



Having IMPACTT 5: Advancing Microbiome Research Symposium Program

Malcolm Hotel, Canmore, AB, Canada
Sept 22-24, 2025

Monday – Sept 22, 2025

06:45 – 08:45 Breakfast (Stirling Grill, Glamis, Balmoral, & Inverness Rooms)
07:45 – 08:45 Registration (Pre-Function Foyer)

09:00 – 10:15 **Opening Remarks & Keynote Talk**
Chair: Dr. Kathy McCoy (Edinburgh Castle Room)

09:00 – 09:15 **Welcome Address**
Dr. Kathy McCoy | *University of Calgary, Canada*

09:15 – 10:15 **A shared evolutionary history for gut microbes and their human hosts**
Dr. Ruth Ley | *Max Planck Institute for Biology Tübingen, Germany*

10:15 – 11:00 **AM Break (Pre-Function Foyer)**

11:00 – 12:30 **Session 1: Diet, Microbiome, and Host**
Chair: Dr. Laura Sycuro (Edinburgh Castle Room)

Plenary Talks

11:00 – 11:30 **Are we ready for microbiome-based dietary interventions? Lessons learned from additives-microbiome interactions**
Dr. Benoit Chassaing | *Institut Pasteur, France*

11:30 – 12:00 **New insights into the connection between diet-microbiome-IBD**
Dr. Genelle Lunken | *University of British Columbia, Canada*

IMPACTT Mentee Talk

12:00 – 12:15 **Microbiome matters: Exploring the role of nutrition in gut health across the lifespan**
Dr. Maryam Kebbe | *University of New Brunswick, Canada*

Short Talk Selected from Abstracts

12:15 – 12:30 **Crohn Disease Exclusion Diet Plus Partial Enteral Nutrition Induces Long-Term Microbiome Changes Compared to Exclusive Enteral Nutrition in Pediatric Patients with Crohn Disease**
Dr. Anissa Armet | *University of Alberta, Canada*

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch Break (Stirling Grill, Glamis, Balmoral, & Inverness Rooms)**



Sponsored Tech Talk

14:00 – 14:15 **Accelerated Research: AI-driven Next-Generation Analysis Intelligence**
Dr. Anmol Kapoor | *BioAro Inc., Canada*

14:15 – 15:30 Session 2: Translational Microbiome: From Insight to Intervention

Chair: Dr. Fiona Brinkman (Edinburgh Castle Room)

Plenary Talks

14:15 – 14:45 **Defined microbial therapeutics for infectious and inflammatory disease**
Dr. Jeremiah Faith | *Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, USA*

14:45 – 15:15 **Harnessing the gut microbiome to combat multidrug-resistant organisms**
Dr. Glen Carter | *University of Melbourne, Australia*

IMPACTT Mentee Talk

15:15 – 15:30 **Using genetics to investigate and engineer the gut bacterium *Akkermansia***
Dr. Lauren Davey | *University of Victoria, Canada*

15:30 – 16:00 PM Break (Pre-Function Foyer)

16:00 – 18:00 Flash Talks & Poster Session #1

Chair: Dr. Markus Geuking & Dr. Anita Kozyrskyj (Edinburgh Castle Room)

Flash Talks Selected from Abstracts

Garrett Ainsworth-Cruickshank | *University of Calgary, Canada*

Dr. Eric Armstrong | *Toronto General Hospital Research Institute, Canada*

16:00 – 16:30 Ramya Balasubramanian | *University College Cork, Ireland*

Dr. Vanessa DeClercq | *Dalhousie University, Canada*

Muhammad Fakher Ud Din | *Macquarie University, Australia*

Maeva Duquesnoy | *Institut Pasteur, France*

16:30 – 18:00 Poster Session #1

(Pre-Function Foyer, Holyrood & Edinburgh Castle Rooms)



Tuesday – Sept 23, 2025

06:45 – 08:45 Breakfast (Stirling Grill, Glamis, Balmoral, & Inverness Rooms)
07:45 – 08:45 Registration (Pre-Function Foyer)

09:00 – 10:30 **Session 3: Microbiome-Immunity Interplay** Chair: Dr. Marie-Claire Arrieta (Edinburgh Castle Room)

Plenary Talks

09:00 – 09:30 **Immune regulation by the gut microbiome in early life and beyond**
Dr. Melody Zeng | *Weill Cornell Medicine, USA*

09:30 – 10:00 **Programmable probiotics for personalized cancer immunotherapy**
Dr. Nicholas Arpaia | *Columbia University, USA*

Short Talks Selected from Abstracts

10:00 – 10:15 **ASD-associated gut bacteria shape early-life neurodevelopment and social behavior in a genetically susceptible host**
Dr. Marcela Davoli-Ferreira | *University of Calgary, Canada*

10:15 – 10:30 **Functional impact of early life microbiomes on behavior and cognition**
Dr. Robert Britton | *Baylor College of Medicine, USA*

10:30 – 11:00 **AM Break (Pre-Function Foyer)**

Sponsored Tech Talk

11:00 – 11:15 **Translating Microbial Science into Human Health Benefits**
Stéphane Bronner | *The Rosell® Institute for Microbiome and Probiotics, Canada*

11:15 – 12:30 **Session 4: Microbial Ecosystems** Chair: Dr. Joe Harrison (Edinburgh Castle Room)

IMPACTT Mentee Talks

11:15 – 11:30 **Development of computational approaches to study bacteriophages in the gut microbiome**
Dr. Elsa Rousseau | *Université Laval, Canada*

11:30 – 11:45 **Invisible connections: mapping viruses and microbes across ecosystems and health**
Dr. Ann Gregory | *University of Calgary, Canada*

Short Talks Selected from Abstracts

11:45 – 12:00 **Pregnancy alters gut microbial function without consistent compositional changes**
Erica Yeo | *McMaster University, Canada*



- 12:00 – 12:15 **ESKAPE this: Generation of Functional DNA Aptamers Targeting ESKAPE pathogen AMRs**
Dr. Matthew Stephens | *University of Calgary, Canada*
- 12:15 – 12:30 **Elimination of Antibiotic Resistance Genes from the Microbiome of Dairy Cattle using a Conjugative Probiotic Powered by CRISPR-Cas9**
Dr. Jennifer Ronholm | *McGill University, Canada*

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch Break (Stirling Grill, Glamis, Balmoral, & Inverness Rooms)**

Sponsored Tech Talk

- 14:00 – 14:15 **Sponsored Talk**
Dr. Simon Hirota | *Canadian National Organoid Network, Canada*

- 14:15 – 15:30 **Special Topic: The Future of Microbial Therapeutics**
Chair: Dr. Kathy McCoy & Dr. Braedon McDonald (Edinburgh Castle Room)

IMPACTT Update

- 12:15 – 12:30 **Putting the ACTT in IMPACTT – Establishing benchmarks for the use of humanized microbiota mouse models**
Dr. Braedon McDonald | *University of Calgary, Canada*

Panel Discussion

- 14:30 – 15:30 **The Future of Microbial Therapeutics: A SWOT Analysis**
Dr. Robert Jenq | *City of Hope, USA*
Dr. Jeremiah Faith | *Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, USA*
Dr. Nicholas Arpaia | *Columbia University, USA*
Dr. Valerie Taylor | *University of Calgary, Canada*

15:30 – 16:00 **PM Break (Pre-Function Foyer)**

- 16:00 – 18:00 **Flash Talks & Poster Session #2**
Chair: Dr. Anita Kozyrskyj & Dr. Markus Geuking (Edinburgh Castle Room)

Flash Talks Selected from Abstracts

- 16:00 – 16:30 Zhixuan Feng | *McGill University, Canada*
Dr. Katherine Kennedy | *McMaster University, Canada*
Ariel Kim | *University of Calgary, Canada*
Ali Nabavi Rad | *University of Alberta, Canada*
Shokufeh Sorboni | *University of British Columbia, Canada*
Udeshi Wickramarachchige | *Pennsylvania State University, USA*
- 16:30 – 18:00 **Poster Session #2**
(Pre-Function Foyer, Holyrood & Edinburgh Castle Rooms)



Wednesday – Sept 24, 2025

06:45 – 08:45 Breakfast (Stirling Grill, Glamis, Balmoral, & Inverness Rooms)
07:45 – 08:45 Registration (Pre-Function Foyer)

09:00 – 10:30 **Session 5: Microbiome Interactions in Autoimmunity and Inflammatory Disease**

Chair: Dr. Jayne Danska (Edinburgh Castle Room)

Plenary Talks

09:00 – 09:30 **Progressive multiple sclerosis and the gut microbiome**
Dr. Shalina Ousman | *University of Calgary, Canada*

09:30 – 10:00 **Defining the factors that drive mucosal healing during Inflammatory Bowel Disease**
Dr. Nicola Harris | *Monash University, Australia*

Short Talks Selected from Abstracts

10:00 – 10:15 **Microbiome-dependent modulation of neuroinflammation in an EBNA1-driven mouse model of multiple sclerosis**
Kristoff Nieves | *University College Cork, Ireland*

10:15 – 10:30 **The microbial metabolite imidazole propionate modulates hypothalamic activity and stress induced behaviors**
Dr. Gulistan Agirman | *University of California Los Angeles, USA*

10:30 – 11:00 **AM Break (Pre-Function Foyer)**

11:00 – 12:30 **Keynote Talk & Closing Remarks**

Chair: Dr. Kathy McCoy (Edinburgh Castle Room)

11:00 – 12:00 **Building towards microbiome interventional studies in allogeneic HCT and CAR-T therapies**
Dr. Robert Jenq | *City of Hope, USA*

12:00 – 12:30 **Closing Remarks & Awards**
Dr. Kathy McCoy | *University of Calgary, Canada*



| Poster Session #1 – Monday, Sep 22, 2025 | Poster Session #2 – Tuesday, Sep 23, 2025 |
|--|---|
| Garrett Ainsworth-Cruikshank (Poster 1) | Zhixuan Feng (Poster 41) |
| Dr. Eric Armstrong (Poster 2) | Dr. Katherine Kennedy (Poster 42) |
| Ramya Balasubramanian (Poster 3) | Ariel Kim (Poster 43) |
| Dr. Vanessa DeClercq (Poster 4) | Ali Nabavi Rad (Poster 44) |
| Muhammad Fakher Ud Din (Poster 5) | Shokufeh Sorboni (Poster 45) |
| Maeva Duquesnoy (Poster 6) | Udeshi Wickramarachchige (Poster 46) |
| Spencer Abbott (Poster 7) | Dr. Thaís Glatthardt (Poster 47) |
| Shirin Afroj (Poster 8) | Jennifer C. Onuora (Poster 48) |
| Dr. Babita Agrawal (Poster 9) | Purvikalyan Pallegar (Poster 49) |
| Imtiaz Ahmad (Poster 10) | Grace Parish (Poster 50) |
| Dr. Duha AlAwad (Poster 11) | Dr. Mona Parizadeh (Poster 51) |
| Dr. Amanda Araujo Serrao de Andrade (Poster 12) | Michelle Park (Poster 52) |
| Joan Argwings-Kodhek & Luke Pontoriero (Poster 13) | Kaetlyn Phillips (Poster 53) |
| Dr. Michelle Asbury (Poster 14) | Amanda Piano (Poster 54) |
| Muhammad Aslam (Poster 15) | Dr. Leila Rezaei (Poster 55) |
| Nour Elhouda Bouhlel (Poster 16) | Dorian Rojas Villalta (Poster 56) |
| Dr. Meredith Brockway (Poster 17) | Marine Rullier (Poster 57) |
| Darlene Dai (Poster 18) | Mahana Sabachvili (Poster 58) |
| Dr. Francisco Daniel Davila Aleman (Poster 19) | Rehnuma Tabassum Sejuty (Poster 59) |
| Brian Deng (Poster 20) | Dr. Shrushti Shah (Poster 60) |
| Davis Dickson (Poster 21) | Amy Shupe (Poster 61) |
| Dollina Dodani (Poster 22) | Tara Signorelli (Poster 62) |
| Dr. Katrina Ellestad (Poster 23) | Dr. Andrea Silverj (Poster 63) |
| Dr. Galal Esmail (Poster 24) | Usha Sivakumar Sharma (Poster 64) |
| Dr. Aline Ignacio (Poster 25) | Isla Skalosky (Poster 65) |
| Dr. Xiaofan Jin (Poster 26) | Dr. Atena Sadat Sombolestani (Poster 66) |
| Raman Kapoor (Poster 27) | Apsara Srinivas (Poster 67) |
| Dr. Annegret Ulke-Lemée (Poster 28) | Kathryn Strayer (Poster 68) |
| Arshdeep Kaur (Poster 29) | Niklas Tappauf (Poster 69) |
| Dajana Lleshi (Poster 30) | Albina Tskhay (Poster 70) |
| Dr. Cheng Long (Poster 31) | Mitchell Van Den Bosch (Poster 71) |
| Dr. Colin MacKenzie (Poster 32) | Dr. Juan Velez-Ixta (Poster 72) |
| Christine Maynard (Poster 33) | Dr. Brendan Whitman (Poster 73) |
| Ailidh McGonigle (Poster 34) | Ayesha Wijesinghe (Poster 74) |
| Madeline Mellett (Poster 35) | Geoff Winsor (Poster 75) |
| Md Moniruzzaman (Poster 36) | Dr. Hyungjun Yang (Poster 76) |
| Kevin Muirhead (Poster 37) | Dr. Kelsey Huus (Poster 77) |
| Dr. William Nguyen (Poster 38) | Aqsa Mohammed (Poster 78) |
| Noel Ong (Poster 39) | Erica Yeo (Poster 79) |
| Dr. Anissa Armet (Poster 40) | Asha Octoman (Poster 80) |
| | Xi Ying (Sally) Zhou (Poster 81) |



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