Bio: Dr. Elena Torban is an associate professor at McGill University and a basic scientist in the Division of Nephrology, McGill University Health Center. She received her PhD in kidney development at McGill and her post-doctoral training at the Montreal Neurological Institute and at McGill, where she studied the novel Planar Cell Polarity pathway in development. Dr Torban's current research focuses on the molecular and cellular mechanisms of congenital and acquired kidney disease. Congenital anomalies of the kidney and urinary tract (CAKUT) arise in 1 in 500 births and account for considerable morbidity in the pediatric population. Increasingly, CAKUT cases have been attributed to mutant genes, including those that encode proteins of primary cilia. In contrast, many diseases of the renal filtration apparatus reflect pathologies acquired throughout life. The overall objective of Dr. Torban's research program is to identify and understand the pathomechanisms that underlie rare human kidney diseases, in order to develop new personalized therapies. Her lab is currently supported by the grants from the Kidney Foundation of Canada and the Canadian Institute of Health Research.