

Molecular Mechanisms in Tissue Degeneration and Regeneration

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LECTURE

Stress and ALS: The Importance of RNA Granules.

Dr. CHRISTINE VANDE VELDE

Is a cell biologist with a focus on the pathogenic mechanisms underlying amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. She obtained her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Manitoba in 2001 where, with Dr. Arnold Greenberg, she described a novel programmed cell death mechanism mediated by a BCL-2 family member. She then pursued post-doctoral studies at the University of California, San Diego/Ludwig Institute with Dr. Don Cleveland where she developed an expertise in working with SOD1 rodent models of ALS and was involved in the initial characterization of Alsin/ALS2 and the impact of misfolded SOD1 on mitochondrial function.

In 2007, Dr. Vande Velde established her laboratory at the CHUM Research Center/Université de Montréal with the goal to study novel pathways and genes in ALS pathogenesis in order to elucidate biologically valid therapeutic targets and biomarkers. Her current work demonstrates TDP-43 to be an important regulator of stress granule dynamics. In addition, she continues to study how misfolded SOD1 participates in the disease process. She currently holds a prestigious CIHR New Investigator award and is an engaged member of the Scientific and Medical Advisory Council of the ALS Society of Canada. She is currently an associate professor in the Department of Neurosciences at the Université de Montréal.