

# we the grassroots

Sylvain Baillet

on behalf of the open-science *grassroots* initiatives committee

[ [sylvain.baillet@mcgill.ca](mailto:sylvain.baillet@mcgill.ca) ]



Institut et hôpital neurologiques de Montréal  
Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital

# who?

**Sylvain Baillet** (Chair)

Professor  
(neuroimaging & neuroinformatics)  
Tier I Canada Research Chair  
Associate Dean, Research  
Faculty of Medicine



**Birgit Frauscher**

Neurologist (epilepsy)  
Assistant Professor



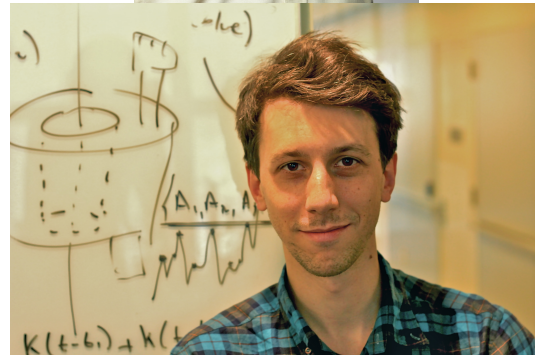
**Peter McPherson**

James McGill Professor  
(neurodegenerative diseases)



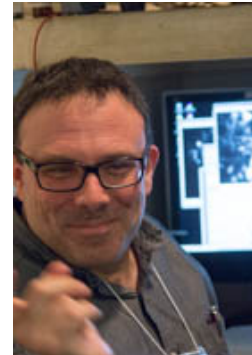
**Adrien Peyrache**

Assistant Professor  
(neural circuits)  
Tier II Canada Research Chair



**Ed Ruthazer**

Professor (neural circuits)  
Associate Director: Integrated  
Program in Neuroscience (grad  
school)



**Madeline Sharp**

Neurologist (movement disorders)  
Assistant Professor



**Christine Tardif**

Assistant Professor (MRI physics)



**Stuart Trenholme**

Assistant Professor  
(neural circuits)  
Tier II Canada Research Chair



# why a *grassroots* committee?

**Encourage the adoption** of open-science practices by MNI researchers

Provide **pragmatic** and **strategic** insights

Collect researchers' needs for **concrete outcomes** in research & education

Define **top priorities** for implementation

**Report** to TOSI's Executives and Leaders Council.

# how we interpreted our mandate

- Don't leave *science* (and *scientists*) behind when talking about *open science*.
- We are present/future **practitioners** of OS, **not activists**
  - ◉ pragmatic: research & education for discovery is our first,
  - ◉ OS to simplify and strengthen science practices, not complicate them (science is complicated enough).
- Focus on concrete aspects, big and small ideas, connect the dots later with other initiatives.
- The blue sky's the limit: we did not consider funding and space as limitations.



# Top priorities



Logistics



Education &  
Knowledge  
Transfer



Careers &  
Incentives

# Logistics

Institutional data  
management plan

Infrastructure

Human resources

# Logistics I

Institutional data  
management plan

Infrastructure

Human resources

Harmonize the collection & curation of data across research groups and disciplines

- Standard consent forms
- Go paperless, unified intake procedure as part of the data management tool.
- Unified procedure for participant and sample (de)identification
- Unique digital identifiers for research objects (DOI/RRID): protocols, reagents, mouse lines, equipment & procedures, etc.
- DMP:
  - from how-to videos to good-practice guidelines to SOPs,
  - will accelerate ethics & scientific review and encourage rigor.
- Most elements already exist: need a unifying platform (*wrapper*).

# Logistics II

Institutional data  
management plan

Infrastructure

Human resources

We need **a solid informatics infrastructure** at the level of our ambitions:

- Start small but start now
  - Institutional GitHub **repository**: host & promote all open-source developments @ MNI
  - Provide **centralized**, safe **storage resources** to every MNI researcher: larger allocation if open + respects DMP (incl. ethics protocols & data)
  - Simple UI: **build on existing** Dropbox-like cloud solution (box.BIC), add another 200TB (\$100K)
  - **Data curation**: use BIDS data structure (developed in part at MNI), machine/human readable.



# Logistics III

Institutional data  
management plan

Infrastructure

Human resources

We need a **solid informatics infrastructure** at the level of our ambitions:

- Then grow sophisticated yet pragmatic
  - Need a **product** of *industrial* grade
  - **Interoperable** with existing tools
  - **Bridge** with current efforts elsewhere on campus (Faculty of Medicine) and hospital partners (clinical & research data warehouses)
  - **Engage** software+data economy in a creative, win-win partnership, philanthropy.

# Logistics IV

Institutional data  
management plan

Infrastructure

Human resources

We need **professionals** on staff:

- **TOSI CTO / Manager, Data Resources**

- who understands researchers, and can speak to IT folks

- **Developers on-demand**

- Shared coders for specialized data analytics, software, apps, all open source
- Start with 1 coder interested in the academic endeavor
- Embark with MedIT @ Faculty of Medicine, current overhaul.

# Flying Blue

Institutional data  
management plan

Infrastructure

Human resources

Once this is all in place, think **bigger**:

- **A bigger CBIGR**: Collect data from patient volunteers at every visit, follow their trajectories, ready for AI agents.
  - Clinical tests + peripheral data: voice, posture, eye movements
  - Standardized cognitive tests data collected from smartphones & tablets, while they wait, or at home (sleep, diet, exercise, etc. as key factors of neuropathophysiology)
- **QC screening/procedures** for OS data, methods, commercial research products (e.g., reagents)
  - a TOSI scoring system for research products?

# Education, Knowledge Transfer

TOSI open-  
scientist in  
residence

Communication

Open  
Neuroscience  
textbook

# Education, Knowledge Transfer I

TOSI open-  
scientist in  
residence

Communication

Open  
Neuroscience  
textbook

- **host external scientists** over a semester to share OS experience:
  - deliver lectures & courses, training, outreach to patient communities...
- make it attractive and prestigious.

# Education, Knowledge Transfer II

TOSI open-  
scientist in  
residence

Communication

Open  
Neuroscience  
textbook

- Systematically video-capture, broadcast and archive seminars and Killam lectures on an **MNI/TOSI YouTube Channel**.
- **Educational YouTube videos** on neuroscience techniques and tools
- An (Open-)Neuroscience **TEDx-like or NAMED series**, podcasts
- BTW: use 21st-century tools for institutional communication, exchanges:
  - forums & channels, with e.g., Discourse, Slack.

# Education, Knowledge Transfer III

TOSI open-  
scientist in  
residence

Communication

Open  
Neuroscience  
textbook

- Edit an ***Open Multimedia Textbook for Neuroscience*** education
  - with 2-3 lead editors and contributions from MNI/TOSI and other scientists worldwide
  - includes interactive figures, YouTube links (MNI/TOSI channel), specialized PPT, tests and quizzes, etc.
  - a ~\$750K price tag
  - creative partnership with publishers, Wikipedia.

# Careers & Incentives



Careers

Incentives

- **Evaluate, validate and recognize** open-science contributions in career evaluation and promotions:
  - at the Departmental level, for recruitment and tenure
  - for QC, Canada and international salary awards and prizes
  - in the evaluation of research grants, as a token of PI productivity.



# Careers & Incentives

Careers

Incentives

**For adoption** of open-science tools and resources:

- **Discounted access** to infrastructure, with commitment to data sharing
- **Special prizes and awards:**
  - TOSI/MNI open-science awards
    - an Open-Neuroscience Champion
    - awarded at SfN annual meeting?
  - TOSI Fellowships for students/PDFs engaged in OS
- Annual **MNI/TOSI Grand Challenge on CBIGR data reuse** and original research methods.



# we're ready for action.



Logistics



Education &  
Knowledge  
Transfer



Careers &  
Incentives