research headache fellowship at Hospital Clínico de Valencia. In July 2018, she moved to Canada to complete her epilepsy training, with a two-year clinical epilepsy fellowship and one-year research fellowship, while working on her PhD. In July 2019, Dr. Suller Marti started her position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences at Western University. During her first six months, she established herself as a Clinician Researcher and continued with projects that she started during her fellowship, as well began new studies on a range of topics including neuromodulation and comorbidities, Deep Brain Stimulation in epilepsy patients, multidisciplinary SEEG approach, SUDEP. In addition, she developed collaborations with several other researchers. Dr. Suller Marti is an active member of the Educational Task Force through the Young Epilepsy Society-ILAE and is collaborating on the Competence-Based Educational Curriculum in Epilepsy through the ILAE. In spring 2020, she was awarded with Canadian Society of Clinical Neurophysiologists (CSCN) - Herbert Jasper Prize.

## **Dr. Shannon Venance**

### *Muscle Education*



Dr. Shannon Venance received her PhD from Queen's University and completed medical school and Neurology residency at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa. Dr Venance is an Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University. Her clinical expertise is in disorders of muscle. Dr. Venance is actively involved in education across the learning continuum. She brings a collaborative approach and expertise in change management with a quality improvement lens to her recent roles as the Faculty Lead, MD Curriculum Implementation, Director, Postgraduate Medical Education, CBME Implementation and Assistant Secretary to the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools. Her contributions to medical education have been recognized with the Schulich Award of Excellence Distinguished Leader – Undergraduate Medical Education, the Douglas Bocking Award for Excellence in Medical Teaching and the Angelika F Hahn Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching.