



International
Microbiome
Centre



Calvin, Phoebe and Joan
Snyder Institute
for Chronic Diseases

Having IMPACTT 6: Advancing Microbiome Research Symposium Program

Malcolm Hotel, Canmore, AB, Canada
Sept 28-30, 2026

Monday, September 28, 2026

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 **Targeting the microbiome to promote health and end cancer**
Dr. Jennifer Wargo | *University of Texas – MD Anderson Cancer Center, USA*

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

11:00 – 12:30 **Session 1: The Microbiome in Cancer Immunotherapy**
Chair: Dr. Kathy McCoy (Edinburgh Castle Room)

Plenary Talks

11:00 – 11:30 **Microbiome modulating therapies, from bench-to-bedside**
Dr. Arielle Elrief | *Université de Montréal, Canada*

11:30 – 12:00 **The Role of the Gut Microbiome in CAR T Cell Therapy: Insights from Preclinical and Clinical Studies**
Dr. Melody Smith | *Stanford Medicine, USA*

Short Talks Selected from Abstracts

12:00 – 12:15

12:15 – 12:30

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

14:00 – 14:10 **Sponsored Tech Talk – The Rosell Institute for Microbiome & Probiotics**
Chair: Dr. Markus Geuking (Edinburgh Castle Room)



14:15 – 15:30

Session 2: Microbiome, Diet & Host

Chair: Dr. Marie-Claire Arrieta (Edinburgh Castle Room)

Plenary Talks

14:15 – 14:45

Effect of microbiota and diet on host pathophysiology

Dr. Francesca Ronchi | *Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany*

14:45 – 15:15

Integrating diet, microbiome and metabolomics to evaluate malnutrition in the first trimester of pregnancy

Dr. Pablo Romagnoli | *Instituto Universitario de Ciencias Biomédicas de Córdoba, Argentina*

Short Talk Selected from Abstracts

15:15 – 15:30

15:30 – 16:00

PM Break (Pre-Function Foyer)

16:00 – 16:10

*Sponsored Tech Talk – **Weston Family Foundation***

Chair: Dr. Markus Geuking (Edinburgh Castle Room)

16:10 – 16:45

Flash Talks

Chair: Dr. Markus Geuking (Edinburgh Castle Room)

Flash Talks Selected from Abstracts (6)

- 1-
- 2-
- 3-
- 4-
- 5-
- 6-

16:45 – 17:00

Comfort Break & Cash Bar Opens

17:00 – 18:30

Poster Session #1

(Pre-Function Foyer & Holyrood Rooms)



Tuesday, September 29, 2026

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 Diversity & Function

Chair: Dr. Joe Harrison (Edinburgh Castle Room)

Plenary Talks

09:00 – 09:30 **Gut microbiomes through the lens of cultivation: we need to know these little bugs better**
Dr. Thomas Clavel | *Uniklinik RWTH Aachen, Germany*

09:30 – 10:00 **The hidden universe of the human microbiome and its role in health and disease**
Dr. Alexandre Almeida | *University of Cambridge, UK*

Short Talks Selected from Abstracts

10:00 – 10:15

10:15 – 10:30

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

11:00 – 12:30 Session 4: Microbiome-Immune Interactions – Part 1

Chair: Dr. Markus Geuking (Edinburgh Castle Room)

Plenary Talks

11:00 – 11:30 **Long-term reprogramming of monocytes by commensal bacteria improves host defence against infection**
Dr. Aline Ignacio | *University of Calgary, Canada*

11:30 – 12:00 **Neonatal BCG Elicits Dysbiosis and $\gamma\delta$ T Cell Protection Against Tuberculosis**
Dr. Maziar Divangahi | *McGill University, Canada*

Short Talks Selected from Abstracts

12:00 – 12:15

12:15 – 12:30

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



14:00 – 15:30

Session 5: Microbiome-Immune Interactions – Part 2

Chair: Dr. Aline Ignacio (Edinburgh Castle Room)

14:00 – 14:30

Mechanisms by which microbes mediate food sensitivities

Dr. Alberto Caminero | *McMaster University, Canada*

14:30 – 15:00

Avoiding pyroptosis after E. coli inflammasome activation

Dr. Gretchen Diehl | *Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, USA*

Short Talks Selected from Abstracts

15:00 – 15:15

15:15 – 15:30

15:30 – 16:00

PM Break (Pre-Function Foyer)

16:00 – 16:45

Flash Talks

Chair: Dr. Markus Geuking (Edinburgh Castle Room)

Flash Talks Selected from Abstracts

- 1-
- 2-
- 3-
- 4-
- 5-
- 6-

16:45 – 17:00

Comfort Break & Cash Bar Opens

17:00 – 18:30

Poster Session #2

(Pre-Function Foyer & Holyrood)



Wednesday, September 30, 2026

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

09:00 – 10:30 Session 6: Microbiome & Therapeutic Opportunities

Chair: Dr. Braedon McDonald (Edinburgh Castle Room)

Plenary Talks

09:00 – 09:30 **The gut microbiome to overcome immune checkpoint inhibitor resistance**
Dr. Luigi Nezi | *Istituto Europeo di Oncologia, Italy*

09:30 – 10:00 **FMT: Can it prove causality in microbiome studies, and does it have a role in therapeutics?**
Dr. Michael Silverman | *Western University, Canada*

Short Talks Selected from Abstracts

10:00 – 10:15

10:15 – 10:30

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

11:00 – 12:30 Keynote Talk, Awards & Closing Remarks

Chair: Dr. Kathy McCoy (Edinburgh Castle Room)

11:00 – 12:00 **The Gut Microbiome and Parkinson's Disease**
Dr. Sarkis Mazmanian | *California Institute of Technology, USA*

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



**International
Microbiome
Centre**



Calvin, Phoebe and Joan
Snyder Institute
for Chronic Diseases

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsors



Sponsored by "Mucosal Immunology:
Official Journal of the Society for Mucosal Immunology"

University of Calgary Sponsors

- ✧ Jessie Boden Lloyd Professorship in Immunology
- ✧ Calvin, Phoebe, and Joan Snyder Chair in Critical Care Research
- ✧ Dr. Lloyd Sutherland Professorship in IBD/GI Research
- ✧ Barb Ibbotson Chair in Pediatric Hematology
- ✧ GSK Professorship in Inflammatory Lung Disease (Somayaji)
- ✧ Chair in Pediatric Respiriology
- ✧ University of Calgary Research Excellence Chair
- ✧ Killam Memorial Chair
- ✧ Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases
- ✧ Riddell Centre for Cancer Immunotherapy
- ✧ Azrieli Accelerator