

## Biography

Dr. Aliko Thomas is an Associate Professor in the School of Physical Occupational Therapy (SPOT), a cross appointed scientist at McGill's Institute of Health Sciences Education (IHSE) and researcher at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Rehabilitation (CRIR). She leads an internationally-recognized research program that addresses the underutilization of scientific findings in practice by simultaneously tackling three interrelated components: *professional education, clinical practice, and continuing professional development*. The goal of her research is to generate knowledge in all three domains that can then be applied to maximize the uptake of scientific evidence, and improve the quality and efficiency of our healthcare systems.

Dr. Thomas mobilizes different theoretical frameworks which are used to explain practice behaviors and to posit why implementation efforts may succeed or fail. Her research draws from 3 main theoretical backgrounds: 1) those that explain what influences evidence-based practice (EBP) outcomes (i.e. determinant frameworks; classical, learning and organizational theories); 2) those that help describe and/or guide the process of translating research into practice (i.e. process models); and 3) those that are used to evaluate EBP outcomes post implementation endeavors (i.e. evaluation frameworks). Dr. Thomas' research is informed by integrated knowledge translation (KT), a stakeholder-centered approach that seeks to improve health outcomes by involving all relevant stakeholders throughout the research process to ensure that findings are more relevant to the end users. She has expertise in mixed methods research, longitudinal studies, interpretive qualitative description and in a number of knowledge synthesis methods (scoping, realist and umbrella reviews).

Dr. Thomas has over 90 peer reviewed papers, 5 book chapters and technical KT reports, and she has delivered over 180 conference presentations and 70 invited talks including 12 keynote addresses. To date, she has received 34 research grants as principal or co-principal investigator (valued at \$3,82M), and has been co-investigator on 28 grants (valued at \$2,87M). Dr. Thomas' career total funding in research grants is valued at \$6,69M (current total = \$3,81M). She also holds a Junior 2 Research Scholar salary award (2018-2022) from the FRQ-S for her research on EBP and KT in stroke rehabilitation.

Dr. Thomas has been selected to lead and develop some of the largest KT initiatives in the province of Quebec. In 2014, she founded the KT Strategic Initiative in Rehabilitation Research in Quebec (KT-SIRQ), funded by the FRQS-REPAR. This initiative has advanced the practice and science of KT throughout the province and has led to a stellar program for capacity building and training of the future generation of KT scientists. In 2016, she was appointed leader of the "Services, Systems and Policies" thematic axis of CRIR. In this role, she helps implement and evaluate the Centre's new transversal KT priority; this includes implementing practices developed in her research program with knowledge users and key stakeholders, and mentoring CRIR scientists on how to successfully establish their own effective KT practices.