



Centre for  
**Heart Lung Innovation**  
UBC and St. Paul's Hospital

## Centre for Heart Lung Innovation Research in Progress (R.I.P.)

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### **Biomarker Discovery for Frontotemporal Dementia**

**Laruen Forgrave**  
PhD Student

Dr. Mari DeMarco

Monday June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020  
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

**Zoom Video Conference**

**\*\*details in body of email\*\***

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*“Frontotemporal dementia (FTD) is the second most common form of early-onset dementia. FTD can be misdiagnosed, as diagnosis is made primarily based on symptoms, which often overlap with other common dementias. Currently, there are no known biomarkers diagnostic for FTD. The protein involved in most FTD cases (TDP-43) is physiologically expressed in most human cells. Thus, TDP-43 is not an ideal biomarker; however, there is evidence that in vivo proteolytic cleavage of TDP-43 may yield disease-specific isoforms of TDP-43. As expression of full-length TDP-43 is neither specific to the central nervous system nor specific to FTD, disease-specific isoforms could be used as biomarkers to distinguish FTD from other dementias via a biofluid test. Toward this aim we have optimized a tissue possessing method and characterized the TDP-43 composition of FTD and control human frontal lobe brain tissue using high-resolution mass spectrometry in the discovery phase of this project.”*

*This event is a Self-Approved Group Learning Activity as defined by the Maintenance Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada*



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