

Microbiome and Cancer Symposium

2024 SPEAKERS



Kathy McCoy PhD, FRSC

Dr. Kathy McCoy is a Professor in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Cumming School of Medicine, member of the Snyder Institute, Director of the International Microbiome Center, and holds the Killam Memorial Chair at the University of Calgary. 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. Her lab investigates how the microbiome regulates the efficacy of cancer immunotherapy.



Abdelrahman Saqr

Abdelrahman Saqr is a dedicated and accomplished PhD candidate in Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology at the University of Minnesota's College of Pharmacy. Under the mentorship of Dr. Pamala Jacobson and Dr. Mahmoud Al-Kofahi. His research is focused on precision medicine, with a particular emphasis on immunosuppression, pharmacogenomics, and the microbiome's impact on drug disposition.



Subree Subramanian, PhD

Dr. Subramanian completed his postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University and joined the faculty at the University of Minnesota in 2007. His current research focuses on understanding how cancer cells and gut microbiome manipulate the anti-tumor immune response in colorectal cancer. Specifically, Dr. Subramanian's research has shed light on how cancer cells and the gut microbiome collaborate to suppress the immune response in patients with colorectal cancer.



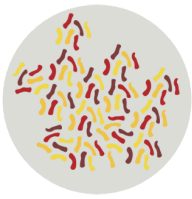
Beth Thielen, MD, PhD, FAAP, CTropMed

Dr. Thielen is a physician-scientist with both clinical and research interests focused on infectious disease pathogenesis and immunology. Dr. Thielen's lab seeks to promote the respiratory health of all children globally through the development and equitable deployment of novel prevention and treatment tools for respiratory viral pathogens.



Nathan Schuldt, PhD

Dr. Schuldt is an Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota in the Department of Pediatrics where he leads a basic science research laboratory located in the Center for Immunology. Dr. Schuldt's laboratory is focused on expanding the field's knowledge about the unique immunology of pregnancy and infancy and how events during early life influence immune development and future immunological health.



Christopher Staley, PhD

Dr. Chris Staley studies the intestinal microbiota, a vital organ critical to the development, functioning, and health of the human the host. Dr. Staley's research focus is to characterize how disruptions in this community affect the onset and progression of diseases and conditions e.g., obesity, colorectal cancer, and inflammatory bowel diseases. Dr. Staley is also an organizer of this event.



Silvia Balbo, PhD

Dr. Silvia Balbo studies the interaction of DNA and chemicals to investigate how lifestyle and environment exposures cause disease. Her work focuses on the development of mass spectrometry-based methods for the identification and quantification of DNA addition products (called adducts) in animals and humans. She is also an organizer of this event.



Abigail Johnson, PhD

Dr. Abby Johnson's research explores the relationships between diet and the human gut microbiome in health and disease using novel computational methods for dietary data. Her current focus areas include analysis of diet and microbiome after dietary interventions, methods development for dietary data analysis and visualization, and understanding the interactions between foods, microbes, and fungi during different stages of development. She is interested in exploring how diet and the microbiome interact to influence chronic diseases including prediabetes, diabetes, and cancer. She is also an organizer of this event.



Ajay Prakash, MD, PhD

Dr. Ajay Prakash is a medical oncologist specializing in gastrointestinal malignancies. His research is focused on understanding the relationship between the tumor microenvironment, prognosis, and treatment response, with a specific focus on the role of the microbiome in this process. He is also an organizer of this event.