



Dr. Brett D. Thombs

Dr. Thombs is Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, McGill University and a Senior Investigator, Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research, Jewish General Hospital in Montreal, Quebec. He holds Associate Memberships in McGill's Departments of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health; Medicine; Psychology; Educational and Counselling Psychology, and the Biomedical Ethics Unit.

Dr. Thombs' research focuses on developing strategies to improve quality of life and reduce disability among people living with scleroderma and on the identification and management of depression. Dr. Thombs is the Founder and Director of the Scleroderma Patient-centered Intervention Network (SPIN). SPIN maintains an ongoing cohort of almost 2,000 people with scleroderma who are recruited from over 45 sites in 7 countries and conducts trials of patient-centered programs to support coping with scleroderma. Since he came to McGill in 2006, Dr. Thombs has published over 260 peer-reviewed articles, including many in the world's leading medical journals (e.g., *JAMA*, *BMJ*, *CMAJ*, *JAMA Intern Med*). He has been awarded almost \$30 million as principal or co-investigator, including 23 CIHR research grants as principal investigator. Dr. Thombs is the Chair of the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care. The Task Force develops evidence-based guidelines to support primary care providers across Canada in delivering preventive health care. Dr. Thombs was one of two inaugural recipients of the McGill Principal's Prize for Outstanding Emerging Researchers and has been awarded lifetime research awards from the Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals and the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine. He is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.



Dr. Marie Hudson

Dr. Hudson is a rheumatologist and epidemiologist at the Jewish General Hospital and McGill University in Montreal.

Dr Hudson pursues clinical research in systemic autoimmune rheumatic diseases (SARD), in particular in scleroderma, myositis and rheumatoid arthritis. She is one of the founding members of the Canadian Scleroderma Research Group (<http://www.csrg-grcs.com>), a CIHR-funded, multi-center group of researchers that follows a cohort of over 1500 scleroderma patients across Canada. She is also a founding

member of the Canadian Inflammatory Myopathy Study, an inception cohort of subjects with inflammatory muscle diseases. Most recently, she has developed an interest in the pathophysiology that is common to SARDs, and in particular abnormalities in DNA methylation as a mechanistic link between genetic and environmental factors associated with these diseases. She has over 160 publications and holds a salary award from the Fonds de recherche en Santé du Québec.