

**SECRETARIAT**

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BACKGROUND

AMMI Canada – CACMID Annual Conference The Scientific program at a glance

Thursday, March 15 – The “Ins and Outs” of Bacterial Interaction with Host Cells

9:00 – 10:00: *Life Inside the Cell*

Presented by: Dr. Raphael Garduno, *Canada Research Chair in Food and Waterborne Bacterial Pathogens at Dalhousie University, NS*

The objective of this talk is to explore life inside the cell and the challenges that bacteria, living inside human cells have to face. It will provide an up to date view of the molecular interactions between host cells and bacterial intracellular pathogens. Dr. Garduno will focus on the mechanisms used by model bacterial pathogens to enter host cells, subvert the host cell's molecular machinery, initiate intracellular replication, and kill the host cell. The implications of the host-pathogen molecular interactions on human disease will be discussed.

10:00 – 10:45: *E.coli Interactions with Host Cells and the Microbiota*

Speaker: Dr. B. Brett Finlay, *Biotechnology Laboratory at the University of British Columbia, BC*

Pathogenic *E. coli* cause much morbidity and mortality worldwide. *E. coli* is the bacteria responsible for three types of infections in humans: urinary tract infections, neonatal meningitis, and intestinal diseases. The session will help understand the pathogenic *E.coli* interactions with host cells and the microbiota to know how *E. coli* have a specialized system that delivers virulence factors into cells and reprogram them. Dr. Finlay will present how, by using fundamental knowledge involved in adherence, scientists have developed the world's first *E. coli* O157 cattle vaccine which has recently been licensed in Canada.

Friday, March 16 – Information Technology and the World of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

9:00 – 9:45: *Canada Health Infoway*

Speaker: Tim Beasley, *Program Director, Public Health Surveillance, Canada Health Infoway*

Working with Canada Health Infoway, Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments have launched a unique program to develop and implement a new generation of public health communicable disease and immunization surveillance systems. The plenary will introduce Canada Health Infoway and its application to medical microbiology and infectious diseases with a highlight on how eHealth affects the work of physicians, and the salient points of the system, labeled "Panorama", which will be implemented in Canada's provinces and territories.

9:45 – 10:30: *Contributing to Communicable Diseases Intelligence Management in Canada*

Speaker: Dr. Amin Kabani, *National Microbiology Laboratory, Public Health Agency of Canada, Winnipeg, MB*

An introduction to the information technology developed for real-time electronic surveillance by Canadian public health stakeholders and its deployment to identify and respond to outbreaks.

11:00 – 11:45: *Electronic Tools for Infectious Diseases Physicians and Microbiologists*

Speaker: Dr. Steven Burdette, *Medical Director of Infectious Diseases, Greene Memorial Hospital, Xenia, Ohio, USA*

The session will highlight many website resources relevant to infectious diseases and medical microbiology as well as review programs and electronic tools for physicians and their utilization.

Saturday, March 17 – Scientific and Social challenges of 25 years of HIV

9:00 – 9:45: *Maternal to child transmission of HIV*

Speaker: Dr. Stanley Read, *Professor, University of Toronto*

A review of the current status and the recommendations of maternal to child transmission of HIV and the challenge of perinatal HIV infection.

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9:45 – 10:30: *Update on Anti-Retroviral Resistance in HIV*

Speaker: Dr. Rodger D. MacArthur, *Detroit Medical Centre, Detroit, USA*

Advances of the mechanisms of resistance to anti-retrovirals in those infected with HIV, as well as the extent to which resistance is being seen, have led to several recent important changes in clinical practice. The talk will discuss these issues as well as the advantages and disadvantages of the various resistance tests currently available.

10:45 – 11:30: *What are the cardiovascular risks associated with HIV?*

Speaker: Dr., Greg Bondy, *Associate Director, Heart Healthy Lipid Clinic, St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver, BC*

It is estimated that approximately 1,000,000 North Americans are currently living with HIV. The use of highly active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART) has revolutionized treatment and led to a substantially prolonged life expectancy in HIV positive men and women. Although HAART regimens are able to suppress viral replication, there is evidence that some antiretroviral drugs are associated with a range of metabolic abnormalities that may lead to cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Bondy's talk will include changes in body fat redistribution, lipid abnormalities, Insulin resistance and bone disorders. The metabolic abnormalities associated with HIV and their relation with vascular disease will be highlighted.

Sunday, March 18 – What's new with vaccines?

9:00 – 9:45: *Peering Down the Vaccine Pipeline*

Speaker: Dr. Scott Halperin, *Director, Canadian Center for Vaccinology*

The session will showcase what vaccines will be available in the short, medium and longer term, and will take a look at how a vaccine makes it from "bench to the bedside" and the challenges to developing vaccines against certain infections.

9:45 – 10:30: *Development of Novel Vaccines and the Delivery Systems*

Speaker: Dr. Lorne Babiuk, *Director and CEO, Vaccine and Infectious Diseases Organization (VIDO)*

A century after Pasteur, scientists embarked on a new era of vaccination, primarily driven by advances in molecular biology and biotechnology as well as a deeper understanding of the host immune responses and the pathogens involved in providing protection from infection.

The present talk will describe a number of different novel adjuvants and formulation systems that induce immunity in young individuals, as well as provide a balanced mucosal immune response.

11:45 – 11:45: *The Anti-Vaccination Movement*

Speaker: Dr. Kumanan Wilson, *Associate Professor, Internal Medicine, University Health Network*

An overview of the anti-vaccination movement and the strategies that could assist in bridging the divide between those who support vaccination and those who are concerned about it. Discussions will focus on an area of commonality between the two viewpoints and concerns about the health of children.

About the AMMI Canada – CACMID Annual Conference

The Annual Conference, *Where Canada's experts in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Meet*, is a conjoint meeting between the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease (AMMI) Canada (www.amm.ca) and the Canadian Association for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (CACMID) (www.cacmid.ca). The meeting is also an approved Accredited Group Learning Activity as defined by the Maintenance of Certification program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

About AMMI Canada

The Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease (AMMI) Canada is the national association that represents physicians and researchers specializing in the fields of medical microbiology and infectious diseases. Through research, education, and partnerships with other associations, AMMI Canada strives to protect people from existing and emerging infectious diseases and to provide treatment for those who are affected. For more information, visit www.amm.ca

About CACMID

The Canadian Association for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (CACMID) is a national association composed of physicians, researchers, technologists and students primarily focused on laboratory aspects of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases. Their goals are to enhance scientific exchange within the association, promote education and research, and support clinical microbiology standards and practices. For more information, visit www.cacmid.ca

For more information about the AMMI Canada - CACMID Annual Conference 2007, go to **www.ammi.ca/annual_conference**.

The plenary sessions are open to the media. To attend the conference or to request an interview with an expert on any of the above topics, please contact:

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