Michelle Kowanda, Ph.D.
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Birthdate: January 25, 1987
Nationality: Canadian, Polish
C Permit

Education

M.Sc., Genetic Counselling (Sept 2017 - May 2019) - Sarah Lawrence College, Yonkers, NY, USA

Ph.D., Biology (Sept 2009 - Dec 2016) - McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada

B.Sc., Biology (Sept 2005 - April 2009) - McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada

Employment History

Simons Searchlight Outreach Manager - *Simons Foundation*
New York, NY (July 2019 - December 2021)
Jennifer Tjernagel

- Engaging patient advocacy groups with genetic variants associated with autism spectrum disorder or other neurodevelopmental disorders in Simons Searchlight
- Creating collateral for outreach to participants, and researchers
- Communicating with researchers about what scientific measures we collect through, email, phone calls or attending scientific meetings
- Overseeing Simons Searchlight social media, and website

Clinical Research Coordinator - *McGill University Research Institute*
Montreal, QC (July 2016 - August 2017)
Dr. Nancy Braverman

- Coordinating a research study on patients with peroxisome biogenesis disorders (PBDs)
- Collecting medical records from international institutions to study the longitudinal natural history of PBDs
- Microsoft access data input and programing

- Main contact for the patient families, answering questions about management or guidelines through email or over the phone
- Participating in the Global Foundation for Peroxisome Biogenesis Disorders (GFPD) scientific advisory board and helping set-up the NORD natural history for PBDs

Graduate Research Assistant - *McGill University*
Montreal, QC (Sept 2009 - July 2016)
Dr. Paul Lasko

- Analyzing the role of centrosomal protein Bsg25D in *Drosophila* oogenesis and embryogenesis using molecular genetic techniques

Clinical Rotations

Prenatal Genetic Counseling - *Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center*
New York, NY (Feb 2019 - May 2019)
Sara Said-Delgado

- Participating in all prenatal genetic counseling services for expectant mothers, families with heritable conditions as well as genetic testing for couples with infertility

Cancer Genetic Counseling - *Brooklyn Methodist Hospital*
New York, NY (Nov 2018 - Feb 2019)
Dr. Karen David, Scott Robinson

- Coordinating testing for individuals with a family history of cancer

Research Genetic Counseling - *Columbia University Hospital*
New York, NY (Sept 2018 - Nov 2018)
Dr. Wendy Chung, Priyanka Ahimaz, Julia Wynn

- C.A.R.E. (congenital anomalies research exploration) study; consenting patients with esophageal atresia to the study and inputting their data into a RedCap database
- IMAGene (individualized medicine through the application of genomics) study; returning of carrier screening and personal risk disease results into

the electronic health record and to physicians, sending out questionnaires to participants and working on the 'back-end' of RedCap

Neuromuscular Neurometabolic Clinic - *McMaster Children's Hospital*
Hamilton, ON (June 2018 - July 2018)
Dr. Mark Tarnopolsky, Lauren Brady

- Conducting patient follow-up, consultations and Whole Genome Sequencing consenting
- Writing patient letters, coordinating genetic testing and disclosing results

Prenatal - *Queens Hospital Center*
Queens, NY (Dec 2017 - April 2018)
Lucy Yu

- Observing and facilitating prenatal genetic counseling services including; divulging results of screening and diagnostic testing, discussing medical options for the patient and consulting on recurrent pregnancy loss

Publications

Kowanda M, Cartner L, Kentros C, Geltzeiler AR, Singer KE, Weaver WC, Lehman CD, Smith S, Smith RS, Kasparson Walsh L, Diehl K, Nagpal N, Brooks E, Mebane CM, Wilson AL, Marvin AR, White LC, Law JK, Jensen W, Daniels AM, Tjernagel J, Green Snyder L, Taylor CM, and Chung WK. Availability of services and caregiver burden: supporting individuals with neurogenetic conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. JCN. 2021.

Kowanda M, Bergalet J, Wieczorek M, Brouhard G, Lécuyer E, and Lasko P. Loss of function of the *Drosophila* Ninein-related centrosomal protein Bsg25D causes mitotic defects and impairs embryonic development. Biol Open. 2016: 019638.

Tettweiler G, **Kowanda M**, Lasko P, Sonenberg N, Hernández G. The distribution of eIF4E-family members across Insecta. Comp Func Genomics. 2012: 960420.

Poster Presentations

Michelle Kowanda, Stephanie Yee, Julie Bergalet, Michal Wieczorek, Gary Brouhard, Eric Lécuyer, Paul Lasko. “An analysis of maternally expressed Blastoderm specific gene 25D in oogenesis and early *Drosophila* embryogenesis,” 55th Annual Drosophila Research Conference, San Diego, 2014.

Michelle Kowanda, Stephanie Yee, Niankun Liu, Julie Bergalet, Eric Lécuyer, Paul Lasko. “An investigation of Blastoderm specific gene 25D, a potential pole cell specifying gene,”Society for Developmental Biology 71st Annual Meeting, Montreal, 2012.

Michelle Kowanda, Stephanie Yee, Julie Bergalet, Eric Lécuyer, Paul Lasko. “An analysis of maternally contributed RNAs in early Drosophila embryogenesis and germ cell specification,”53rd Annual Drosophila Research Conference, Chicago, 2012.

Michelle Kowanda and Paul Lasko. “The potential role of phosphorylation in Kep1, an RNA binding protein which induces apoptosis in *D. melanogaster* nurse cells,” Genetics Society of America Annual Meeting, Hamilton, 2010.

Presentations

Michelle Kowanda*, Jessie Kulaga-Yoskovitz, Palavi Ganguli, François Plourde and Nancy Braverman. “Liver functions in patients with intermediate to mild Zellweger Spectrum Disorder, collected from a large retrospective natural history study,” Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders Family and Scientific Conference, Washington, 2017.
* Invited speaker