McGill | AMR Antimicrobial Resistance Centre

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AMR SEMINAR + SOCIAL

Thursday, November 23, 2023
3:00-5:00pm | Cruess Auditorium

Welcome

- Makeda Semret, MD, Division of Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology at MUHC, Co-director of AMR Centre

Topic: "This is Why We Can't Have Nice Things How to get novel antimicrobials in Canada"

- Keynote: Andrew Morris
- Panel discussion
  - Andrew Morris, MD, University of Toronto
  - Anita Melnyk, PhD, Council of Canadian Academies
  - Rees Kassen, PhD, McGill University
  - Andréanne Lupien, PhD, McGill University

Please join us after the program for snacks and drinks in the Atrium.

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About our speakers

Andrew Morris, MD., MSc. is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto and the Medical Director of the Sinai Health-University Health Network Antimicrobial Stewardship Program. He is currently Chair of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee for the Society for Hospital Epidemiology of America (SHEA) and chairs the Antimicrobial Stewardship Working Group for Accreditation Canada. He was appointed to the Canadian Government's Expert Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (EAGAR) in 2015. Chair of the Council of Canadian Academies Expert Panel on Antimicrobial Availability (CCA report Overcoming resistance released in Oct 2023). Dr. Morris obtained his medical degree from the University of Toronto, where he subsequently completed specialty training in Internal Medicine and subspecialty training in Infectious Diseases. He went on to complete a Masters of Science degree in Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health, while completing a Canadian Infectious Diseases Society (now AMMI Canada) research fellowship. He often says that his primary job is coaching basketball, which he started doing over 30 years ago.
Andrew has worked closely with regional, provincial, and federal governments and interprovincial organizations to help develop and coordinate antimicrobial stewardship efforts. He is widely sought as a speaker and consultant on antimicrobial stewardship, behaviour change, implementation, and quality improvement and has authored >100 peer-reviewed publications.

Anita Melnyk, PhD. joined the CCA in 2016 through the internship program and now holds the position of Project Director. She is responsible for leading assessment projects, working directly with CCA expert panels to review, evaluate, and synthesize knowledge on policy-related subjects. She enjoys the fast-paced and multifaceted work environment at the CCA, embracing the opportunity to delve deeply into multiple assessment topics simultaneously. Anita's research interests span evolutionary biology, bioinformatics, genomics, and antimicrobial resistance, as well as gender equality in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), and the role of science in evidence-based policy. Anita holds both a PhD and M.Sc. in Biology from the University of Ottawa, and a B.Sc. (Hon.) in Biology from Queen's University. Anita's academic research used experimental evolution, following microbial adaptation in real time, to explore the impact of fundamental evolutionary processes on applications for human health, such as identifying the genomic underpinnings of antimicrobial resistance in bacterial pathogens.
During her time at the University of Ottawa, Anita also gained extensive experience volunteering in the fields of gender equality in STEM and science policy. She has authored a number of research papers in evolutionary biology, has been a Bromley Science Policy Fellow, and received NSERC Alexander Graham Bell funding throughout her graduate studies. During her time at the CCA, Anita has worked on a number of assessments including The Potential Socio-economic Impacts of Antimicrobial Resistance in Canada, Medical Assistance in Dying, and Building Canada's Strengths in Regenerative Medicine

Rees Kassen PhD. is Full Professor of Evolutionary Biology and Trottier Professor of Science and Public Policy at McGill University, where he also leads the Coronavirus in the Urban Built Environment initiative as its scientific director. He is internationally recognized for his work with microbes as models for studying the evolution of biodiversity. He is also active at the interface between science, society, and policy, currently serving as Director of the Trottier Institute for Science and Public Policy at McGill and co-chair of the EvolvES global research network at FutureEarth. Rees previously served as Chair of the Science and Innovation Advisory Council at the Institute on Governance, was a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Scientific Collaboration. From 2009-2014 Rees led the Partnership Group for Science and Engineering (PAGSE; www.pagse.org), an association of 26 professional and scientific organizations acting on behalf of over 60,000 members from academia, industry and government in Canada, and was a founder and Co-Chair of the Global Young Academy (www.globalyoungacademy.net), an international organization of early-career researchers acting as the voice of young scientists around the world. Rees completed his PhD at McGill University (2001) and went on to an NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship and Elizabeth Wordsworth Research Fellowship at St Hugh's College, Oxford, joining the University of Ottawa in 2003. Awards and recognitions include an Edward P. Bass Distinguished Visiting Scholar (Yale University, 2022), a Leopold Leadership Fellow (2013), NSERC Steacie Fellow (2010), and a World Economic Forum Young Scientist (2010-12).

Andréanne Lupien, Ph.D is an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Microbiology and Immunology at McGill University (RI-MUHC). She is also the Director of the Containment Level 3 Platform at RI-MUHC and has been a full member of the McGill International TB Center and the McGill AMR Center since August 2023. Her main research interests involve evaluating and developing new treatments for tuberculosis (both active disease and latent infection) and for non-tuberculous mycobacterial pulmonary disease.
Andréanne obtained her Ph.D. in Cellular and Molecular Biology from Laval University. She did her postdoctoral studies at the Ecole Polytechnique Féderale de Lausanne (Switzerland) and RI-MUHC (McGill University). Her work focused on assessing and characterizing the mode of action of new compounds and combinations active against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (M.tb), the pathogenic agent responsible for tuberculosis and non-tuberculous mycobacteria from the initial discovery (hit identification and hit-to-lead optimization) to pre-clinical studies. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic,
She played a role in establishing the CL3 laboratory for SARS-CoV-2 research at the RI-MUHC. Additionally, she served as a project manager for industry contracts related to SARS-CoV-2, contributing to the development of experimental approaches and assessing the efficacy of new COVID-19 treatments in vitro and in vivo.