

# PRC | Year-in-Review

PARKINSON RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

MAY 2018

## In this issue:

### PAGE 2

In the NEWS!

Celebrating our  
Young Scientists

### PAGE 3

FUNraising for PD

### PAGE 4

Meet Dr. Max  
Rousseaux

PRC Advisory Board

## QUICK FACTS

- Parkinson's disease is a devastating neuro-degenerative disease
- Parkinson's disease affects 1 in 100 people over the age of sixty
- The exact cause of the disease is unknown
- The disease was discovered almost 200 years ago and still today there is no cure or proven treatment available

## A message from our Co-Directors

The past year has been incredibly successful as we celebrate exciting new advancements in clinical and research efforts of our PRC members who work in the Parkinson's community in Ottawa.

One of our most exciting success stories is the recruitment of Dr. Maxime Rousseaux, Principal Investigator, Assistant Professor at the uOttawa and the uOttawa Brain and Mind Research Institute and whose work is dedicated to Parkinson's disease. To meet Dr. Rousseaux and learn more about his research, go to page 4.

Tremendous success has also been achieved with the Integrated Parkinson's Care Network (IPCN) founded by Dr. David Grimes. As part of the network, Dr. Tiago Mestre received a \$197,000 New Investigator Award from the Physicians' Services Incorporated Foundation to test this new model of care for people living with Parkinson's disease, highlights on page 2.

We are also very proud of the successes of our members and achievements by our young scientists. We also want to take the opportunity to recognize our committed volunteers who tirelessly work together to support our Parkinson's community by being the champions of our shared cause.

On behalf of all us, whether you are living with Parkinson's, a caregiver, volunteer or working behind the scenes in finding a cure for this debilitating disease... We thank you!

Very special thanks to those involved in the Partners Investing in Parkinson's Research (PIPR) who work very closely to the PRC and are incredibly committed and passionate ambassadors of the cause!



Dr. David Grimes



Division Head, Neurology, Department of Medicine, The  
Ottawa Hospital, uOttawa Brain and Mind Research Institute,  
Co-Director Parkinson Research Consortium



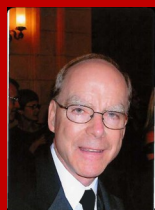
Dr. David Park



Director, uOttawa Brain and Mind Research  
Institute, Co-Director, Parkinson Research  
Consortium, Professor, University of Ottawa

### Special Thanks to our Research Fellowship contributors!

- The Crabtree Family
- The Toth family
- Ms. Audrey Grant
- The Poole Family
- The Hayter Family
- The Haffner family



*In Memory of  
Mr. Larry Haffner*

For his stamina, his kindness, his patience and his tireless energy we, at the PRC, will fondly remember him and ensure that his spirit continues to live in the fellowship that bears his name.

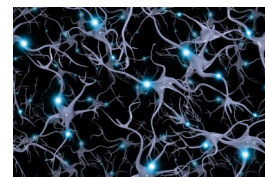


## Parkinson's Research IN THE NEWS!

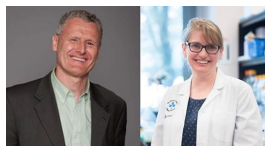


### [Researchers to test patient-centered approach to Parkinson's care](#)

Dr. [Tiago Mestre](#) has received a \$197,000 New Investigator Award from the Physicians' Services Incorporated Foundation



**Nature Communications** published Dr. David Park's latest paper "PINK1-mediated phosphorylation of LETM1 regulates mitochondrial calcium transport and protects neurons against mitochondrial stress". Learn more in his interview [here](#). Click [here](#) to read the paper.



### [Parkinson's-related protein also protects against infections](#)

New research led by Drs. [Michael Schlossmacher](#) and Julianna Tomlinson shows that alpha-synuclein helps protect the body from infections.

### [Grant helps researchers better study important young-onset Parkinson's protein](#)

Dr. [Michael Schlossmacher](#) and BioLegend Inc.'s Dr. [Peggy Taylor](#) were awarded \$200,000 USD by The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

**Science** published Dr. David Park's team paper "β2-Adrenoreceptor is a regulator of the α-synuclein gene driving risk of Parkinson's disease" Click [here](#) to read the paper.

Click on the [links](#) above for details of these exciting stories!

## Celebrating Our Young Scientists

### PRC Fellowship Awardees 2017

#### **Crabtree Family Fellowship (\$30,000)**

**Awarded to:** Richard Harris (post-doctoral fellow)

**Title:** Manipulating Mitochondrial Dynamics to Rescue Neural Stem Cell Depletion in Parkinson's Disease

**Mentor:** Dr. Ruth Slack

#### **Toth Family Fellowship (\$15,000)**

**Awarded to:** Olanta Negeri (graduate student)

**Title:** The Role of the RNA-binding Protein HuD in Lrrk2-dependent Parkinson's Disease Models

**Mentor:** Dr. Derrick Gibbings

#### **Audrey Grant Parkinson's Research Fellowship (\$15,000)**

**Awarded to:** Daniel El Kodsí (graduate student)

**Title:** Parkin Protein: From its Function in the Brain to a New Model and its Characterization

**Mentor:** Dr. Michael Schlossmacher

#### **Bonnie & Don Poole Parkinson's Research Fellowship (\$15,000)**

**Awarded to:** Katelyn Ventura (graduate student)

**Title:** Alpha-synuclein Binding Aptamers as Novel Therapeutics in Murine Model of Parkinson's Disease

**Mentor:** Dr. Matthew Holahan

#### **2-year Fellowships (in their 2nd year)**

#### **Shelby Hayter Fellowship (\$15,000 for 2 years)**

**Awarded to:** Zachary Dwyer (graduate student)

**Title:** Inhibition of the CSF-1 Receptor in LRRK2 G2019S Mice to Investigate the CX3CR1 Pathway in an Environmental Toxin Model of Parkinson's Disease

**Mentor:** Dr. Shawn Hayley

#### **Larry Haffner Fellowship (\$15,000 for 2 years)**

**Awarded to:** Chao-Chia (David) Lu (graduate student)

**Title:** Real-time Identification of Subcortical Structures During Deep Brain Stimulation Surgery

**Mentor:** Dr. Adam Sachs

# The FUN in fundraising!

In the past year, the following community events were successfully organized by our many volunteers and all the funds raised went to support our scientist trainees and development of better integrated personalized strategies for our Parkinson's patients. In 2017, our events raised:

- October 22: **Parkinson's Benefit Concert** at Greenfield's Pub raised over \$12,000 (**NEW RECORD!**)
- June 25: **Lap the Gats for Parkinson's** raised over \$85,000 and;
- April 10: **Audrey Grant's Better Bridge Event** raised \$21,500 (**NEW RECORD!**) so far in 2018!

## SAVE THE DATES !

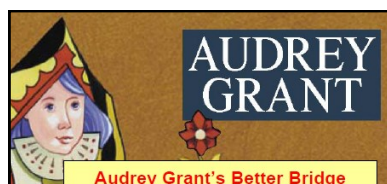
Benefit Concert - Oct 21, 2018

Lap the Gats - June 24, 2018

Audrey Grant - April 2, 2019



Julianna Tomlinson, Audrey Grant, Jasmine Khan



Audrey Grant's Better Bridge



Very special thanks to Audrey Grant who gives of her time year-after-year as well as Dave and Jill Hogg who lead the planning of the benefit concert who together have raised over \$150K for Parkinson's disease research!

## 6th Annual Benefit Concert

6-10PM | 22.10.2017 | GREENFIELD'S GASTRO PUBLIC HOUSE

TICKETS **\$15** Back by Popular Demand: "THE BACK BEAT" Special Guest Speaker: SHELBY HAYTER

Door prizes, Silent Auction & Raffles



Together, we've raised over \$35,000!  
All proceeds to Parkinson's Research Consortium

## Lap the Gats for Parkinson's

Lap the Gats for Parkinson's, our annual fundraising cycling event to help raise awareness and funds for Parkinson's research, was held on June 25, 2017 in the beautiful hills of Gatineau Park in Chelsea, Quebec.

The event took place on the 21 km loop and attracted over 300 riders, supporters and volunteers who together raised over \$85,000.

The event is designed for cyclists of all levels. Participants seeking a challenge competed for Fastest Cyclist and Overall Hill Climber in male and female categories. A King and Queen were also awarded the coveted yellow jersey for Fastest Cyclist and a red and white jersey for Overall Hill Climber.

Our next event is taking place June 24, 2018 as part of NOKIA Sunday Bike Day in cooperation with the NCC.

We are always looking for volunteers and of course riders to participate!

Registration is NOW OPEN!

[lapthegats.org](http://lapthegats.org)







## Meet Dr. Max Rousseaux

For Dr. Max Rousseaux, studying neuroscience was never a question. He was always interested in the immense complexity of the brain and understanding what makes people tick. So why did he focus on neurodegenerative diseases like Parkinson's disease (PD) and Lou Gehrig's disease? Beyond wanting to explore the role that neurodegenerative diseases play in understanding the fundamental function of the brain, he's always been motivated by the Parkinson's community.

***"Growing up as a scientist in a community entrenched in Parkinson's and meeting with patients really gave me a sense of responsibility and passion for the field"***

Dr. Rousseaux's career began in Ottawa, where his training went hand-in-hand with his involvement with the Parkinson Research Consortium (PRC) and Partners Investing in Parkinson's Research (PIPR). While he worked to understand models of PD and stroke, he grew attached to the Parkinson's community.

Being embedded in the community is a reminder of the challenges patients living with Parkinson's face everyday.

***"Even when the work is challenging, I always feel motivated and engaged by the research."***

Dr. Rousseaux's passion for improving patient care continued with his post-doctoral fellowship at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute/Baylor College of Medicine (Texas), where he established a PD-centered research program that employed genetic screening methods that "shed light onto new pathways for therapeutic intervention in diseases such as PD and Alzheimer's disease."

After a successful stint in Houston, Texas where he also continued to advocate for scientific literacy by serving on the judging committee for Junior Breakthrough Prize (2017) as well as lobby alongside scientists, physicians and patients in Washington for more funding in PD, Dr. Rousseaux has recently returned to Ottawa.

Listing the uOBMRI's strong collaborative network and the PRC as his main reasons to come back, Dr. Rousseaux is launching his lab with the ultimate goal "to help the patient population by identifying new therapeutic avenues" in PD and ALS.

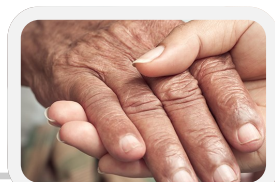
He's excited to work alongside the uOBMRI researchers and once again be immersed in the Parkinson community...including biking in the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Lap the Gats.

Written by Victoria Racher

### **We are very grateful for the support of our esteemed Advisory Board of Directors**

**Chair:** David Cork, Tom Belton, Rob Gibson, David Grimes, MD, John Hamilton, John Hanneford, Shelby Hayter, David Hogg, Nick Kaethler, Debra Lynkowski, Tiago Mestre, MD, David Park, PhD, Bea Robertson, Michael Schlossmacher, MD, PhD, Ian Toth

**Special Thanks to Richard Shantz, our past Chair for his dedication, support and commitment & we sincerely thank David Cork for taking the lead!**



For more information, or to make a donation,

Please visit our website at [www.ohri.ca/prc](http://www.ohri.ca/prc) or contact our Office:

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