

Sept 2025 – June 2026 CNRC Postdoctoral Seminar Program

Fomon Conference Room, USDA/ARS Children's Nutrition Research Center

Tuesdays 12-1 PM

Sep	9	Didactic "Welcome to the CNRC Postdoc Seminar Series and Tips for Giving a Great Talk" Nancy E. Moran, PhD, USDA/ARS Children's Nutrition Research Center, BCM
	16	Journal Club "NSD2 inhibitors rewire chromatin to treat lung and pancreatic cancers", Jeong, J., Hausmann, S., Dong, H. et al. Xiaomin Chen, PhD (Shen) (20 min) "The GIP receptor activates futile calcium cycling in white adipose tissue to increase energy expenditure and drive weight loss in mice", Yu, X. et al. Xi Chen, MD, PhD (Zhu) (20 min)
	23	Seminar "The Effects of Pregnancy on Carotenoid Status" Megumi Hashida Seese, PhD (Moran) (40 min)
	30	Seminar "Investigating the role of Hispanic fathers in the Healthy Dads, Healthy Kids intervention" Ana West, PhD (O'Connor) (20 min) "Cell Surface Proteomics and snRNA-seq Identify Brain Endothelial Targets for Drug Delivery" Jieyi Meng, MD (Zhu) (20 min)
Oct	7	Didactic "In the Committee Room: The Review Process for Fellowship and Career Awards" Geoffrey Preidis, MD, PhD, Assoc. Prof. Pediatrics- Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition & CNRC
	14	Journal Club "A potent epigenetic editor targeting human PCSK9 for durable reduction of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol levels", Tremblay, F., Xiong, Q., Shah, S.S. et al. Julia Salamat, PhD (Shen) (20 min) "Antioxidant management to protect male offspring from the progression of MASLD programmed by maternal obesity in mice", Zhang, J., Wang, J. et al. Katelyn Senkus, PhD (Moran) (20 min)
	21	Seminar "The function of p16 epimutation during lung cancer progression and therapy" Xiaomin Chen, PhD (Shen) (40 min)
	28	Seminar "Elevated Hyaluronan by Mouse Has2 Exacerbates Skin Inflammation in Atopic Dermatitis" Hong Zhou, PhD (Zhu) (20 min) "Neural mechanisms underlying weight-loss plateaus in chronic incretin therapy" Weisheng Lu, PhD (Fukuda) (20 min)
Nov	4	Didactic "Choosing to Communicate Effectively" Lacey Schmidt, Ph.D., Organizational and Occupational Health Psychologist, Dept. Pediatrics
	11	Journal Club "Amygdala–liver signalling orchestrates glycaemic responses to stress", Carty, J.R.E., Devarakonda, K., O'Connor, R.M. et al. Yuhan Shi, PhD (Wang) (20 min) "Initial pig developmental stage influences intestinal organoid growth but not cellular composition", Duchesne, C., Randuineau, G. et al. Sarah Elefson, PhD (Burrin) (20 min)
	18	Seminar "Regulation of food intake by Connexin43 via adipocyte-sensory neuron electrical synapses" Xi Chen, MD, PhD (Zhu) (40 min)
	25	No Seminar Thanksgiving Week

Seminar Course Leader: Nancy.Moran@bcm.edu Program Coordinator: Alisa.Le@bcm.edu Updated: 8/19/2026

Website: <https://www.bcm.edu/departments/pediatrics/sections-divisions-centers/childrens-nutrition-research-center/education/postdoc-seminar>

Dec	2	Didactic “Time Management for Postdoc Scientists” Blaine Ganter, Ed. D., Lead, BCM Academic Success Center
	9	Journal Club “Parallel control of cold-triggered adipocyte thermogenesis by UCP1 and CKB”, Rahbani, J.F., Bunk, J., Lagarde, D. et al. Jieyi Meng, MD (Zhu) (20 min) “Parent-focused behavioural interventions for the prevention of early childhood obesity (TOPCHILD): a systematic review and individual participant data meta-analysis”, Hunter, K.E., Nguyen, D., Libesman, S. et al. Ana West, PhD (O'Connor) (20 min)
	16	Seminar “Enteral agonism of FXR-FGF19 mitigates cholestasis in TPN-fed neonatal pigs” Sarah Elefson, PhD (Burrin) (40 min)
	23	No Seminar Week of Christmas & New Year’s Day
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Jan	6	Didactic “Adapting Your IDP for Your Evolving Training Needs” Evelin Young, Ph.D., Lead, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs
	13	Journal Club “Impact of free summer day camp on physical activity behaviors and screentime of elementary-age children from low-income households: a randomized clinical trial”, Beets, M.W., Burkart, S., Pfladderer, C.D. et al. John Alexander Jimenez-Garcia, PhD (O'Connor) (20 min) “GIPR-Ab/GLP-1 peptide–antibody conjugate requires brain GIPR and GLP-1R for additive weight loss in obese mice”, Liu, C.M., Killion, E.A., Hammoud, R. et al. Weisheng Lu, PhD (Fukuda) (20 min)
	20	Seminar “A novel self-inhaled nicotine exposure system in murine models” Yuhan Shi, PhD (Wang) (40 min)
	27	Seminar “Measuring the prevalence of dramatizing language in childhood obesity research” Mounika Kandukuri, PhD (Allison) (20 min) “Making Precision Nutrition a Reality: Identifying Digital Phenotypes Associated with Child Fruit and Vegetable Consumption” Titus Sombuor, PhD (Thompson and MUSAAD) (20 min)
Feb	3	Didactic “Preparing for Job Interviews and Job Talks” Lindsey Cauthen, PhD, Career Services Principal, BCM Career Development Center
	10	Journal Club “Investigating preschool-aged chronotype and social jetlag as predictors of early adolescent diet and BMI z-score: an eight-year follow-up from the DAGIS study”, Abdollahi, A.M., Merikanto, I., Vepsäläinen H. et al. Nana Jiao, PhD (Moreno) (20 min) “Identification and functional validation of miR-190b-5p and miR-296-3p as novel therapeutic attenuators of liver fibrosis”, Markovic, J., Li, R., Khanal, R. et al. Hong Zhou, PhD (Zhu) (20 min)
	17	Seminar “Reciprocal Reinforcement in Hispanic Father-Child Dyads: Integrating Psychometric Testing, Dyadic Modeling, and Qualitative Inquiry” John Alexander Jimenez-Garcia, PhD (O'Connor) (40 min)
	24	Seminar “Transparency, rigor, reproducibility, and verifiability of randomized controlled trials of beef consumption and health outcomes” Olivia Charlotte Robertson, PhD (Allison) (20 min)

		“Treatment Response Heterogeneity: Methods and Applications” Thirupathi Reddy Mokalla, PhD (Allison) (20 min)
Mar	3	Didactic “Navigating the Private Funding Landscape” Smita Jha, PhD, Office of Training Grants and Fellowships, Director
	10	No Seminar Spring Break Week
	17	Journal Club “Are Machine Learning Algorithms More Accurate in Predicting Vegetable and Fruit Consumption Than Traditional Statistical Models? An Exploratory Analysis”, Côté, M., Osseni, M.A., Brassard, D. et al. Titus Sombuor, PhD (Thompson and Musaad) (20 min) “Promotional Language (Hype) in Abstracts of Publications of National Institutes of Health–Funded Research, 1985-2020”, Millar, N., Batalo, B., Budgell, B. Mounika Kandukuri, PhD (Allison) (20 min)
	24	Seminar “Novel Mouse Models Enabling Locus-specific Manipulation of DNA Methylation” Julia Salamat, PhD (Shen) (40 min)
	31	Seminar “Leveraging Applied Mathematics and Wearable Devices to Advance Circadian Phase Predictions in Preschoolers” Nana Jiao, PhD (Moreno) (20 min) “Development and Psychometric Properties of the Food Noise Inventory RAID FN” Rita Wang, PhD (Allison) (20 min)
April	7	Didactic “The View from Former CNRC Postdocs - Panel Discussion with Early Career Industry, Government, and Academic Scientists” Anthony Scott, PhD; Marko Rudar, PhD; Hesong Liu, PhD; Erin Posey, PhD
	14	Journal Club “Interindividual Variability of Acute Cardiovascular Responses to Low-Load Resistance Exercise with Different Methods of Blood Flow Restriction”, Hammert, W.B., Kang, A., Yamada, Y. et al. Thirupathi Reddy Mokalla, PhD (Allison) (20 min) “Public Housing Redevelopment and Childhood Obesity”, Shier, V., Wong, E., Scott, J.J. et al. Olivia Charlotte Robertson, PhD (Allison) (20 min)
	21	Seminar “Carotenoids and Cardiometabolic Health in Pregnancy and Infancy” Katelyn Senkus, PhD (Moran) (40 min)
	28	Seminar “Examining Diurnal Patterns of Bone Turnover in Children with Disrupted Sleep” Sara Vivatson, DO (Bacha) (20 min) “Life Course Health Beyond Survival: A Statistical Framework to Jointly Evaluate Healthspan and Lifespan” Deependra Kaji Thapa, PhD (Allison) (20 min)
May	5	Didactic “The Productive Scientist – an Introduction” Stephanie Sisley, MD, Assoc. Professor, Pediatrics Nutrition
	12	Journal Club “The association between childhood traumatic events and weight restoration in adult anorexia nervosa inpatient treatment: a longitudinal study”, Meyer-Schwickerath, L., Suling, A., Löwe, B. et al. Rita Wang, PhD (Allison) (20 min) “Zoledronate Increases Bone Mineral Density in Nonambulant Children With Cerebral Palsy: A Randomized Controlled Trial”, Granild-Jensen, J.B., Moller-Madsen, B., Rackauskaite, G. et al. and “Clinical Efficacy of Zoledronic Acid on Fracture Reduction in Youth With Primary and Secondary Skeletal Fragility”, Stoffers, A.J., Mancilla, E.E., Levine, M.A. et al. Sara Vivatson, DO (Bacha) (20 min)

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19	Seminar “Thinking Inside the Box: Intrinsic Labeling to Define the Nutritional Role of Phytochemicals” Samuel Jesse, PhD (Dzakovich and Paape) (20 min) “Title” [Reserved for incoming postdocs]
26	Seminar “Title” [Reserved for incoming postdocs] “Title” [Reserved for incoming postdocs]
Summer Break (June – August)	

Journal Club
Faculty Didactic
Seminar