



Jewish General Hospital  
Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research



***"Using MRI to investigate menopause- and sex-related differences in the neural correlates of episodic memory at midlife"***

**Rikki Lissaman, PhD**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Douglas Research Centre  
McGill University  
Montréal, Quebec

**Abstract**

Episodic memory – our ability to encode, store, and retrieve past events in rich contextual detail – often declines with age and can be a marker of late-onset Alzheimer’s disease. Emerging neuroimaging evidence indicates that this decline begins in midlife and is associated with structural and functional brain alterations. Notably, midlife is also the time at which most females with ovaries transition from pre- to post-menopause. Many females report cognitive difficulties, including memory problems, during menopause, raising the possibility that menopause- and sex-related differences may be evident in episodic memory and its neural underpinnings during this critical period. In this seminar, I will discuss our Lab’s recent work on this topic, which utilizes functional and diffusion MRI. In doing so, I hope to highlight how these MR-based methods are used in cognitive neuroscience research, as well as potential clinical relevance of our findings.