

**Applicant**

Dr. Raphael De Souza, McGill University

Trainee: Praveen Bhoopathi Haricharan

**E-mail Address**

[raphael.desouza@mcgill.ca](mailto:raphael.desouza@mcgill.ca)

**Project Title**

Elucidating the role of oral health towards cognitive impairment: analysis of the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA)

**Project Summary**

Advances in life expectancy have raised the risk of age-related conditions like dementia/cognitive decline. Oral health, specifically periodontal disease and tooth loss, may contribute to cognitive impairment by increasing inflammation and reducing brain signaling. However, evidence on the oral health-cognition link is inconclusive. This study examines the relationship between oral health and cognitive impairment in a cohort of middle-aged and older individuals from the CLSA. Data from 50,000+ participants includes oral health status, range of risk factors and cognitive performance at two time points. Results will identify whether oral conditions increase the risk of cognitive impairment.

**Keywords**

cognition, oral health, mastication