

5th Annual Ajmera Research Day Agenda

4 June 2026

8:00-8:30 Registration and breakfast

MaRS Lobby

8:00-8:30 Poster set-up

DeGasperis Conservatory

Welcoming Remarks

MaRS West Tower, 9-9006

8:30-8:35 Sonya MacParland, PhD and Deepali Kumar, MD

Session 1: New Horizons in Transplantation

MaRS West Tower, 9-9006

Chair: Stephen Juvet, MD, PhD

Keynote Speaker

8:35-9:15 Alireza Rabi, MD, PhD

Transforming Heart Transplantation: Expanding Access Through Innovation in Donor Heart Recovery, Preservation, and Repair

Basic/Translational Science ePoster Winner Presentations

9:15-9:25 Sarayna Bala

A targeted CRISPR-based strategy for mitigating the threat of BK polyomavirus in the kidney transplant setting

9:25-9:35 Naga Karthik Enamundram, PhD

Adapting to the Evolving Liver Transplant Waitlist: Continually Learning Tabular Foundation Models for Dynamic Clinical Prediction

9:35-9:50 Break

Session 2: Innovations in Transplantation

MaRS West Tower, 9-9006

Chair: Cynthia Tsien, MD, MPH / Mary Vyas, MSc

Invited Speaker

9:50-10:20 Patient Partnered Research
Samantha Anthony, PhD and Mary Vyas, MSc

iPeer2Peer: a patient-partnered eHealth intervention for peer mentorship and social support

2025 Ajmera Grant and Fellowship Recipients - Basic Science

10:20-10:30 Christie Rampersad, *Transforming Pancreas Transplantation: Big Data for Better Organ Utilization and Outcomes*

10:30-10:40 Hong Sang Choi, *Proteomic analysis of sex differences in mouse kidneys subjected to ischemia-reperfusion injury*

10:40-10:50 Francisco Calderon Novoa, *Autologous Mitochondrial Transplantation to Mitigate Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury in a Porcine DCD Auto Transplant Model*

10:50-11:00 Laia Aceituno Sierra, *The Impact of Baseline Mutations on Post-Transplant Recurrence in HCC: Clues from the Mutational Landscape*

11:00-11:15 Break

Session 3: Nursing, Health Disciplines and Quality Improvement

MaRS West Tower, 9-9006

Co-chairs: Nikki Marks NP, DN and Lisa Wickerson, PT, PhD

Invited Speaker

11:15-11:40 Jane Simanovski, NP, PhD
Sleep After the Gift of Breath: Patient Reported Sleep Quality Following Lung Transplantation

2025 Ajmera Grant and Fellowship Recipients - Quality Improvement

11:40-11:50 Angel Ngo
Dialysis Initiation Patterns After Kidney Allograft Failure at UHN

11:50-12:00 Sam Shinde, MSc
Transplant Geriatrics- A New Frontier: Advancing Graceful Aging with a Lung Graft

Lunch and Poster Viewing

12:00-1:30 Lunch
Poster viewing and discussion

MaRS West Tower, 9-9006

DeGasperis Conservatory

Session 4: Clinical Research at Ajmera Transplant Centre

MaRS West Tower, 9-9006

Chair: Ana Konvalinka MD, PhD

Invited Speaker

1:30-2:10 Michael Henneresse, PhD
Programmable immune engineering for transplantation

Clinical Science ePoster Winner Presentations

2:10-2:20 Emmanuel Lafont, MD
Early Invasive Candidiases After Lung Transplant Less Common, Not Less Important

2:20-2:30 Dayan Davoudi
Risk Factors for Baseline Lung Allograft Dysfunction (BLAD): A Retrospective Study

2:30-3:00 Break

Session 5: Awards (3:00-3:30)

MaRS West Tower, 9-9006

Chair: Cynthia Tsien, MD, MPH

Dr. Gary Levy Award for Excellence in Clinical and Translational Research
Dr. Paul Greig Award for Excellence in Teaching
Dr. Heather Ross Award for Exemplary Citizenship and Mentorship in Transplant
Nursing and Health Professions Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award
Top Oral and Poster Abstract Awards

Concluding Remarks

MaRS West Tower, 9-9006

Sonya MacParland, PhD

Wine and Cheese and Poster Viewing

DeGasperis Conservatory

3:30-5:30 Poster viewing and discussion