



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	Early Breakfast (buffet at Stirling Grill opens early)
07:45 – 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 | *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 **Inosine and Inosine Producing Bacteria Improve the Efficacy of CD19 Directed CAR-T Cell Therapy**
Dr. Larisa Kovtonyuk | *University of Calgary, Canada*

12:15 – 12:30 **Leveraging Diet-Tunable Gut Microbial Function to Enhance Checkpoint Blockade in Lung Cancer**
Anikka Swaby | *McGill University, Canada*

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

Consumption of Ultra-processed Food Promotes Inflammatory Potential of Fecal Microbiome Through Altering the Balance of Th17 and ROR γ t Treg
Dr. Williams Turpin | *Mount Sinai Hospital, Canada*

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)

16:15 – 16:50

Flash Talks – Session 1

Chair: Dr. Markus Geuking (Edinburgh Castle Room)

Flash Talks Selected from Abstracts (7)

- 1 – Brian Deng | *University of British Columbia* (Poster #13)
- 2 – Myles Wheeler | *University of Calgary* (Poster #8)
- 3 – Daniel Fry | *University of Toronto* (Poster #22)
- 4 – Ayesha Wijesinghe | *University of Calgary* (Poster #24)
- 5 – Lucas Damasio Faggiani | *University of São Paulo* (Poster #27)
- 6 – Mahtab Matin | *UBC Okanagan* (Poster #26)
- 7 – Jillian Davies | *University of Calgary* (Poster #3)

16:50 – 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	Early Breakfast (buffet at Stirling Grill opens early)
07:45 – 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 **Ecology Within the Human Gut: Using Bacterial Competition to Understand and Engineer the Gut Microbiome**
Dr. Erik Bakkeren | *University of Calgary, Canada*

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 **Characterizing the Diversity and Functions of Megabase-scale Plasmids in the Preterm Infant Gut Microbiome**
Dr. Allison Guiton | *University of California, Berkeley, USA*

10:15 – 10:30 **Exposome Attrition Leads to Transgenerational Alterations in the Adaptive Immune Landscape in Pet Store Mice**
Dr. Thierry Mallevaey | *University of Toronto, Canada*

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 **The OMM12 Minimal Bacterial Consortium Lacks Generation of Specific Metabolites to Finetune Type 1 Interferon Responses upon Systemic Viral Infection**
Arisha Patt | *Technical University and Helmholtz Center Munich, Germany*



12:15 – 12:30

The Human Gut Microbiome Primes Fever After Vaccination

Dr. Kelsey Huus | *Max Planck Institute for Biology, Germany*

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

Generation of Gut Microbiota-derived Bacterial Library to Identify Strains Driving Mucosal Immune Response in Pre-clinical Crohn's Disease

Dr. Fredy Guevara | *University of Toronto, Canada*

15:15 – 15:30

An *In Vitro* Model of Tumour Hypoxia and Macrophage-Microbiome Dynamics

Dr. Karla Valenzuela | *Dalhousie University, Canada*

15:30 – 16:00

PM Break (Pre-Function Foyer)

16:00 – 16:10

Sponsored Tech Talk – Calgary Metabolomics Research Facility (CMRF)

Chair: Dr. Markus Geuking (*Edinburgh Castle Room*)

16:15 – 16:40

Flash Talks – Session 2

Chair: Dr. Markus Geuking (*Edinburgh Castle Room*)

Flash Talks Selected from Abstracts (5)

1 – Dr. Atena Sombolestani | *University of Calgary* (Poster #43)

2 – Dr. Shokouh Ahmadi | *University of Calgary* (Poster #45)

3 – Dr. Juan Vélez Ixta | *University of Calgary* (Poster #46)

4 – Amandeep Hira | *University of Alberta* (Poster #49)

5 – Dr. Evandro Beraldi | *University of Calgary* (Poster #47)

16:40 – 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	Early Breakfast (buffet at Stirling Grill opens early)
07:45 – 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	Targeting the Gut Microbiome to Enhance Cancer Immunotherapy and Mitigate Toxicity Dr. Saman Maleki <i>London Health Sciences Research Institute, Canada</i>
09:30 – 10:00	The Gut Microbiome to Overcome Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Resistance Dr. Luigi Nezi <i>Istituto Europeo di Oncologia, Italy</i>

Short Talks Selected from Abstracts

10:00 – 10:15	Germ-free Mice are Protected from Calcium Oxalate Crystal Deposition Despite Elevated Urinary Oxalate Sarah Hanstock <i>University of British Columbia, Canada</i>
10:15 – 10:30	Impact of Polyethylene Glycol (PEG) Laxative on the Gut Microbiome Composition of Healthy Volunteers and on the Response to Cancer Immunotherapy in Murine Models Yongjia Hu <i>Centre de Recherche du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CRCHUM), Canada</i>

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 <i>California Institute of Technology, USA</i>
12:00 – 12:30	Awards & Closing Remarks Dr. Kathy McCoy <i>University of Calgary, Canada</i>



Poster Session 1 – Mon, Sep 28, 2026	Poster Session 2 – Tues, Sep 29, 2026
Poster 1 – Spencer Abbott	Poster 33 – Dr. Rebecca Jeffrey
Poster 2 – Doreen Amini	Poster 34 – Dr. Isla Skalosky
Poster 3 – Jillian Davies	Poster 35 – Dr. Fernando Suarez-Sanchez
Poster 4 – Davis Dickson	Poster 36 – Dr. Line Wulff
Poster 5 – Arianna Giurleo	Poster 37 – Dr. Xu Zhang
Poster 6 – Madeleine Mellett	Poster 38 – Dr. Robie Vasquez
Poster 7 – Apsara Srinivas	Poster 39 – Umar Haris Iqbal
Poster 8 – Myles Wheeler	Poster 41 – Jenna Bouassaly
Poster 9 – Kathryn Strayer	Poster 42 – Dr. Leila Rezaei
Poster 10 – Dorian Rojas Villalta	Poster 43 – Dr. Atena Sombolestani
Poster 11 – Sydney Comfort	Poster 44 – Dr. India Brough
Poster 12 – Fatimoh Kasaba	Poster 45 – Dr. Shokouh Ahmadi
Poster 13 – Brian Deng	Poster 46 – Dr. Juan Vélez Ixta
Poster 14 – Mahana Sabachvili	Poster 47 – Dr. Evandro Beraldi
Poster 15 – Anna Hawkins	Poster 48 – Saher Raouf
Poster 16 – Ariel MacKenzie	Poster 49 – Amandeep Hira
Poster 17 – Armaan Toor	Poster 50 – Ray Kruger
Poster 18 – Nia Feakes	Poster 51 – Dr. Mallia Geiger
Poster 19 – Caydin Cleland	Poster 52 – Dr. Megane Kyes
Poster 20 – Asha Octoman	Poster 53 – Dr. Bastien Cartagner
Poster 21 – Katarina MacConnell	Poster 54 – Dr. Shalina Ousman
Poster 22 – Daniel Fry	Poster 56 – Dr. Thierry Mallevaey
Poster 23 – Jenna Poelzer	Poster 57 – Arisha Patt
Poster 24 – Ayesha Wijesinghe	Poster 58 – Dr. Williams Turpin
Poster 25 – Rabia Salman	Poster 59 – Dr. Kelsey Huus
Poster 26 – Mahtab Matin	Poster 60 – Dr. Karla Valenzuela
Poster 27 – Lucas Faggiani	Poster 61 – Sarah Hanstock
Poster 28 – Anika Arora	Poster 62 – Dr. Larisa Kovtonyuk
Poster 29 – Md Moniruzzaman	Poster 63 – Anikka Swaby
Poster 30 – Aqsa Mohammed	Poster 64 – Yongjia Hu
	Poster 65 – Dr. Allison Guitor



**International
Microbiome
Centre**



Calvin, Phoebe and Joan
Snyder Institute
for Chronic Diseases

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



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