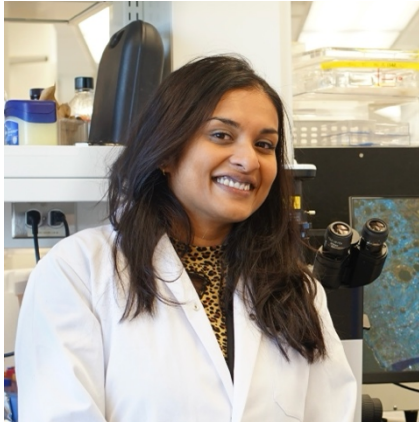


CSI 2025 New Investigator Award Congratulations / Félicitations



Dr. Ajitha Thanabalasuriar, *Assistant Professor, CRC Tier 2 Infection, Immunity, and Targeted Drug Therapies, McGill University, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics*

Dr. Thanabalasuriar began her scientific journey with a bachelor's degree in agriculture and environmental science from McGill University. She then earned a PhD in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at McGill, under the supervision of Dr. Samantha Gruenheid. Dr. Thanabalasuriar pursued a postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Paul Kubes at the University of Calgary, where she used intravital microscopy to study immune cell responses to infection. After completing her postdoctoral training, she worked as a scientist in AstraZeneca's drug discovery division before transitioning to academia in 2020.

Dr. Thanabalasuriar is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at McGill University and hold a Canada Research Chair in Infection, Immunity, and Targeted Therapeutics. Her laboratory investigates innate immune responses to infection and injury. They utilize *in vivo* models, microscopy, and transcriptomics to explore host-pathogen interactions. To enhance clinical relevance, they integrate these approaches with preclinical models. The models range from corneal injuries to e-cigarette vape exposures. Her laboratory works collaboratively to address clinically relevant diseases, beginning with a cellular-level analysis of immune function.