



Association pour la santé environnementale du Québec
Environmental Health Association of Québec



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Medical Aspects of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS):

A disability with growing prevalence

January 22, 24, and 26, 2024

Speakers

John Molot MD

Farah Tabassum MD

Robert Lattanzio LLB BCL



John Molot, MD

Dr. John Molot began his focussed medical practice on environmental health in Ottawa in the 1980s and has been a staff physician at the Environmental Health Clinic at Women's College Hospital in Toronto since 2007. He is an adjunct professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ottawa.

Dr. Molot has developed an expertise in indoor air quality and health effects. In the 1990s, he was appointed as Medical Advisor to the Federal Task Force on Material Emission Standards, chaired by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and from 2014 to 2016, he was a member of the National Research Council Task Group on Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality.

In 2007, he collaborated in developing *The Medical Perspective on Environmental Sensitivities* for the Canadian Human Rights Commission, which led to the Commission's recognition of environmental sensitivities as a disability with the legal right to accommodation. In 2013, he wrote the *Academic and Clinical Perspectives* segment of a business case proposal to build a Centre of Excellence in Environmental Health, which led to the creation of the Ontario Task Force on Environmental Health (2016-18) to which Dr. Molot was appointed by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

Presently, he is a member of the Canadian Committee on Indoor Air Quality, and medical advisor for Canadians for Properly Built Homes and the Environmental Health Associations of Quebec and Canada. He has recently published peer-reviewed articles on MCS titled, *Neurological susceptibility to environmental exposures: pathophysiological mechanisms in neurodegeneration and multiple chemical sensitivity* and *Multiple Chemical Sensitivity: It's time to catch up to the science*. Dr. Molot has also authored a book called *12,000 Canaries Can't be Wrong*.



Farah Tabassum, MD

Women's College Hospital Environmental Health Clinic

Dr. Farah Tabassum is a staff physician at Women's College Hospital's Environmental Health Clinic (EHC), one of three publicly funded clinics in Canada offering specialized services for patients with suspected ME/CFS (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome), Environmental Sensitivities/Multiple Chemical Sensitivity and Fibromyalgia.

For over a decade and a half, Dr. Tabassum worked in Community Health Centres as a family physician. Additionally, she pursued psychotherapy training, earning recognition as a Certificant member of the MDPAC (Medical Doctors Psychotherapy Association of Canada) since 2005. Beyond her commitment to family medicine, she for several years offered her expertise as a GP Psychotherapist. A passionate advocate for integrative approaches to health and preventative medicine, Dr. Tabassum pursued specialized training through the University of Toronto's Department of Family and Community Medicine's PGY-3 Enhanced Skills Program in Clinical Environmental Health. She currently is on staff at the EHC and is a part-time Lecturer at the University of Toronto .

She is a member of the Executive Committee for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) funded ICanCME (Interdisciplinary Canadian Collaborative ME) research network and a Collaborator in the CIHR funded Long COVID Web research network. Most recently, she joined Ontario's Centre for Effective Practice as the Clinical Lead to support the development of a tool for primary care clinicians on the topics of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS), Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME), Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS), and Fibromyalgia. Dr. Tabassum will be joining our guest panel to address questions pertaining to clinical practice and supporting patients with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity.



Robert Lattanzio, LLB BCL

Executive Director, ARCH Disability Law Centre

Robert Lattanzio, who has served as the Executive Director of ARCH Disability Law Centre since 2015, embarked on his journey with ARCH back in 2003.

Over the years, he has made significant contributions to the field, arguing influential test cases up to the Supreme Court of Canada. As a recognized authority, Robert is a frequent guest lecturer on pivotal topics such as human rights law, education law, and disability rights.

His profound commitment to disability rights and social justice is evident in his extensive work and volunteer involvement within various equity-seeking communities. A recipient of the Law Foundation of Ontario's Guthrie Award in 2022, Robert's contributions to access to justice are unparalleled. He earned his LL.B and B.C.L. degrees with distinction from McGill University in 2003.

In his forthcoming presentation, Robert will discuss the role of medical professionals within the duty to accommodate process and highlight some key considerations when determining what information is needed within the context of human rights law.