

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

APRIL 28 - 30, 2027

Sheraton Centre Toronto

Note: All program content/wording is tentative, evolving and intended to support decision to register. Speakers have been confirmed, and substantial changes to the content are not anticipated.

Hosted by



ALS Society
of Canada

Moderators



Michael Benatar
(USA)



Martin Turner
(UK)

Day 1 | Wednesday, April 28, 2027

4:30 p.m. ET +



PLENARY LECTURE

The Inaugural ALS Disrupt Lecture

Jeffrey Rothstein (USA)

**+ Welcome, Dinner, Drinks, and Scientifically Theatrical
Participant Introductions**

Day 2 | Thursday, April 29, 2027

8:50 a.m. – 6 p.m. ET

9 - 10:30 a.m. ET

SESSION 1 | What would it take to believe an ALS treatment works?
(Tentative title)

Moderated by **Martin Turner**



Angela Genge
(Canada)



Melanie Leitner
(USA)



Jonathan Glass
(USA)



Leonard van den Berg
(The Netherlands)

11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. ET

SESSION 2 | What is the best therapeutic approach to C9orf72 in 2027?
(Tentative title)

Moderated by **Michael Benatar**



Clotilde Lagier-Tourenne
(USA)



Christopher Pearson
(Canada)



Zachary McEachin
(USA)



Janice Robertson
(Canada)

1:30 - 3 p.m. ET

SESSION 3 | The good and the bad of using iPSCs and induced neurons/glia to inform ALS biology and treatment
(Tentative title)

Moderated by **Martin Turner**



Emily Lowry
(USA)



Hemali Phatnani
(USA)



Jeroen Pasterkamp
(The Netherlands)



Kevin Talbot
(UK)

3:30 – 5 p.m. ET

SESSION 4 | How do we balance rigorous science with business considerations in ALS drug development?
(Tentative title)

Moderated by **Michael Benatar**



Jinsy Andrews
(USA)



Michael Gold
(USA)



Thos Cochrane
(USA)



Kelsie Snow
(Canada)

5 - 6 p.m. ET

Spirited Solutions Cocktail

Hour | Learnings for a path forward

Collaborative workshopping to advance the field and shape future outputs

Day 3 | Friday, April 30, 2027

8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. ET

8:30 – 9 a.m. ET

Tentative: The Showdown 2027

An engaging ALS research trivia showdown covering both clinical and fundamental science. Originally launched at the ALS Canada Research Forum, now featuring contestants from around the world.

9:10 – 10:30 a.m. ET

Speakers Corner | A chance for attendees to bring forward dogma for open discussion

Selected participants will have 5-10 minutes to make their case on a controversial or thought-provoking topic, followed by audience discussion (approximately 4-5 presentations).

10:45 – 11:45 a.m. ET

Disrupt Q&A

A unique chance to tackle the questions everyone is thinking about but that aren't covered elsewhere in the programme.

12:15 – 1:45 p.m. ET

SESSION 5 | Moonshots or building blocks? Should we prioritize our efforts on finding transformative therapies or a combination of modest effects?
(Tentative title)

Moderated TBA



James Berry
(USA)



Reserved TBA



Christina Fournier
(USA)



Chris McDermott
(UK)

1:45 – 2 p.m. ET

WRAP-UP

Vote for winning team and wrap up
