Bench to Bedside for Biotherapeutics (B3) speaker biographies and photos

Harold Atkins, MD, FRCPC
Scientist, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute

Dr. Atkins is a physician at the Ottawa Hospital Blood and Marrow Transplant Program, an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Ottawa, a scientist in the Centre for Innovative Cancer Research and the medical director of the Regenerative Medicine Program at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute.

He specializes in the management of patients requiring stem cell transplantation and he has spearheaded the use of stem cell transplantation for immune repair to treat patients with severe autoimmune diseases, particularly Multiple Sclerosis. He has also developed clinical trials exploring the role of dose escalated radiation therapy to treat refractory blood cancers. His laboratory research includes a longstanding and fruitful collaboration with Dr. John Bell developing oncolytic viruses particularly for the treatment of hematological cancers as personalized cancer cell vaccines.

Josée Champagne, HBSc, CCRP
Research Assistant, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute

Josée is the Cellular Immunotherapy for Septic Shock (CISS) Research Manager and has more than 10 years' experience in clinical research management. She was recently acquired from the Obstetrics Maternal Newborn Investigation (OMNI) Research Group where she led the Folic Acid Clinical Trial (FACT). FACT was an international, multi-center, double-blind, placebo-controlled, Phase III trial of 2,646 high risk pregnant women, sponsored by the OHRI and funded by CIHR. After 4 years of recruitment across 5 countries and 72 sites, FACT randomized its final patient in November 2015. As the FACT lead, she provided guidance and mentorship to the research team members and oversaw FACT`s daily operations to ensure that deliverables were met and that the trial was conducted in accordance with the protocol and all applicable laws and regulations.

David Kaplan, PhD
Senior Scientist at SickKids Research Institute, Toronto, Ontario

David Kaplan is a Senior Scientist at SickKids Research Institute and Professor in the Department of Molecular Genetics at the University of Toronto. A native New Yorker, he was formally a laboratory head at the National Cancer Institute in Maryland, Head of the Brain Tumor Research Centre at McGill, Head of the Cancer Research Program at SickKids, and science chair of Brain Canada. Dr. Kaplan shares a lab with his wife, Dr. Freda Miller, working on how stem cells build and maintain the brain, and discovering drugs that mobilize our stem cells to enhance and repair the aging and injured brain and skin, and to treat childhood cancers and adult brain tumors. He has made important discoveries in the neuroscience and cancer fields, including the identification of the Nerve Growth Factor receptor (Nature, Science 1990) and PI3-kinase (Cell 1987), with 190 research papers with over 40,000 citations. He has founded several biotechnology companies in Canada to bring his research discoveries in the cancer, nerve degeneration and stem cell fields to the clinic.

Manoj Mathew Lalu, MD, PhD, FRCPC
Associate Scientist, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Ottawa, Ontario

Dr. Manoj Lalu is an Associate Scientist in the Clinical Epidemiology and Regenerative Medicine Programs at Ottawa Hospital Research Institute. He is also an Anesthesiologist and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine at the Ottawa Hospital. His current research is largely preclinical and translational (i.e. "bench-to-bedside") focusing on biotherapeutics for cancer and acute illness. He is also leading efforts to improve research methodology at the bench to address issues of reproducibility.

Lauralyn McIntyre, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Senior Scientist, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute

Dr. McIntyre is an Intensivist at the Ottawa Hospital, Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine, University of Ottawa and a Senior Scientist with the Clinical Epidemiology Department of the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute. She is the Critical Care Research Director at the Ottawa Hospital and a member of the Canadian Critical Care Trials and Translational Biology Groups. She has published 120 papers, 116 abstracts, and 4 book chapters. She has also secured 44 grants and 29 million dollars in peer-reviewed and industry-sponsored unrestricted research funds in the last 5 years.

Dr. McIntyre's research focuses on resuscitation, transfusion, and MSC use in the critically ill. She is leading a CIHR-funded pragmatic cluster cross-over RCT examining the effectiveness of Ringer's Lactate as compared to Normal Saline (FLUID). She also leads a translational research program examining the use of MSCs for the treatment of septic shock (Cellular Immunotherapy in Septic Shock: CISS)

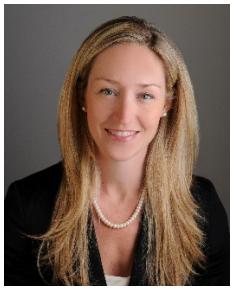
Friederike Pfau, PhD
Operations Manager and Quality Assurance Manager, Laboratory of Experimental Organogenesis, Université Laval, Quebec City, Quebec

Over the years Friederike has developed a robust expertise in project management, ethics, quality management and regulatory matters through training courses and hands on experience.
Friederike has participated in the planning and construction of the LOEX's new research facility CMDGT (Centre multidisciplinaire pour le développement du genie tissulaire) and its clean rooms dedicated to the production of tissue-engineered products for early phase clinical trials. She has been responsible for the development of the LOEX's Quality Management System and its implementation. As Quality Assurance Manager she is responsible for the maintenance of the quality of the clean room's infrastructure and procedures.
Friederike holds a degree in chemistry (Dipl. Chem.) and a doctoral degree (Dr. rer, nat.) from the University of Stuttgart, Germany.

Gayle Piat, RQAP-GLP, RAC
Manager, Alberta Cell Therapy Manufacturing, Edmonton, Alberta

Gayle Piat has a background in Medical Laboratory Technology and has over 30 years' experience working in the life science field with 12 years spent specializing in Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) and 7 years in Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP). In 2003 she earned the designation of Registered Quality Assurance Professional in GLP through the Society of Quality Assurance while working at the Alberta Research Council as the Quality Assurance Manager at a GLP toxicology facility. In 2011 Gayle joined the University of Alberta as Project Manager for construction of a GMP cell therapy manufacturing facility. Gayle is currently the manager of Alberta Cell Therapy Manufacturing (ACTM). In 2016 she earned Regulatory Affairs Certification through the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society. Gayle is a member of CellCAN and participates in the Cell Therapy Stakeholders group that meets with Health Canada to discuss regulatory policy issues for cell and gene-based therapies.

Julia Pomoransky, PhD
Manager, Manufacturing Sciences and Technology, Turnstone Biologics Inc., Ottawa, Ontario



Julia studied oncolytic viruses with Dr. John Bell during her graduate studies where she earned her PhD from the University of Ottawa. Following her PhD studies, Julia continued to work with Dr. Bell at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI), managing a 5 Million dollar grant funded project that involved the pre-clinical development of an oncolytic virus vaccine for a Phase I/II clinical study. In this role, she oversaw assay development, toxicology studies, the construction of a GMP manufacturing facility, and the manufacturing and testing of two clinical grade viruses. Recognizing the value of the infrastructure and highly qualified personnel at the OHRI – over a 1-year period, Julia and her colleagues created a fee-for-service contract manufacturing organization, called the Biotherapeutics Manufacturing Centre (BMC). Julia led this team as their Operations, Project Management, and Accounts manager. Recently, Julia transferred from the BMC to work for a start-up biotechnology company, Turnstone Biologics Inc. as the Manager of Manufacturing Sciences, and Technology. Turnstone Biologics is a world-leading virus-based immunoncology company, developing oncolytic vaccines for cancer patients.

Dawn Richards, PhD
Director of Patient & Public Engagement, Clinical Trials Ontario, Toronto, Ontario

Dawn Richards has a PhD in analytical chemistry and lives with a chronic illness called rheumatoid arthritis. She helps bring the patient voice and perspective to places where it has typically not had strong representation. At Clinical Trials Ontario (CTO), Dawn is the Director of Patient & Public Engagement, and her role involves enhancing ways in which patients and the public are engaged with clinical trials. This work actively involves patients and the public with clinical trials; aims to increase public awareness of clinical trials; and will support health care providers with respect to clinical trials.

Paul Santerre, PhD, FAAAS, FAIMBE, FBSE, PEng
Professor, University of Toronto

Professor Santerre's research advances the design of new materials for tissue engineering, implants and medical devices. Through his start-up company, Interface Biologics, Inc., Professor Santerre is revolutionizing the medical equipment industry, through the application of a novel polymer in PICC catheters and other medical devices that prevents blood clots

Nancy Sikich, BScN, MSc
Director, Health Technology Assessment at Health Quality Ontario, Toronto, Ontario

Nancy Sikich is the Director of Health Technology Assessment at Health Quality Ontario, Toronto. She has been involved in Health Technology Assessment for more than 10 years with a focus on the evaluation of clinical effectiveness, the quality of evidence, and the process for making recommendations. Nancy holds a Masters in Health Research Methodology and Bachelor of Science in Nursing both from McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Mary Sunderland, PhD
Director of Research and Education, Foundation Fighting Blindness, Toronto, Ontario

Mary Sunderland is the Director of Research and Education at the Foundation Fighting Blindness, where she provides strategic, scientific and operational oversight to the FFB's research portfolio and leads the development of complementary knowledge mobilization initiatives.

Mary is deeply interested in the ethos of translational research, which she studied as a postdoctoral scholar at the University of California, Berkeley. Mary has a PhD in Biology from Arizona State University and an MSc from the University of Toronto. As an interdisciplinary scholar, Mary has published in the areas of stem cell biology, translational research ethics, responsible innovation, and the history of biology.

Since joining the FFB in 2014, Mary has focused on elevating the patient voice in the translational research process by developing initiatives that bring together diverse stakeholders who are needed to make new treatments a reality.