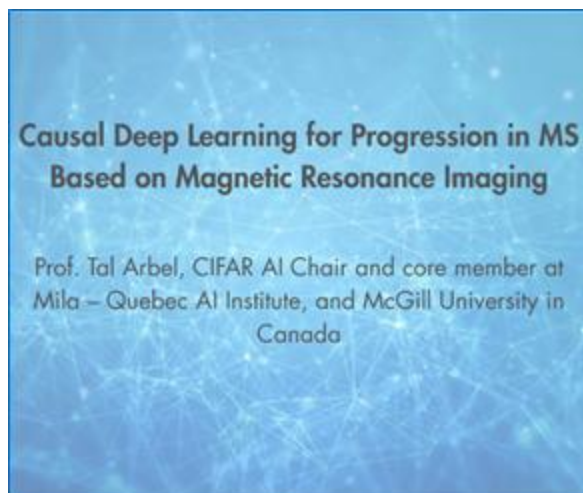


April 2025

News and highlights keeping you informed as we work together to accelerate life-changing treatments for people with progressive MS worldwide.

Alliance Invests in AI as a Tool to Predict Disease Progression and Treatment Response



The International Progressive MS Alliance has [approved funding to support the next phase of a collaborative network](#) led by Prof. Tal Arbel, CIFAR AI Chair and core member at Mila – Quebec AI Institute, and McGill University in Canada. This project will create an image-based causal deep learning model, which will help predict future disability progression in multiple sclerosis, as well as predict individual patient response to different treatments.

The project, titled, **“Causal Deep Learning for Progression in MS Based on Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI),”** has been funded for **€675,000** over the next two years and is led by Dr. Tal Arbel, PhD, McGill University, with co-investigator Dr. Douglas Arnold at the Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI) and additional collaborators and partners from Mila, McGill and from around the world. The research team brings extensive combined experience in machine learning, computer vision and medical image analysis.

First Round of Experimental Medicine Trial Awards Announced

Three investigators and their teams have received funding for [clinical trial development projects](#) as part of the International Progressive MS Alliance's Experimental Medicine Trial Awards. These development studies are for planning, developmental efforts, and/or validation opportunities with a goal of growing into full clinical trials to help us better understand MS progression and find new treatments for the disease.

Congratulations to the awardees and their project teams:

- **Dr. Don Mahad, University of Edinburgh** – “Fatigability Induced by Exercise in MS as an outcome measure in a phase II clinical trial to select potential drugs for progressive MS”
- **Dr. Stefano Pluchino, University of Cambridge** – “Designing a trial to test neural stem cell therapy in progressive MS”
- **Dr. Wee Yong, University of Calgary** – “Testing salbutamol, alone and in combination with ibudilast, for treatment of progressive MS”

The Experimental Medicine Trial Awards have two tracks: development awards and full trial awards. Trial awards are expected to be announced in June 2025.



Dr. Don Mahad

Dr. Stefano Pluchino

Dr. Wee Yong

Watch Our Recent Webcast: Putting People with MS at the Centre of Research



On April 30, [our panelists took a deep dive](#) into the Alliance's Principles of Patient Engagement in MS Research, and discussed how the Alliance is implementing them as a requirement of funded research. Panelists include people affected by MS who were involved in the development of these principles, the head of clinical trials at the MS Society in the United Kingdom, and an investigator who is putting the principles into action in his current research project.

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