



CSI

Bulletin 2025

Canadian Society for Immunology

January 1 - December 31





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President's Report 2025

Dear friends and colleagues,

We had yet another fruitful year in 2025, and your council members worked hard to make sure that we, as a society, continue to shine at national and international arenas. I am pleased to highlight some of our recent accomplishments and initiatives in this report.

On behalf of the CSI community, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to Dr. Mansour Hayerfer for his dedicated leadership over the past two years. His commitment, vision, and service have played a significant role in strengthening our community. We are also grateful for his continued contributions as a member of the CSI Council and as Chair of the CSI Awards Committee.

We further extend our sincere thanks to the outgoing council members – Craig Jenne, Lisa Osborne, Bebhinn Treanor, Aaron Marshall, Mani, Larijani and Brent Johnston – for their outstanding service over the past four years. Their efforts and achievements have led to the development of many new CSI-led initiatives and have made a lasting impact on the community.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities before us. In collaboration with the CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity and other Institute partners, the 2026 CSI Annual Scientific Meeting will feature a Joint CIHR–CSI National Symposium on Vaccines, bringing together experts to explore a broad range of topics in this critical and rapidly evolving area. This is just one example of the initiatives we are developing to further position CSI as a strong and valued partner across diverse fields related to immunology.

The strength of CSI lies in the engagement and ideas of its members. We warmly invite you to share your perspectives, suggestions, and initiatives that can help us better serve and represent the immunology community. Your participation is essential as we continue to build a vibrant, collaborative, and forward-looking society.

Please feel free to reach out at any time by contacting me directly or by sending your ideas and suggestions to info@csi-sci.ca. We look forward to hearing from you and to working together to advance our shared mission.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you in Winnipeg this year!

CSI Executives & Council Members 2025

CSI council members are nominated and elected from within the CSI community and volunteer their time to lead the core functions of the Society. These include planning conferences (in conjunction with local organizing committees), scientific programming, awards, collaborations with related scientific societies, oversight of CSI member-led sub-committees and global advocacy for our discipline.



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2025-2026 EDI and TEC Committees

EDI Committee 2025 – 2026:

During the 2025 annual meeting of the Canadian Society for Immunology, the EDI Committee hosted an engaging training and information session titled “The Importance of Building Equitable Partnerships”. Moderated by Dr. Yanet Valdez, the session featured insightful presentations by Dr. Ananya Tina Banerjee (McGill University), whose research focuses on community-based participatory pedagogy, which is grounded in collaboration and partnership with racialized communities; and Dr. Nadine Caron (University of British Columbia), a surgeon-scientist recognized for her work on Indigenous health and equitable access to care in Canada. Their talks highlighted strategies for fostering inclusive collaborations and ensuring that research partnerships are built on mutual respect, transparency, and cultural awareness.

In addition to this educational activity, the EDI Committee experienced a leadership transition, with Dr. Lee-Hwa Tai, Professor of Immunology at the Université de Sherbrooke, assuming the role of Chair. Dr. Tai succeeds Dr. Yanet Valdez and brings a strong commitment to promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion within the Canadian immunology community, further advancing the committee’s mission to create a more inclusive research environment.



Dr. Lee-Hwa Tai
Chair

Université de Sherbrooke



Dr. Ninan Abraham

University of British Columbia



Dominique Gatti

University of Victoria



Laura Godin

University of Calgary



Dr. Aline Ignacio

University of Calgary



Dr. Craig Jenne

University of Calgary



Grace Kuo

University of British Columbia



Dr. Kelly McNagy

University of British Columbia



Dr. Melina Messing

University of California Santa
Barbara



Sabryna Natel

University of Montreal



Dr. Yanet Valdez

Independent Consultant

TEC Committee 2025 – 2026:

The CSI Trainee Engagement Committee (TEC) is dedicated to two main objectives: (1) Trainee engagement at the annual CSI conference, organizing interactive sessions and activities that foster meaningful, long-lasting connections amongst immunology trainees across Canada, and curating a monthly newsletter for trainee members of CSI highlighting CSI news, events, and immunology-related content. (2) Manage CSI social media accounts, BlueSky and LinkedIn, to engage the immunology and broader scientific community to promote awareness, share immunology-related news, and serve as a trusted source for Canadian immunology-research updates.

At the 37th Annual CSI Conference in Gatineau, Quebec, TEC hosted multiple events to create networking opportunities amongst trainees and professors. The TEC Mixer provided an opportunity for trainees to connect in a relaxed setting, accompanied by an ice-breaker game, immunology trivia with prizes for the winning team and snacks. Additionally, TEC hosted a Career Development Lunch, where trainees had the opportunity to engage in open discussions with academic and industry professionals in groups of 8-10 to receive advice on career paths and professional advice. We also hosted a Trainee Networking session, which started with a panel discussion from three professionals on their career journey and advice for trainees. Following the panel discussion, there was open time for trainees to mix and mingle amongst themselves and academic and industry leaders which was designed to spark collaborations and job opportunities. In the post-conference survey, responders had positive feedback about TEC Events. For the upcoming 2026 meeting in Winnipeg, TEC will be introducing a Science Communication Workshop for trainees to enhance their skills in communicating their research.

In 2025, TEC shifted CSI's social media accounts from X (formerly Twitter) to BlueSky and LinkedIn. These social media platforms serve as platforms to engage with other immunologists and the public to strengthen community connections and provide access to reliable research updates in an inclusive manner. Additionally, TEC has continued with emailing monthly newsletters to CSI members. These newsletters highlight upcoming CSI-related events (including conference deadlines and the Early Career Research Webinars), award announcements, upcoming opportunities and immunology-related news. The feedback from trainees about the newsletter have been overwhelmingly positive, with all survey responders reporting having received

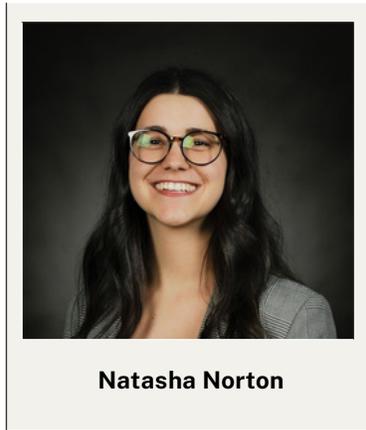
communications from the TEC Monthly Newsletter prior to the 2025 Conference. TEC remains committed to fostering an inclusive environment for immunology trainees to flourish. We welcome feedback from CSI members, and we are excited to keep the community informed and engaged!

Quebec (Gatineau) Local Organizing Committee 2025:



Simin Ahmadvand

Dr. Lee's Lab,
University of Ottawa



Natasha Norton

Dr. Reynolds' Lab,
University of Victoria



Sophia Stegeman

Dr. Gee's Lab,
Queen's University

Manitoba Local Organizing Committee 2026:



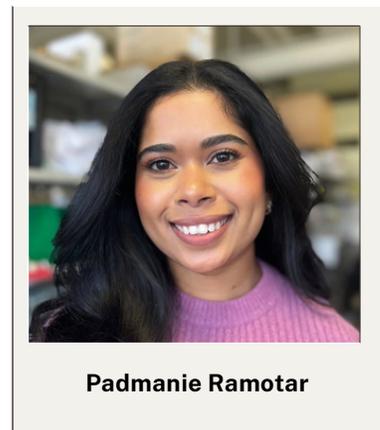
Maria Hangad

Dr. Kung's Lab,
University of Manitoba



Taehyun Kim

Dr. McNagny's Lab,
University of British Columbia



Padmanie Ramotar

Dr. Mookherjee's Lab,
University of Manitoba

Minutes of the 37th AGM 2025

2025 CSI Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Meeting called to order at 11:45 am and those present welcomed by the President, Mansour Haeryfar.

1. Welcome to the CSI AGM 2025 and Land Acknowledgement

2. Approval of the Agenda

- No additions needed.

Motion to approve agenda – (Moved: Alberto Martin; Seconded: Jen Gommerman) – Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes from April 23, 2024, Meeting

- A correction to the minutes: by Colin Anderson (for budget) – “Net assets for 2023 were \$1,463,979 up from \$1,303,254 from 2022.”

Motion to approve minutes – (Moved: Sylvie Lesage; Seconded: Heather Melichar) – Motion carried.

4. President's Remark & Report — Mansour Haeryfar

a. Update on digital and physical CSI archives

- CSI bulletins (dating back to 1969) located, scanned and posted on the CSI website
- Cinader laureates listed (along with their photos)
- Past presidents listed (along with their photos)
- Past CSI executives and councillors all identified and listed
- Poems, caricatures and >600 photos from old meetings and events posted (in the password-protected “Member Area”).
- These materials are useful in making our future meetings more appealing (e.g., through quizzes and contests) available for browsing/downloading
- Lori Coulthurst, Aaron Marshall and the Western Students were thanked for their support to this project.
- For physical documentation, several institutes approached for archiving options and the Western University's ARCC (Archives and Research Collections Centre) was selected after consultation with the CSI Council.
- A “Deed of Gift-in-Kind” was approved by the council and then signed on CSI's behalf.

b. Membership data in brief

- Historical data was provided with notable increases in Full Members, Associate Members, Emeritus Members and Student members (showing the largest growth since 2015).

c. Approval of new members

- New members (21 Full Members, 19 Associate Members and 116 Student Members) were shown as lists on screen.

Motion to approve new members – (Moved: Gillian Wu; Seconded: Kelly McNaghy) – Motion carried.

d. Childcare Bursary Program

- Positive feedback received in the past two years
- Motion passed by the Council on January 14, 2025: CSI will solicit and consider bursary applications to offset childcare costs from participants in future annual meetings pending the availability of sufficient funds.
- Lisa Osborne was thanked for her efforts to make this initiative a success. It was indicated that she has agreed to continue to chair a subcommittee adjudicating applications.
- There was a note from Jennifer Gommerman that CSI is a leader in the community with this initiative.

e. CSI Support for Local/Regional Meetings – Mansour Haeryfar on behalf of Mani Larijani

- Review of eligibility criteria, terms of reference, and the adjudication committee
- 8 applications received by the December 2024 application deadline.
- The top 5 were recommended for funding and the decision was communicated to the applicants in early January 2025.

f. Update on new partnership with the Canadian Immunocompromised Advocacy Network

- CSI was approached in December 2024 for endorsement and collaboration, which was approved by the Council in January 2025
- The CSI logo added to CIAN website (<https://immunocompromised.ca/>), the CSI president, VP and Advocacy & Public Engagement (APE) committee chairs were added to CIAN's e-mail list. There will be formal meetings approx. 5 times a year (Next meeting: April 22, 2025).
- CSI can take advantage of these opportunities for:
 - Mutually beneficial educational activities
 - New or enhanced science/patient advocacy campaigns
 - Involving patient partners/scholars in research
 - Providing expert advice and accurate information to patients or general public
- Request was made to members to periodically update their research areas and expertise under "Member Directory".

g. Update on CSI Elections

- Thank you to outgoing Council Members: Aaron Marshall (Past-President), Brent Johnston (Secretary), Craig Jenne, Mani Larijani, Lisa Osborne and Bebhinn Treanor

- Update on incoming Council Members: Sheela Ramanathan (President), Kelly McNagny (Vice-President), Heather Melichar (Secretary), Francesca Di Cara, Thomas Murooka, Peter Pioli
- The re-elected Council Members are: Colin Anderson, Helene Decaluwe, Jennifer Gommerman, Lee-Hwa Tai.

5. Past President's Report – Aaron Marshall

a. Cinader, Investigator and New Investigator awards

- There were fewer nominations this year for the Cinader nominations (3 new and 5 carried over from previous years). There were 5 male and 3 female with a wide range of career stages, with females at earlier career stages in general.
- This year's award recipient is Megan Levings (UBC).

b. New CSI Mentorship Award

- The New Mentorship Award Terms of Reference were approved in December 2023: "The CSI Mentorship Award is given to recognize CSI members who make outstanding contributions to the mentoring of scientists at all levels, including but not limited to undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral scholars and early career investigators."
- The decision was made by CSI council to name the award after the first recipient.
- The call for nominations went out to CSI membership in 2024 and three outstanding nominations were received (all female).
- The CSI awards committee unanimously chose Gillian Wu (U of Toronto and York U) as the inaugural recipient of the mentorship award.

6. Treasurer's Report – Colin Anderson

- Lori Coulthurst was thanked for all of her assistance with budget preparation.
- From Jan to Dec 2024, the CSI account gained 16.79% (Compared to 9.89% in 2023). There has been an 8.3% average growth over the last 10 years.
- The investment account has generated \$350K used towards awards and activities.
- A review of the recent financial history of the Annual CSI Meetings was shown.
- Membership dues and Society donations do not cover operating expenses. The goal is to be closer to covering those costs so that the investment funds can be put towards awards.
- The 2025 budget was proposed with a 6.2% withdrawal from CSI's investment account.
- Request to add a donation option on the CSI Members registration page so that a donation can be made when renewing memberships.

Motion to approve draft budgets – (Moved: Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker; Seconded: Craig Jenne) – Motion carried.

Motion to increase the full membership dues as below – (Moved: H  l  ne Decaluwe; Seconded: Juan Carlos Z  niga-Pfl  cker) – Motion carried.

Revised Membership Dues:

Full Members from \$80 to \$120 annually (or from \$375 to \$500 for 5 years)

New Student Members from \$30 to \$35 annually

Renewing Student Members from \$45 to \$50 for 2 years

7. Update on Research Canada activities, IUIS Junior Community, and our new CSI Mentorship initiative – Lee-Hwa Tai

a. Research Canada Activities

- Updates were given on recently attended Research Canada meetings and on the themes discussed at those meetings: Capstone initiative, federal government updates, opportunity to showcase precision medicine research across Quebec

b. IUIS Junior Community (ECR Committee)

- This is a new partnership that CSI is now engaged with.
- CSI is represented by Lee-Hwa Tai (University of Sherbrooke) and Julianna Blagih, Universite de Montreal/HMR.
- CSI will have a symposium at the IUIS meeting in Vienna (August 17-22, 2025) to showcase ECRs.

c. New Mentorship Initiative

- Launch a mentoring initiative aimed at supporting immunologists across career stages.
- The next steps are to assess results and build a program.

8. Update from the Clinical Immunology Network – Canada (CINC) and proposal to form a new CSI-CINC Translational Immunology Committee (“Terms of Reference” previously circulated) – H  l  ne Decaluwe

a. Updates

- Partnering with multiple Canadian groups (CSI, CSACI, CRDN) and international organizations (CIS, LASID, FOCIS) and patient advocacy groups (ImmUnity Canada, CIAN, SCID Foundation)

b. Proposal to form a new CSI-CINC Translational Immunology Committee

- The CSI-CINC Translational Immunology Initiative was discussed to have a running committee between both Societies that would report to both Councils.

- The goals are to:
 - Increase research collaborations between CINC and CSI members
 - Facilitate the establishment of collaborations in translational immunology in Canada
 - Engage with societies and industry partners to develop/support nation-wide networks in immunology
 - Partner with patients and patient organizations to co-develop research initiatives and advocate for increased funding

Motion to establish a CSI-CINC Translational Immunology (TI) Committee to enable and enhance collaborations among fundamental, translational and clinical immunologists across Canada – (Moved: Sheela Ramanathan; Seconded: Kelly McNaghy) – Motion carried.

9. IUIS Report – Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker

- Updates from the IUIS Council meeting at ALACI 2024 in Barcelona, Spain.
- The international day of immunology is April 19, 2025.
- The 2025 Vienna, Austria meeting program is complete and available online.
- The Toronto 2028 meeting planning will start right after 2025 ICI concludes – this will be CSI's annual meeting.

10. Meeting Reports:

a. CSI 2024 (Banff) meeting report – Troy Baldwin

- An overview of the registration was given (323 total – 78 full members, 23 non-members, 37 associate members, 149 students and 26 exhibitor representatives).
- The meeting maxed out the number of posters possible (172 set up on site and of those 153 were judged). The following awards were given out: 14 Ph.D (sponsored by Mucosal Immunology), 9 M.Sc., 3 PDF and 2 for consideration of gender in research
- There was a \$14,143 surplus for the meeting.
- Highlights included an EDI panel discussion, banquet dinner local entertainment and a meet-the- editor session with Adrian Liston from Immunology & Cell Biology.

b. CSI 2025 (Gatineau) meeting report – Michele Ardolino

- An overview of registration was given (441 total – 108 full members, 24 non-members, 34 associate members, 200 students and 36 exhibitor representatives). The registration revenue and numbers were exceeded.
- This year, there are three symposia, 1 keynote, an EDI session and a CIHR III ECR session.
- The meeting was 4 days long for the first time with two additional workshops.
- The meeting partnered with CCIC and was combined with an innate-lymphoid cell (ILC) meeting.

c. CSI 2026 (Winnipeg) meeting update – Thomas Murooka

- Review of the LOC (7 senior and junior researchers and CSI members)
- CSI received a grant from Tourism Winnipeg towards the meeting (approx. \$17,300).
- Anticipated the same number of attendees as 2025
- The rough budget was shown and there is already \$15,000 in commitments from local institutions.

d. CSI 2027 (London) meeting update – Bryan Heit

- The venue (RBC Place London) was shown as a brief overview along with transportation information on how to arrive.
- The venue is equipped to hold 480 attendees should the Meeting continue to grow.
- A few local attractions were mentioned including note of over 30 restaurants and bars within 1km walk of the venue/hotel.

Motion to approve the conclusion of the CSI AGM – (Moved: Brent Johnson; Seconded: Craig Jenne) – Motion carried.

Adjournment – 1:12 pm

Financial Audit 2024

THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOLOGY
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2024

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 139,831	\$ 82,217
Marketable securities <i>(Note 4)</i>	1,531,564	1,357,320
Goods and services tax recoverable	9,872	5,442
Deposits paid	22,500	19,000
	\$ 1,703,767	\$ 1,463,979
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 4,499	\$ 4,500
Deferred conference registration fees	75,319	27,120
Deferred conference sponsorship fees	40,565	11,890
Current portion of deferred membership dues <i>(Note 5)</i>	21,240	21,295
	141,623	64,805
DEFERRED MEMBERSHIP DUES <i>(Note 5)</i>	23,473	24,370
	165,096	89,175
NET ASSETS	1,538,671	1,374,804
	\$ 1,703,767	\$ 1,463,979

APPROVED BY

 _____ Director

See notes to financial statements

THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOLOGY
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
Year Ended December 31, 2024

	2024	2023
REVENUES		
Conference registration fees	\$ 160,422	\$ 174,922
Sponsorships	106,214	112,966
Membership dues	25,433	25,728
Donations	525	395
	<u>292,594</u>	<u>314,011</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Awards	24,877	16,215
Childcare bursary	2,454	1,343
Conference expenses	290,767	248,353
Dues, licenses and memberships	1,066	3,468
Interest and bank charges	5,115	3,690
Office	15,064	19,537
Professional fees	5,120	4,766
Travel	9,994	11,925
	<u>354,457</u>	<u>309,297</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES FROM OPERATIONS	<u>(61,863)</u>	4,714
OTHER ITEMS		
Investment income	32,137	38,223
Gain on sale of marketable securities	50,012	26,433
Unrealized gain on marketable securities	165,446	77,103
Investment management fees	(21,865)	(17,220)
	<u>225,730</u>	<u>124,539</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>\$ 163,867</u>	<u>\$ 129,253</u>

See notes to financial statements

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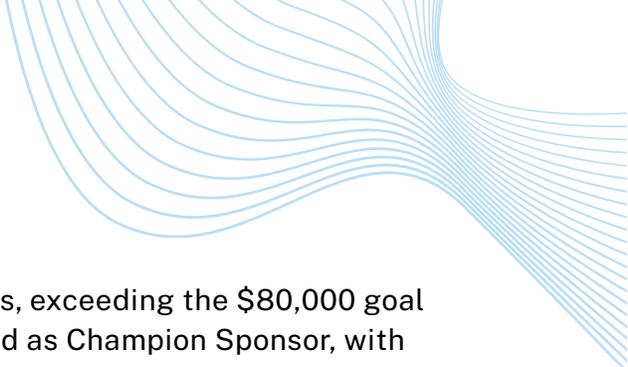
CSI 2025 Meeting Highlights

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC), consisting of Dr. Michele Ardolino (Chair), Dr. Angela Crawley, Dr. Subash Sad, and Dr. Seung-Hwan Lee from the University of Ottawa and Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, along with Dr. Amy Gillgrass from McMaster University and Dr. Madhuri Koti from Queen's University, and Trainee Engagement Committee members Sophia Stegeman, Simin Ahmadvand, and Natasha Norton were thrilled to welcome over 440 attendees to the Hilton Lac-Leamy in Gatineau-Ottawa for CSI 2025.

The conference began with an inspiring Keynote Address from Dr. Ira Mellman, Vice President of Cancer Immunology at Genentech, who delivered a captivating presentation on "The Mechanistic Basis of Cancer Immunotherapy." The scientific program featured three major symposia: Comparative Immunology (chaired by Drs. Brian Dixon and Stephanie DeWitte-Orr), Mixed Signals: Pattern-Recognition Receptor Ligands as Therapeutics (chaired by Drs. Sarah Poynter and Karen Mossman), and a joint CSI/CCIC Symposium on Tumour Immunometabolism (chaired by Drs. Ramon Klein Geltink and Julianna Blagih). Six workshops covering topics from Host-Pathogen Interactions to Mucosal Immunity and Tumor Immunology showcased emerging research from trainees and early-career investigators.

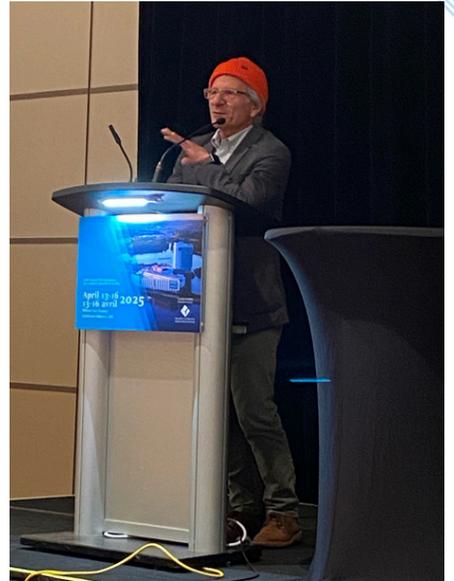
The meeting featured 258 abstract submissions and 181 poster presentations across three sessions, with 166 posters and 54 oral presentations judged. Awards included 17 PhD awards (sponsored by the Journal of Mucosal Immunology), 6 MSc awards, 3 PDF awards, a top presenter award in Host-Pathogens (sponsored by Pathogens and Immunity), and 2 Gender Consideration awards (sponsored by CIHR-IGH). The meeting's highest honour, the Bernhard Cinader Award Lectureship, was presented to Dr. Megan Levings for her distinguished lecture on "Regulating Human Immunity."

CSI Council and the LOC continued their commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion through an EDI session titled "The Importance of Building Equitable Partnerships" featuring Drs. Ananya Tina Banerjee and Nadine Caron, with 63% of survey respondents attending and 81% reporting the session had a positive impact. The CIHR III and Early Investigator Session, moderated by Dr. Olivia Oxlade with speakers Drs. Laura Whittall-Garcia and Jongbok Lee, provided valuable career development insights. The Trainee Engagement Committee hosted exceptional events including a welcome mixer and career development and networking lunches, all generously sponsored by the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute.



The conference received outstanding support from sponsors, exceeding the \$80,000 goal with \$111,375 in sponsorship revenue. BD Biosciences served as Champion Sponsor, with additional symposium support from BioLegend, CCIC, and Cytex, among many others. A last-minute grant from the University of Ottawa (\$7,500) was particularly appreciated given the CIHR Grant was not awarded this year. The mobile app was downloaded by 438 attendees and featured a scavenger hunt gamification with prizes. The banquet dinner featured a local Ottawa jazz trio and recognized all award recipients. Post-event survey results (99 respondents) showed 76% plan to attend CSI 2026 in Winnipeg.







CSI 2025 Award Recipients

Hardi Cinader Award Recipient 2025



Megan K. Levings, PhD
Professor, Department of Surgery and School of Biomedical Engineering, University of British Columbia; Head, Childhood Diseases Theme, BC Children's Hospital Research Institute

The 2025 CSI – Bernhard (Hardi) Cinader Award Recipient

Presentation: “Regulating human immunity”

During her B.Sc. at Simon Fraser University, Dr. Megan Levings started her career through summer research projects with Dr. James Price, who was studying signalling pathways in drosophila. This experience sparked her interest in genetics and she subsequently pursued graduate training with Dr. John Schrader, in the genetics program at the University of British Columbia. Here she studied cytokine receptors and signalling pathways and attended many Canadian Society for Immunology meetings. After obtaining her PhD in 1998, she joined Dr. Maria Grazia Roncarolo's lab in Milan, undertaking postdoctoral training in the area of immune regulation. During this time, she worked with human cells to define what we now know as regulatory T cells (Tregs), and characterized their potential to be used as cellular therapy to stop harmful immune responses. Dr. Levings was recruited back to UBC in 2003, joining the Department of Surgery as a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Transplantation. In 2011 she moved her lab to the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute where she now heads the Childhood Diseases Research Theme, is a Tier I Canada Research Chair in Engineered Immune Tolerance, and leads a vibrant group of trainees and staff.

Dr. Levings studies the biology and application of Tregs as a cellular therapy to diminish the need for immunosuppression in transplantation and autoimmunity. Her lab made a major advance in the use of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) technology to re-direct Treg specificity, leading to clinical trials of CAR Tregs in transplantation, and work to create 'designer' Tregs for application in a variety of diseases. She also pursued thymus-derived Tregs as a new therapeutic cell source, laying the foundation for the first clinical trial of Treg therapy in Canada. To bolster Canada's capacity to generate cell therapy products, she is leading a 64M\$ CFI-funded project to build a good manufacturing facility in at UBC. Work to study interactions between Tregs and Th17 cells led to multiple clinical trials of ustekinumab (anti-IL12/23 p40 antibody) to delay type 1 diabetes progression, with her lab leading pivotal biomarker studies. Her passion for human immunology inspired her to lead the CIHR-funded Canadian Autoimmunity Standardization Core, which has several ongoing, cross-Canada initiatives for harmonization of, and training in, human immune assays.

Dr. Levings has published >190 papers and won numerous awards, including the Canadian Society for Immunology New Investigator (2009) and Investigator (2018) Awards, the YWCA Woman of Distinction, Science, Research & Technology Award (2020), the Simon Fraser University Outstanding Alumni Award (2022) and the UBC Distinguished Researcher Award (Basic/Foundational) (2022). To date she has mentored 29 graduate students, 16 post docs, and >30 undergraduate students. She has served on multiple peer-review, society, government, and advisory committees, and is currently President Elect of the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS).

While not thinking about Tregs, Dr. Levings enjoys cooking, gardening, cross-country skiing and travelling.

Gillian E. Wu Inaugural Award Recipient 2025



Gillian E. Wu, PhD
Emerita Professor

University of Toronto and York University, Toronto, ON

Inaugural Gillian E. Wu Mentorship Award 2025 Recipient

All of us have had mentors and all of us are mentors. Think back to your lives. Who are in your “bios”, and how do you remember them? These are mine.

I was born in London during WW2, but my formal education I was totally in Canada. In high school, Miss Pew challenged me to understand how the eggs I ate, turned into muscles. And Mr. Lewis, led me to question exact measurements and thus what “+ or -“ meant and why it was needed. McMaster was a mix, (1963-1967) more fun than work. Dr. Dingle took me on as a summer student investigating “flagella development”, and Dr. Takahashi revealed DNA, RNA and Operons which I was then sure should become my life (rather than UofT meds). Mentors encouraged me to apply to “the best research department in Canada” (their view), Medical Biophysics at UofT. Housed in the top two floors of the old Princess Marget Hospital, the Department was led by Dr. Harold Johns whose work led to using radiation to treat cancer. As a mentor, Dr. Johns was a challenge, but Dr. Bob Phillips was the opposite - guiding me in this totally male grad student world, with the “I would be loath to have a female student in my lab” stem cell leader. I survived thanks to the mentorship of microbiologist Dr. Rose Shenin, Dr. Rick Miller and Bob. I learnt Immunology and in 1969 earned an MSc, the first female grad. Then a break from formal education. I left for UC Berkeley with my husband, Dr. Alan Wu. While in the USA, I worked at the UC Donner Laboratories as a Biophysicist, and half time as a Lab Assistant in an Immunology lab at NIH (via recommendations from mentors Bob, Rick and Dr. Howard Mel) and gave birth to two sons. During this time, I mentored as a La Leche assistant leader and by “running” a Picnic Group. A time away from full time Academic Science meant I learned first-hand the other “important things” needed for a good life in Science.

In 1976, we returned to Toronto where at first I worked in UG labs Sept to May (for pay) before joining again Medical Biophysics as a PhD student in Molecular Immunology using Lambda Phage as vectors to carry and thus clone genes. And again, mentors were crucial. Dr. Nobu Hozumi and Dr. Marc Shulman had my back - somehow, I by-passed the “classification exam”, which helped me complete a solid PhD in four years. And this record led to the Basel Institute for Immunology where Drs. Neils Jerne, Charley Steinberg, and Chris Paige mentored and smoothed out some rough edges. The years in Basel led to a tenure track position in 1986 in the newly formed Department of Immunology at UofT. An old mentor, Dr. Hardi Cinader was welcoming! I became graduate co-ordinator early on, before tenure! I do not recommend taking on huge administrative, yet important positions, early in one’s career! I simply loved mentoring. Grad students in my lab, grad students across the Research Institutes, grad students in other Universities in Canada and the US.

In 2001, I became Dean of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science at York University. Those were challenging times. York undertook reorganization (and hiring) from the one Faculty of P&AS to three Faculties - Science, Engineering and Health. A lot of change and a lot of need for mentoring of re-placed and newly hired faculty. Staff were especially important mentors, keeping it all on track. Jennifer Lavigne, Cheryl Colman for two; and forward seeing faculty, Imogen Coe, Bob Prince, for two. After five years as Dean, I served two as “advisor to the President” and then spent a sabbatical year in Cambridge. I stayed connected to UofT immunology and combined my York lab and grad students with Vivian Saridakis until 2015 when I retired. A wonderful life in Immunology - V(D)J, diversity, mentored and mentoring. I was so lucky.

An award for Mentorship in the Canadian Society for Immunology was proposed because all of us recognize the critical role of mentors in our lives. Mentoring as Grad Co-ordinator in Immunology were among the most enjoyable years of my science life. The ability to encourage, help, guide - what could be better. (And yes, I am still asked to write reference letters.)

John D. Reynolds Award Recipient 2025



Dr. Craig Jenne, PhD.

**Jessie Boden Lloyd Professor in Immunology Research;
Deputy Director, Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases; Department of
Microbiology, Immunology and Infectious Diseases, University of Calgary**

John D. Reynolds Award 2025 Recipient

I was first introduced to immunology as an undergraduate student at the University of Guelph where the concept of the nearly unlimited diversity, yet finite specificity, associated with antibodies sparked my interest in the field. My desire to better understand antibody diversity led to an opportunity to pursue a PhD in the laboratory of Dr. John Reynolds at the University of Calgary to study immunoglobulin repertoire development and diversification. It was during my time in Calgary that I was first introduced to the CSI, a society I have come to appreciate as my scientific “home”. The support and mentorship offered by members of the CSI were transformational during my training journey and the friendships made have been guiding forces in my career.

After completing my PhD, I joined the lab of Dr. Jason Cyster for a post-doctoral position as part of an ongoing collaboration between the University of California, San Francisco and the laboratory of Dr. Chris Goodnow at Australian National University in Canberra. This project utilized a forward-genetics pipeline to identify novel molecules involved in host immunity. Following my time at UCSF/ANU, I returned to Calgary to complete a second post-doctoral placement in the lab of Dr. Paul Kubers where I trained in intravital microscopy, the technique that has formed the basis of my ongoing independent research program.

In 2013, I was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Infectious Diseases at the University of Calgary where I have built a program that uses intravital microscopy to study the interactions between pathogens, innate immunity and components of the coagulation system. Since my initial appointment, I have been cross appointed to the Department of Critical Care Medicine and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine where I contribute to clinical and translational research as well as comparative immunological studies. I am a past Canada Research Chair and currently hold the Jessie Boden Lloyd Professorship in Immunology Research (supporting immunology research, education and outreach) and am the Deputy Director of the Snyder Institute at the University of Calgary.

My involvement in Canadian Immunology has extended beyond my own research program largely due to the mentorship I received from Dr. John Reynolds during my graduate studies. His emphasis on impactful science, community service, and supporting future scientists has profoundly shaped my career. This belief in service continues to guide me. Since participating in my first CSI in 1999, I have helped build the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee within the CSI, have contributed to the establishment of the Advocacy and Public Engagement Committee, and have served as a CSI Council member. I have had the opportunity to help organize CSI meetings, both in a formal capacity as part of a LOC and in a more informal capacity helping with logistics when meetings were held in Lake Louise and Banff. Beyond the CSI, I am passionate about education and public outreach endeavors, bringing immunology into local classrooms and public forums. Over the past 10 years I have contributed to more than 1300 TV, radio and print media interviews about immunology, vaccination and infectious diseases.

It has been a privilege to have been part of the CSI for 25+ years, and I am grateful for the support, mentorship, collaborations and lasting friendships the Society has afforded me over the years, and it is an honour to receive the John D. Reynolds Award.

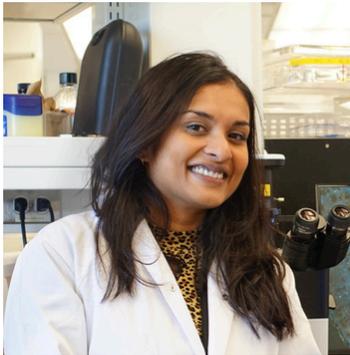
Investigator Award Recipient 2025



Dr. Andrew Makrigiannis
Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology,
Dalhousie University; Senior Scientist,
Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute,
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Andrew Peter Makrigiannis is a Professor at the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Dalhousie University and Senior Scientist of the Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He received a Ph.D. from Dalhousie University studying CD8 T cell activation under the supervision of Dr. David Hoskin, in the same department that he eventually returned to serve as department head. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the National Institutes of Health, USA in the laboratory of Dr. Stephen Anderson. Early honours include a CIHR New Investigator Award, Canada Research Chair and the inaugural CSI New Investigator Award. His research centers on the role and contribution of two related families of lectinlike cell surface receptors, Ly49 and Nkrp1/Clr, to immune cell function with a focus on Natural Killer (NK) cells. His early studies into the genetics and diversity of mouse Ly49 revealed convergent evolutionary parallels to their human KIR counterparts. As well, these studies resulted in the creation of the first Ly49/Nkrp1 gene-modified mice allowing their direct contribution to NK cell 'missing-self' immunosurveillance to be revealed, with the surprise that Nkrp1/Clr mediate tissue/organ-specific immunity in contrast to Ly49/MHC. These various Ly49/Nkrp1/Clr knockout strains have been instrumental in testing the contribution of these receptors to resistance to cancer and infection mediated by NK cells. Furthermore, they resulted in fortunate discoveries into other unforeseen areas including control of plasmacytoid dendritic cell type I IFN production (Ly49Q), alveolar macrophage lipid uptake and metabolic control (NKR-P1B), kidney epithelial cell immunosurveillance (Clr-f), and mediation of peptide recognition by memory NK cells (Ly49C/I). His proudest achievements are his trainees, who have gone on to work in academia, industry and medicine.

New Investigator Award Recipient 2025



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.

Meeting Travel Award Recipients 2025

Thank you to our Awards Committee, Jude Uzonna - Chair (University of Manitoba); Trainee Awards - Anna Blackney (University of British Columbia), Lisa Cameron (Western University), Sara Crome (University of Toronto), Bryan Heit (Western University), Deepak Kaushik (Memorial University), Alfredo Menendez (Université de Sherbrooke), Arthur Mortha (University of Toronto), Martin Olivier (McGill University), Ryan Pardy (INRS Montreal), Peter Pioli (University of Saskatchewan), Deanna Santer (University of Manitoba), Sebastien Talbot (Queen's University), Cedric Tremblay (University of Manitoba), Stephanie Yanow (University of Alberta), Christine Zhang (University of Manitoba); New Investigator Awards - Momar Ndao (McGill University), Martin Olivier (McGill University), Sheela Ramanathan (Université de Sherbrooke).

Congratulations to the following winners for their success and thank you to all those that applied.

STUDENTS

MSc Winners (\$500) in alphabetical order:

CSI Travel Award	Natalie Aldor	Wilfrid Laurier University
CSI Travel Award	Myriam Beaulieu	McGill University
CSI Travel Award	Riley Greenslade	University of Manitoba
CSI Travel Award	Angela Hamie	University of Alberta
CSI Travel Award	Megan Kinzel	University of Calgary
CSI Travel Award	Elena Lonina	Université Laval
CSI Travel Award	Leanne Palichuk	University of Calgary
CSI Travel Award	Luisa Pessoa Soares	University of Alberta
CSI Travel Award	Huda Rajani	University of Manitoba
CSI Travel Award	Angela Schincaglia	Western University

PhD Winners (\$500) in alphabetical order:

CSI Travel Award	Sara Ali Akbari	Université de Sherbrooke
CSI Travel Award	Mohamad Basem Alkassab	University of Windsor
CSI Travel Award	Angie Chen	University of Alberta
CSI Travel Award	Sameeksha (Maggie) Chopra	University of British Columbia
CSI Travel Award	Robert Crozier	Brock University
CSI Travel Award	Dominique Gatti	University of Victoria
CSI Travel Award	Fatemeh Gholizadeh	Concordia University
CSI Travel Award	Mark Hanes	Dalhousie University
CSI Travel Award	Carmina Albertine Isidoro	University of Calgary
CSI Travel Award	Robbie Jin	University of Toronto
CSI Travel Award	Jaspreet Kaur	University of Western Ontario
CSI Travel Award	Yichu Liang	University of Ottawa
CSI Travel Award	Heqing Ma	University of Manitoba
CSI Travel Award	Olivia Makinson	Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
CSI Travel Award	Mozhdeh Namvarpour	Université de Sherbrooke
CSI Travel Award	Testimony Olumade	University of Manitoba
CSI Travel Award	Milad Sabzevary-Ghahfarokhi	University of Manitoba
CSI Travel Award	Diana Savage (Topolnitska)	University of Manitoba
CSI Travel Award	Dania Shaban	McGill University
CSI Travel Award	Sophia Stegeman	Queen's University

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS

PDF Winners (\$1000) in alphabetical order:

CSI Travel Award	Anthony Altieri	University of Toronto
CSI Travel Award	Jeremia Coish	Brock University
CSI Travel Award	Qitong Huang	University of Calgary
CSI Travel Award	Simone Isling Paerregaard	University of Calgary
CSI Travel Award	Janet Velazquez Perez	Wilfrid Laurier University

NEW INVESTIGATOR

Winners (\$1,500) in alphabetical order:

CSI Travel Award	Joshua Koenig	McMaster University
CSI Travel Award	Ryan Pardy	INRS – Institut Armand-Frappier
CSI Travel Award	Deanna Santer	University of Manitoba

CSI Sponsored Symposium

AAI Immunology 2025, May 3 - 7, Honolulu, Hawaii

CSI Sponsored Symposium: May 4, 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Unveiling the Tissue Guardians: Novel Insights into Innate Immune Signaling in Human Disease

Chairs: **Ali Abdul-Sater**, *York University, Canada*; **Katrina Gee**, *Queens University, Canada*

Nargis Khan, *University of Calgary, Canada*, "Emerging role of trained immunity in infectious and inflammatory diseases"

Ajitha Thanabalasuriar, *McGill University, Canada*, "Neutrophils tango with transforming growth factor beta to balance lung health and repair"

Valentin Jaumouillé, *Simon Fraser University, Canada*, "Clearing cancer cells: A physical challenge for macrophages"

Ali Abdul-Sater, *York University, Canada*, "Breaking Bad: TRAF1/cIAP2 Edition – Unmasking TRAF1's dual role in innate immune signaling and inflammatory disease"

IUIS 2025 Vienna, August 17 - 22, Vienna, Austria

CSI Sponsored Symposium: Friday, August 22 @ 10:30 - 11:50am

Stromal Interactions in immunity and tissue repair

Chair: **Matthew Buechler**, *University of Toronto*

Shan Liao, *University of Calgary*, "Lymph node stromal remodeling compromises host immune defense to infection during skin inflammation"

Susan Westfall, *McGill University*, "A type 1 immune-stromal cell network mediates disease tolerance and barrier protection against intestinal infection"

Matthew Buechler, *University of Toronto*, "Fibroblast-macrophage interactions in health and disease"

Marine Theret, *University of British Columbia*, "TAK1, a key regulator in stromal inflammatory response"

CSI Sponsored Regional Meetings

13th Biennial Banff Inflammation Workshop (BIW2025)

Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity, Banff, AB, Jan. 23 -25

CSI Member Applicants: Markus Geuking, McMaster University; Derek McKay, University of Calgary

The Banff Inflammation Workshop (BIW) 2025, held from January 23rd to 26th, was a highly successful event. We welcomed a total of 96 registered attendees, including researchers, clinicians, and students from various institutions. The conference featured 20 invited oral presentations, which were selected to showcase leading-edge research in inflammation and immunology. Additionally, 20 oral presentations were chosen from submitted abstracts, providing a platform for emerging investigators to share their findings. The meeting also included two poster sessions, during which 37 posters were presented. These sessions fostered lively discussions and networking among participants.

Support from the Canadian Society for Immunology (CSI) was instrumental in making the event possible. A generous grant of \$1000 contributed towards meal expenses, notably covering \$550 for the invited speakers' meals. In recognition of outstanding poster presentations, CSI sponsored poster awards in two categories: postdoctoral fellows (PDF) and PhD students. The 1st place awards (two prizes of \$100 each) and 2nd place awards (two prizes of \$50 each) were awarded to the top posters in each category, highlighting exemplary research and presentation efforts.



Furthermore, one travel award valued at \$150 was granted, supporting a student's attendance and participation.

Overall, the BIW 2025 served as an engaging platform for advancing inflammation research, fostering collaboration, and recognizing emerging talent within the inflammation and immunology community.

ImmunoBC 2025: Molecular Mechanisms to Therapeutic Strategies

UBC Life Sciences Institute, Vancouver, BC Feb. 20 - 21

CSI Member Applicant: Lisa Reynolds, University of Victoria

The 12th Annual ImmunoBC Retreat, held on February 20-21, 2025, at UBC's Life Sciences Centre, was an important milestone for the BC immunology research community, as it was the first post-COVID formal gathering of the community and the inaugural ImmunoBC conference jointly organized by ImmunoBC and the Immunotherapeutics (ImmunoT) cluster. This meeting showcased immunology research happening in BC across diverse immunological disciplines ranging from basic immunology research to translational work on innate and adaptive immunity and immunotherapy approaches.

The program included plenary sessions, trainee talks, poster presentations, and networking events. A highlight of the event was the joint PI-trainee talk format, wherein principal investigators provided a big-picture overview of their research, followed by trainees presenting detailed mechanistic insights. This format highlighted the strong mentorship culture within the BC immunology community. The conference featured an inspiring keynote address from Dr. Kazuyo Moro (Osaka University), who discussed "Type 2 Immunity: A Double-Edged Sword in Health and Disease". The talks were structured into several thematic sessions, including Host-Microbial Interactions and Inflammatory Disease, Innate Immune Development and Airway Inflammation, Immunotherapy: Cells and Beyond, Immunotherapy in Cancer: From Molecular Mechanisms to Therapeutic Strategies. The conference included 64 trainee abstracts and an engaging poster session.

The organizing committee, led by Chair Dr. Morgan Roberts (UBC), included Drs. Lisa Reynolds (UVic), Mani Larijani (SFU), Kelly McNagny (UBC), and Alice Mui (UBC), with invaluable support and leadership from trainee co-organizers Maggie Chopra, Stella Chen, and Grace Kuo. Among the numerous sponsors, the organizing committee is grateful to CSI for its support through the newly established regional meeting funding program. Five CSI-sponsored poster awards were presented at the conference.



The Cytokines in Inflammation, Ageing, Cancer and Obesity (CIACCO)

Bishop's University, Sherbrooke, Quebec, Jun. 12 - 14

CSI Member Applicants: Alfredo Martinez, Université de Sherbrooke; Jörg Fritz, McGill University; Manu Rangachari, University of Laval; Subburaj Ilangumaran, Université de Sherbrooke

The Cytokines in Inflammation, Ageing, CanCer and Obesity (CIACCO) symposium is a regional joint initiative created to establish a forum dedicated to discuss ongoing research focused on the physiological, pathological, regulatory and therapeutic areas of cytokine biology. CIACCO is organized annually by a joint group of researchers and trainees from the Universities of Laval, McGill, Montreal, Ottawa and Sherbrooke. The 2025 edition of CIACCO was held on June 12th-13th at the Bishop's University campus in Sherbrooke, Quebec, with kind financial support from CIHR, CSI, 10X Genomics, and the Universities of Sherbrooke, McGill and Montreal.

CIACCO-2025 was an outstanding success, attended by 96 participants (80% of them trainees) and including seven national and international invited speakers: Nathalie Arbor, Univ. of Montreal; Arinjay Banerjee, Univ. of Saskatchewan (sponsored by CSI); Shawn Beug, Univ. of Ottawa; Mike Dahabieh, Van Andel Institute, USA; Kelly McNagny, UBC; Raul Mostoslavsky, Harvard Medical School, USA and Laura Sly, UBC). The symposium featured oral, trainee's speed talks and poster's sessions on Cytokines in Infection & Immunity, Cytokines in Inflammation, Cytokines in Cancer, and Cytokines in Obesity and Age-related Disorders. More detailed information about the program, organizers and invited speakers can be found in the CIACCO-2025 website: <https://event.fourwaves.com/ciacco2025/pages>.

True to the CIACCO spirit of fostering the development of the next generation of researchers, three, four and four prizes were awarded to trainees in each of the oral presentations, speed talks and poster categories, respectively. The recipients of the first prize for each category (prizes sponsored by CSI) were Mozhdeh Namvarpour, Univ. Sherbrooke (oral presentation), Roudy Farah, Univ. Montreal (speed talk) and Frederic Dubois, Univ. Sherbrooke (poster). Other prize recipients were Theodoros Papadopoulos, Alexia Falle, Nicolas Pouderous, Camille Bazin, Julite Quenum, Eric Moreau, Alicia Rodgers and Cassidy Tomlinson.



Prairie Infection & Immunity Networking (PIIN) Conference

Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Saskatoon, SK, Sept. 28-30

CSI Member Applicants: Thomas T. Murooka, University of Manitoba



The Prairie Infection & Immunity Network (PIIN) is an investigator-driven collection of researchers from academia, industry and government in Manitoba and Saskatchewan with wide-ranging research interests into the mechanisms of communicable and non-communicable diseases. The mission of PIIN is to promote health research and education through scientific networking, mentorship and career developments opportunities for trainees and researchers across the prairies. After a successful PIIN 2023 meeting in Hecla, Manitoba with over 140 attendees, the PIIN 2025 meeting was held in Saskatoon, SK at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel on Sept 28-30, 2025. With over 170+ total attendees across both provinces, PIIN 2025 was the largest meeting to date and a huge success! We were honored to be joined by Métis knowledge and ceremonial keeper André Letendre, who provided blessings at the opening and closure of the meeting. Mr. Letendre was also a speaker in the Indigenous Engagement in Infection and Immunity Research session on the last day of the meeting, which coincided with the National Day for Truth and Recognition, and provided us with greater understanding of how to respectfully engage with Indigenous culture and people in our work.

The scientific program welcomed two keynote speakers: Dr. Anna Blakney (Michael Smith Laboratories, UBC) who is combining bioengineering, molecular biology and immunological approaches to develop next generation RNA-based therapies including selfamplifying mRNA platforms, and Dr. Natalie Grandvaux (Université de Montréal) who spoke about innate immune responses against viral infections with a focus on respiratory infections. Each of the 5 scientific sessions (Vaccines an



Immunotherapeutics, Chronic and Inflammatory Diseases, One Health including Livestock and Wildlife species, Host-Pathogen interactions and Indigenous Engagement in Infection and Immunity Research) were co-chaired by researchers from Manitoba and Saskatchewan and highlighted talks by established invited researchers and 3 abstract-selected trainees. Two poster sessions featured research presentations by trainees intermingled with networking events. The student organization committee planned a dedicated career development workshop with invited speakers across different career spectrums. During our banquet night gala, we celebrated our personal and scientific achievements with our friends and colleagues over a night of dancing! We were amazed by all the exciting research initiatives led by Manitoba and Saskatchewan researchers and trainees, which culminated in a total of 12 poster and oral presentation awards handed out through a formal judging process. We are thankful for all our generous supporters including the University of Manitoba (Departments of Immunology and MMID, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences), University of Saskatchewan (Department of BMI, School of Public Health, One Health, OVDR, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, VIDO), CIHR, SHRF, our corporate sponsors and finally to CSI for supporting trainee awards (\$200) and student-led workshop activities (providing refreshments). Our CSI-sponsored poster award was handed out by our past CSI president Dr. Aaron Marshall. See you at PIIN 2027!

Drs. Kerry Lavender (University of Saskatchewan) & Thomas Murooka (University of Manitoba)

Co-Chairs of PIIN 2025



19th Annual Infection & Immunity Research Forum (IIRF)

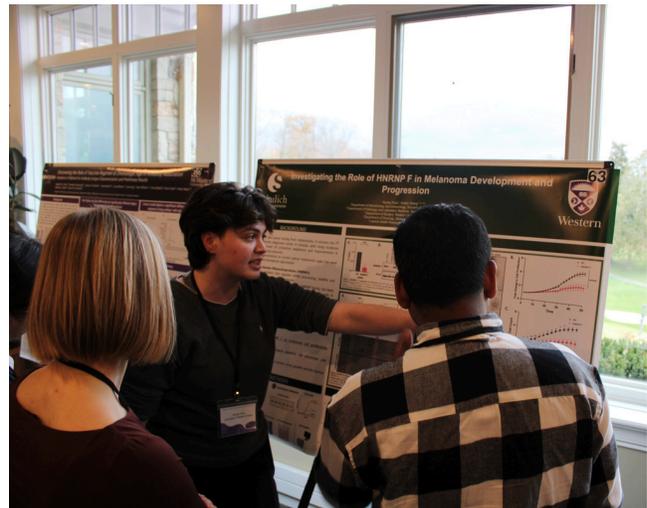
Sunningdale Golf & Country Club, London, ON, Nov. 5

CSI Member Applicants: Agetha Mahendran and Nicole Ilayda Wang, Western University

The Infection and Immunity Research Forum (IIRF) is an annual, student-led conference organized by graduate students in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Western University. Since its inception in 2006, IIRF has provided undergraduate and graduate students from across Canada with a platform to showcase their research through oral and poster presentations.

Our 19th annual IIRF took place on November 5, 2025, as a full-day event held at the Sunningdale Golf and Country Club. The conference attracted 136 attendees and featured 8 trainee talks and 78 poster presentations. IIRF 2025 was honoured to host Dr. Philip Sherman (The Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto) as the keynote speaker, who gave an amazing lecture on the controversy around prebiotics and probiotics in various disease and conditions. The event also featured a career panel session, where we invited former PhD graduates from our program now working in various industries including academia, medical writing and regulatory affairs to share their experiences. Our panelists were able to provide valuable guidance for attendees preparing to navigate life after graduate school.

The IIRF 2025 organizing committee is very grateful for the generous support provided by CSI through the new regional meeting funding program.



ECI Webinar Series

Early Career Investigators Webinar Series

This lectureship Series is named in honor of Dr. Michael Gold who has made lasting contributions to the mentoring of ECIs and/or postdoctoral scholars transitioning into independent investigator positions. Please help us celebrate the new additions to our community of scholars by nominating ECIs joining your own institutes and elsewhere. Visit the [CSI website](#) on how to nominate speakers.



The Michael Gold Webinar Series has been established by the Canadian Society for Immunology (CSI) to honor a current or past CSI member who has made lasting contributions to the mentoring of early career investigators and postdoctoral scholars transitioning into independent research positions. Dr. Gold is a Professor and former Head of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at University of British Columbia and the 2013 recipient of the CSI Cinader Award. He is known for his many contributions to the scientific community, including his roles in mentoring trainees of all levels to the top.

January 9, 2025

Dr. Caroline Lamarche, University of Montreal
"Treg role in uremic cardiomyopathy"

May 8, 2025

Dr. Francesca Di Cara, Dalhousie University
"Peroxisome dependant immunometabolism and inflammation at the crossroad of health and disease"
Sponsored by [Canadian Science Publishing](#)

July 10, 2025

Dr. Matthew Buechler, University of Toronto
"Fibroblasts and macrophages in health and disease"
Sponsored by [Canadian Science Publishing](#)

September 11, 2025

Dr. Adrian Sacher, University Health Network
"Novel Immunotherapeutics and Immunobiology of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer"

November 13, 2025

Dr. Neil Goldenberg, The Hospital for Sick Children
"Targeting inflammatory cell death in pulmonary arterial hypertension"

Research Canada

2025 Year in Review provided by Eleanor Fish

Looking back at 2025

- During prorogation, 3rd Annual Stakeholder Action Roundtable
- First-ever regional event in Montreal
- Concerted effort on tariffs and considerable uncertainty and change at NIH and NSF
- Coordinated action during election, programming to members with David Coletta
- Webinars and town halls with members on talent, pre-budget asks
- Direct GR with new government starting immediately post-election and ever since
- Positioning of health research and innovation as critical driver of Canada's sovereignty, economic transformation
- First national conference, CDANXT, at the MaRS Discovery District in Toronto in October, including Advocacy Awards
- Gairdner Awards event with Genome Canada, CIHR, Research Canada and Gairdner in the Senate of Canada
- Budget 2025 secured major wins and commitment to life sciences, research, innovation, A.I., infrastructure, defense
- Announcement in December by Ministers of Industry and Health of the Impact+ Chairs program

Looking ahead to 2026

- Briefing for members with the Tri-Agency Institutional Programs Secretariat and Canada Foundation for Innovation
- Planning for a 4th Annual Stakeholder Action Roundtable
- Research Canada Board embarking on new Strategic Planning Process
- Implementation of budget measures once those requiring legislative approval
- Greater direct advocacy and GR and increasing opportunities for members
- Convening new GR and advocacy working group
- Considering East regional event, ongoing virtual and in person Parliamentary Health Caucus and other events
- Positioning of health research and innovation as critical driver of Canada's sovereignty, economic transformation
- Planning for second national conference, CDANXT, at the MaRS Discovery District in 2027, including Advocacy Awards
- Priorities and strategy being developed for Budget 2026
- New plan and stakeholder map for this year's activities

Reminder of our engagements

- Working closely with all relevant national associations and stakeholders
- Canadian Research Coalition
- Canadian Trusted Partners Table
- Clinical Trials Action Plan
- HRF Partner Advisory Committee
- Canada's Clinical Research Workforce Strategy | External Advisory group
- Ongoing involvement in ecosystem priority setting and planning

Get involved

- Board of Directors
- Committees and working groups
- Strategic planning exercise
- Events
- Co-create programming with Research Canada
- Invite Alison to speak to your Board, committees, at an event
- Communications: newsletter, advocacy updates from Alison, distribution of press releases
- Conference planning
- Operational enhancements ... watch for data validation