

CSI 2022 Investigator Award Congratulations / Félicitations



Dr. Kathy McCoy, *Professor, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology; Scientific Director, International Microbiome Center, University of Calgary*

Dr. McCoy obtained her PhD in Immunology from the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research, Otago University, Wellington, New Zealand. She performed her postdoctoral studies and was a junior group leader at the Institute of Experimental Immunology in Zürich, Switzerland. She then held Assistant Professor positions at McMaster University (2006-2010) and University of Bern, Switzerland (2010-2016). In Sept. 2016 she moved to the University of Calgary where is a Professor in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Cumming School of Medicine, member of the Snyder Institute, and Scientific Director of the International Microbiome Center at the University of Calgary, Canada. In 2021 Dr. McCoy was awarded the Killam Memorial Chair and was elected to the Royal Society of Canada. Her research group uses germ-free and gnotobiotic models to investigate the cellular and molecular mechanisms by which the microbiome regulates host immunity and physiology. She is particularly interested in the dynamic interplay between the gut microbiota and the innate and adaptive immune systems. Her research aims to understand how exposure to intestinal microbes, particularly during early life, educates and regulates the mucosal, systemic and neuronal immune systems and how this can affect susceptibility to diseases, such as allergy, autoimmunity, and neurodevelopmental disorders. Her lab also investigates how the microbiome regulates the immune system throughout life with the aim to identify microbial therapies that can be employed to enhance current therapeutic approaches, such as in cancer.