



APRIL 25, 2026
TORONTO



ALS
EXCHANGE
AGENDA



Saturday, April 25 | Muskoka Ballroom

9:00 – 9:10 AM			Welcome and Introduction to ALS Exchange		
9:10 - 10:30 AM	<p>The spectrum of frontotemporal disorder in ALS</p> <p>A presentation on FTD and ALS, diagnosis criteria, supports and resources to support clinicians and caregivers when dealing with FTD.</p>	<p>Carmela Tartaglia, MD, FRCPC Cognitive-behavioral neurologist, UHN Memory Clinic Professor, Tanz Centre for Research in Neurodegenerative Diseases, University of Toronto</p> <p>Maria Martinez, MSW, RSW Social Worker, University Health Network Memory Clinic Factor-Inwentash, Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto</p>			
10:30 – 10:45 AM			Morning Break		
10:45 - 12:00 PM	<p>“What do I tell the kids?”: Navigating tender conversations about ALS with children and families</p> <p>A presentation on how to support adults and children when dealing with a life-limiting illness, and how to individualize approaches to meet both the person living with ALS and young children.</p>	<p>Ceilidh Eaton Russell, PhD, CCLS Child Life Specialist and Grief Therapist, AWC Grief Support Lecturer, McMaster University Child Life Lead, Canadian Virtual Hospice</p>			
12:00 – 1:00 PM			Lunch (catered on-site)		
1:00 – 1:55 PM	<p>Integrating Genetics into ALS Care: Progress & Future Directions</p> <p>A presentation on the role genetics play in diagnosis and impact on families.</p>	<p>Maya Binet, MSc, CGC ALS National Genetic Counsellor, University of Calgary</p> <p>Kristiana Salmon, BSc, EMBA Affiliate Member, Montreal Neurological Institute-Hospital</p>			
1:55 - 2:10 PM			Afternoon Break		
2:10 – 4:00 PM	<p>Whole-Person Communication: Practical strategies for creating real human connection</p> <p>A workshop adapted from a program, created in partnership with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, to support the soft skills for effective patient engagement and overall physical wellbeing.</p>	<p>Alexis Mulligan, MSc Movement Director, Shaw Festival</p>			
4:00 PM			Wrap Up		

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