



Canadian Academy of Health Sciences
Académie canadienne des sciences de la santé

Media Release

Five Emerging Leaders in Health Sciences in Canada elected to the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences

Ottawa, ON – August 26, 2025 – The [Canadian Academy of Health Sciences](https://cahs-acss.ca) (CAHS) is pleased to announce the inaugural five Emerging Leaders in Health Sciences in Canada elected in 2025. CAHS is proud to celebrate excellence in health sciences, and these Emerging Leaders exemplify the talent and passion that define the future of the field.

“We congratulate those elected as Emerging Leaders to the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences for 2025. This recognition honors their dedication and emergence in their respective fields,” said Dr. Trevor Young, President of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. “We look forward to working alongside them at the Academy.”

Over a five-year term, the CAHS Emerging Leaders in Health Sciences will be recognized, mentored and actively engaged with the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. They have achieved independence in their activities, recognition from their peers, and have demonstrated commitment to work with the Academy to advance its mission.

Dr. Young also thanked Dr. Sylvie Nadeau, Chair of the Fellowship Committee for her leadership during the selection process.

For information on the nomination process, please visit: <https://cahs-acss.ca/emerging-leaders-in-health-sciences/>

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About CAHS

The Canadian Academy of Health Sciences brings together Canada’s top-ranked health and biomedical scientists and scholars to make a positive impact on the urgent health concerns of Canadians. Our Fellows, drawn from all disciplines across our nation’s universities, healthcare and research institutes, evaluate Canada’s most complex health challenges and recommend strategic, actionable solutions.

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For further information or media inquiries, please contact:

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EMERGING LEADERS 2025



Saleema Allana, Assistant Professor of Global Health, School of Nursing, University of Western Ontario



Saleema Allana, RN, PhD, is a pioneering global health researcher with a specialization in equity, diversity, and inclusion-based research. Dr. Allana excels in the co-creation of digital health tools, aimed at reducing health disparities for equity-deserving groups. She has secured numerous Tri-Council and competitive research grants, leading projects that harness innovative technology to ensure health equity. Through her work, Dr. Allana has significantly advanced equitable healthcare access and outcomes across the Canadian healthcare system. Dr. Allana's work ensures that every Canadian receives equitable healthcare access and outcomes, while accessing in-person or virtual healthcare. She is recognized as an emerging leader in her discipline.

Arinjay Banerjee, Principal Scientist, Adjunct Professor, One Health Signature Area Co-Lead, Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization, University of Saskatchewan



Dr. Arinjay Banerjee (PhD) is a virologist and the Principal Investigator of the Laboratory of Zoonotic Viruses and Comparative Immunology at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization, University of Saskatchewan, Canada. Dr. Banerjee is the co-lead for the One Health Signature Area at the University of Saskatchewan and co-developed the Canadian One Health Training Program on Emerging Zoonoses. Dr. Banerjee's laboratory focuses on three main themes that are inspired by the One Health ideology, (1) virus-host interactions in wildlife reservoir species, such as bats, (2) virus-host interactions in spillover species, such as humans, and (3) antiviral solutions.

Emilia Liana Falcone, Associate Research Professor, Montreal Clinical Research Institute (IRCM); Associate Clinical Professor, Université de Montréal; Director, IRCM Post COVID-19 (IPCO) Research Clinic; Director, Microbiome and Mucosal Defense Research Unit



Emilia Liana Falcone, MD, PhD, FRCPC, is a pioneering clinician-scientist who established Montreal's first Post-COVID-19 Research Clinic, advancing care and research for Long COVID. As Director of the IRCM's Microbiome and Mucosal Defence Research Unit, she has led multidisciplinary studies, developed clinical tools, and shaped national policies. Her innovative research has uncovered key roles for the microbiota at the intestinal barrier in immune dysregulation, inborn errors of immunity and post-infectious conditions, leading to new biomarkers and therapies. Her discoveries have transformed our understanding and management of complex immune conditions, earning her national and international recognition and invitations to inform governments and scientific forums.

EMERGING LEADERS 2025



Brodie Nolan, Emergency Medicine Physician and Trauma Team Leader, St. Michael's Hospital; Assistant Professor, Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto



Dr. Brodie Nolan is an emergency physician and trauma team leader at St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto and a transport medicine physician for Ornge, Ontario's critical care transport organization. He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto and Scientist in the Li Ka Shing Institute at Unity Health Toronto. His interests are in trauma systems, prehospital care, transfusion, and patient safety. Dr. Nolan leads the SWiFT Canada study, the first prehospital transfusion clinical trial in Canada, and helped to introduce whole blood into the Canadian civilian environment.

Leigha Rock, Associate Professor and Director, School of Dental Hygiene, Faculty of Dentistry, Dalhousie University



Dr. Rock is an Associate Professor and Director of the School of Dental Hygiene, Faculty of Dentistry at Dalhousie University. She is also cross appointed to the Department of Pathology in the Faculty of Medicine, is a Scientist at the Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute and holds a scientific appointment at Nova Scotia Health. She is the current President of the Canadian Association for Dental Research and is Co-chair of the National Oral Health Research Strategy, a collaborative initiative led by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis in partnership with various Canadian oral health professional organizations and research/academic institutions.