The Canadian **Donation and Transplantation** Research Program
Programme de recherche en **don et transplantation** du Canada

Scientific Meeting
December 1-2 2026 | **Edmonton, AB** | Hybrid

Congrès Scientifique
1 - 2 décembre 2026 | Edmonton, AB | Hybride

PROGRAM

Tuesday, December 1, 2026, Edmonton Convention Centre, Hybrid

Registration: https://groupize.com/gz/app/e/cdtrp-2026-scientific-meeting-from-bench-to-business-workshop-7a4487

Plenary Room – Salon 10-11

8:00 – 8:10	**Opening Remarks**		
	8:00-8:10	Opening Remarks	Dr. Chantal Bémeur, Dr. Jonathan Choy
8:10 – 8:50	**Keynote Presentation**		**Moderator: Dr. Chantal Bémeur**
	8:10 - 8:50	Advancing Whole-Person Health Across the Transplant Journey	Dr. Puneeta Tandon, Dr. Emily Johnson (Supervisor: Dr. Puneeta Tandon), Christopher Cruz (Supervisor: Dr. Puneeta Tandon)
8:50 – 10:00	**Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Donation and Transplantation Research**		**Moderator: Dr. Patricia Gongal**
	8:50 - 8:55	Introductions	Dr. Patricia Gongal
	8:55 - 9:15	Engaging African, Caribbean, and Black Communities in Research	Dr. Jacqui Getfield, Charles Cook
	9:15-9:25	Understanding First Nations Kidney Care and Transplant Pathways in Ontario: An Indigenous-Led Mixed-Methods Study	Crystal Hardy (Supervisor: Dr. Istvan Mucsi)
	9:25-9:35	Intersectionality in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to Enhance Equity in Transplantation: A Scoping Review and Exploratory Qualitative Pilot	Duy Dinh (Supervisor: Dr. Suze Berkhout)
	9:35-10:00	Panel Discussion	Dr. Jacqui Getfield, Charles Cook, Crystal Hardy, Duy Dinh
10:00 – 10:30	**Break**		
10:30 – 12:00	**Restore long-term health**		**Moderator(s): Dr. Chantal Bémeur**
	10:30-10:35	Introductions	Dr. Chantal Bémeur

	10:35-11:30	Bridging the Divides: Building the Evidence for eHealth Interventions Across the Transplant Continuum	Dr. Samantha Anthony, Dr. Suze Berkhout, Dr. Katherine Cardwell, Joanna Mitchell
	11:30-11:45	Exploring Lived Experiences of Kidney Graft Loss Through Narrative Podcasting	Dr. Anita Slominska (Supervisor: Dr. Shaifali Sandal)
	11:45-12:00	Comparative Machine Learning Approach for Predicting Primary Biliary Cholangitis Recurrence Post-Liver Transplant	Sage Kim (Supervisor: Drs. Mamatha Bhat, Aldo Montano-Loza, Ellina Lytvyak & Ms Yingji Sun)
12:00 – 13:00	**Lunch Break**		
13:00 – 14:00	**Poster presentations** ***** in-person only, held in the foyer***		
14:15 – 15:30	**Improve a Culture of Donation and Inform Universal Practices of Donation**		**Moderator (s): Dr. Sonny Dhanani, Dr. Anne Halpin, Julia St. Louis**
	14:15-14:20	Introductions	Dr. Sonny Dhanani, Julia St. Louis
	14:20-15:00	National Guidance on Implementation of Normothermic Regional Perfusion in Canada and Next Steps	Dr. Marat Slessarev
	15:00-15:30	Death One Hour After Terminal Extubation (DONATE) machine learning model	Dr. Meredith Winter
15:30 – 16:00	**Break**		
16:00 – 17:00	**16:00-16:05**	Introductions	Dr. Anne Halpin
	16:05-16:25	Integrity in Donation and Transplant Research, Report from an International Ethics Guidance Project	Dr. Matt Weiss
	16:25-16:55	Living Kidney Donor Follow-up and Outcomes: Caring for Those Who Care for Others	Dr. Ngan Lam
	16:55-17:15	Implementation of a Peer Support Initiative for Kidney Transplant Recipients and Living Kidney Donors: A Program Report on the Transplant Ambassador Program	Susan McKenzie, Kyla Naylor
	17:15-17:20	Closing remarks	Dr. Chantal Bémeur, Dr. Jonathan Choy

SOCIAL ACTIVITY - Book Club - Salon 15-16

18:30 - 20:00	**Book Club**	
	Other Endings is a memoir about Anita Slominska's sister's wait for a liver transplant and her death in 2004, described by the publisher as *"a journey through grief, loss and coming to terms with the tragic ending of a transplant story."* "Other Endings: Organ Transplantation and the Burden of Hope" by Dr. Anita Slominska, is now available for purchase! ****in-person only, separate registration is required**	Moderator (s): Dr. Suze Berkhout, Dr. Anita Slominska

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Workshop room – Salon 17-18

The Duffy Null Variant; bridging transfusion medicine, transplantation, and health equity
Hosted by Dr. Warren Fingrut

12:00 – 13:00	**Lunch Break**		
13:00 – 14:00	**Poster presentations** ***** in-person only, held in the foyer & Salon 15-16***		
14:15 – 15:30	**The Duffy Null Variant; bridging transfusion medicine, transplantation, and health equity**		**Dr. Warren Fingrut**
	14:15-14:20	Welcome and introductions	Dr. Warren Fingrut
	14:20-14:45	How patients with Duffy Null are impacted in Transplant Care?	Dr. Warren Fingrut
	14:45-15:15	Breakout discussions	
	15:15-15:30	Shareback	
15:30 – 16:00	**Break**		

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PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 2, 2026, Edmonton Convention Centre, Hybrid

Registration: https://groupize.com/gz/app/e/cdtrp-2026-scientific-meeting-from-bench-to-business-workshop-7a4487

Plenary room – Salon 10-11

8:00 – 9:00	**Opening Remarks and CDTRP Year in Review**		
	8:00-8:15	Opening Remarks	Dr. Chantal Bémeur, Dr. Jonathan Choy
	8:15-9:00	CDTRP Year in Review	Dr. Patricia Gongal, Dr. Lori West
9:00 – 10:00	**The Canadian Society of Transplantation Collaborative Session**		**Moderator: Dr. Fred d'Aragon**
	9:00-10:00	Understanding the national capacity for **Randomized Clinical Trials** in donation and transplantation	Dr. Ruth Sapir-Pichhadze
10:00 – 10:30	**Break**		
10:30 – 12:00	**Engineer and allocate better grafts and Tailor an optimal immune system for each patient**		**Moderator(s): Lindsay Thompson, Dr. Jonathan Choy**
	10:30-10:35	Introductions	Dr. Lindsay Thompson
	10:35-11:30	Therapeutic drug monitoring and precision dosing of immunosuppressants in pediatric kidney transplantation (KTR)	Drs. Tony Kiang, Yan Rong, Jenny Wichart
	11:30-11:45	Bridging scale-up to transplant: Pluripotent stem cell-derived islet encapsulation in alginate beads via a scalable emulsion-based process	Marie Billaud (Supervisor: Dr. Corinne Hoelsi)
	11:45-12:00	Complement C3 deficiency preserves renal microvasculature and attenuates fibrosis in aged kidneys following ischemia-reperfusion injury.	Louis Vanpeperstraete (Supervisors: Drs. Marie-José Hébert & Francis Migneault)
12:00 – 13:00	**Alberta Transplant Institute Lunch Symposium**		
	12:15-13:00	**Ethical issues regarding the organ allocation process and molecular matching**	Speaker: Dr. Marie-Chantal Fortin Moderator: Dr. Saeideh Davoodi
13:00 – 14:30	**Engineer and allocate better grafts and Tailor an optimal immune system for each patient**		**Moderator: Shilpa Raju**

	13:00-13:05	Introductions	Shilpa Raju
	13:05-13:45	Reconsidering live attenuated viral vaccines in paediatric solid organ transplant recipients - Panel	Speakers: Dr. Hana Mitchell, Dr. Catherine Burton, Elaine Yong, Dr. Karina Top
	13:45-14:00	Engineering tacrolimus-resistant A2-CAR Tregs for use in solid organ transplantation	Robbie Wright (Supervisor: Dr. Megan Levings)
	14:00-14:15	Low HLA class II expression on regulatory T cells derived from human thymus for tolerogenic cell therapy in transplant recipients	Sarjana Alam (Supervisor: Dr. Esmé Dijke)
	14:15-14:30	TBC	Dr. Ana Konvalinka
14:30 – 14:45	**Closing remarks**		
	14:30-14:45	Concluding remarks	Dr. Chantal Bémeur, Dr. Jonathan Choy
14:45 – 15:15	**Break**		
15:15 – 17:00	**Network Funding Development Planning Session**		
	15:15-17:00	Network Funding and Development Planning Session	

Social Activity - Movie Night at the Muttart Theatre

Edmonton Public Library - Stanley A. Milner (Downtown), 7 Sir Winston Churchill Sq NW, Edmonton, AB T5J 2V5

18:30 - 21:30 **Doors open: 18:30** **Doors close 19:00**	**Thanks for the Liver Screening**	
	"Thanks for the Liver" is a first-person, Toronto-rooted documentary that follows the year before and after Fraser's living liver transplant—donor–recipient dynamics, clinician care at Toronto General, and the recovery that follows. ****in-person only, separate, paid, registration is required**	Speaker: Fraser Allen Best Moderator: Dr. Suze Berkhout

Workshop room – Salon 15-16, IN-PERSON ONLY

Qualitative Research in Donation and Transplantation: How do we Support It, Why Does it Matter? Hosted by Drs. Marie-Chantal Fortin, Suze Berkhout and Anita Slominska

10:00 – 10:30	**Break**		
10:30 – 11:30	**Qualitative Research 101**		
	10:30-10:50	Introduction to qualitative research	Dr. Marie-Chantal Fortin
	10:50-11:10	The Big Ten Criteria for excellence in qualitative research	Dr. Anita Slominska
	11:10-11:30	Overview of donation and transplantation research studies that utilized a qualitative methodology.	Dr. Suze Berkhout
	11:30-12:00	Networking session	
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break + ATI Sponsored Lunch (Dr. Marie-Chantal Fortin)		
13:30– 15:00	**Study and Grant Development for Qualitative Research**		
	13:30-13:35	Welcome back	
	13:35-14:00	Roundtable discussion: Challenges in designing and implementing qualitative research studies.	Moderator: Dr. Anita Slominska
	14:25-14:50	Panel Discussion: Grant development: how to position your proposal for success	Dr. Leanne Stalker, Dr. Marie-Chantal Fortin, Dr. Marat Slessarev, Dr. Suze Berkhout
	14:50-15:00	Conclusion	
15:00 – 15:30	**Break**		

Workshop room – Salon 17-18, Hybrid

RCT Consensus Workshop (Closed Research Meeting)
Hosted by Dr. Frederick D'Aragon

10:00 – 10:15	**Break**		
10:15 – 12:00	**10:15 - 10:45**	Welcome and Overview of Workshop Goals and Objectives	**Dr. Frédérick d'Aragon**
	10:45 - 11:30	Domain #1: Research Participant Status Statement Review and Discussion	
	11:30 - 12:00	Domain #2: Informed Consent Requirements	
12:00 – 13:00	**Lunch Break + ATI Sponsored Lunch (Dr. Marie-Chantal Fortin)**		
13:00 – 15:00	**13:00 - 13:30**	Domain #2: Informed Consent Requirements	
	13:30 - 13:50	Domain #3: Logistical Challenges	
	13:50 - 14:10	Domain #4: Regulatory Challenges Oversight	
	14:10 - 14:30	Domain #5: Patient, Family, and Public Trust	
	14:30 - 14:50	Domain #6: Harm Benefit Analysis - Level of Risk	
	14:50- 15:00	Wrap up and overview of next steps	**Dr. Frédérick d'Aragon**
15:00 – 15:15	**Break**		

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

From Bench to Business
Commercial Pathways in Immunology Diagnostics
December 3, 2026 | **Edmonton, AB** | Hybrid

Du laboratoire au marché
Parcours commerciaux en diagnostics immunologiques
3 décembre, 2026 | **Edmonton, AB** | Hybride

PROGRAM

Thursday, December 3, 2026, Edmonton Convention Centre, Hybrid

Registration: https://groupize.com/gz/app/e/cdtrp-2026-scientific-meeting-from-bench-to-business-workshop-7a4487

Plenary Room – Salon 10-11

8:30 – 8:45	**Opening remarks**		**Speaker(s)**
	8:30-8:45	Opening remarks	Dr. Anne Halpin, Dr. Francis Migneault
8:45 – 9:30	**Identifying the business Value of research**		
	Primary goal: Help researchers distinguish between scientific and commercial value while understanding the pathway to commercialization.		Moderator: Christine Reimer
	8:45-9:30	Translating research into commercially viable opportunities, including identifying real-world problems, articulating value propositions, assessing commercial potential and technology readiness, and understanding product-market fit.	Ron Mills
9:30 – 10:30	**Planning with the end-user in mind**		
	Primary goal: Ensure that end users and stakeholders are integrated early in the innovation process.		Moderator: Dr. Anne Halpin
	9:30-9:50	Understanding users and stakeholders, identifying early adopters, mapping user experiences and early adoption barriers, and developing Minimum Viable Prototypes (MVPs).	Dr. Dave Lowe
	9:50-10:10	Clinical need identification and validation, stakeholder engagement, understanding early adoption barriers, and developing early-stage solutions aligned with real-world healthcare needs.	Dr. Nicole Prokopishyn
	10:10-10:30	Questions/Discussion	Dr. Dave Lowe, and Dr. Nicole Prokopishyn
10:30 – 11:00	**Break**		
11:00 – 12:00	**Understanding technology transfer**		
	Primary goal: Demystify how research moves from the university to the marketplace.		Moderator: Dr. Jason Acker
	11:00-12:00	Intellectual property and technology transfer, including commercialization pathways, invention disclosure, university IP policies, publication	Joanna Preston

		considerations, and the transition from research discoveries to licensing or startup creation.	
		Intellectual property and technology transfer, including commercialization pathways, invention disclosure, university IP policies, publication considerations, and the transition from research discoveries to licensing or startup creation.	Darren Fast
		This "Fire-side Chat" session will address common concerns around IP, publication and commercialization with a technology transfer team expert.	Darren Fast and Joanna Preston
12:00 – 13:00	**Lunch Break**		
13:00 – 14:00	**Developing a business plan**		
	Primary goal: Position the business plan as a strategic and evolving tool rather than a static document.		Moderator: Dr. Praveen Pedabaliyarasimhuni
	13:00-13:20	Developing viable business models, including defining revenue streams, tailoring business plans to different audiences, setting milestones, identifying resource and skill gaps, and adapting plans as the venture evolves.	Dr. Corinne Hoesli
	13:20-13:40	Developing viable business models, including defining revenue streams, tailoring business plans to different audiences, setting milestones, identifying resource and skill gaps, and adapting plans as the venture evolves.	Dr. Avi Sheshachalam
	13:40-14:00	Questions/Discussion	Dr. Avi Sheshachalam & Dr. Corinne Hoesli
14:00 – 14:30	**Implementing quality management systems**		
	14:00-14:30	The proposed speaker will cover basics of quality systems and how these impact not only the needs at the time of commercialisation but also all stages of innovation	Moderator: Dr. Lori West Speaker: Gayle Piat
14:30 – 15:00	**Break**		
15:00 – 16:00	**Navigating regulatory pathways**		

	Primary goal: Build early awareness of regulatory requirements and their impact on commercialization timelines. + Introduce quality systems as a foundational component of successful commercialization.		Moderator: Dr. Anne Halpin & Dr. Francis Migneault
	15:00-15:20	Navigating regulatory requirements and quality systems, including understanding their impact on commercialization timelines, mapping regulatory pathways, implementing quality systems, and engaging with regulatory, quality, and clinical trials considerations.	John Simon
	15:20-15:40	Preparing for quality inspections, including understanding inspection requirements, readiness planning, and addressing common compliance considerations.	Sindhu Nair
	15:40-16:00	Questions/Discussion	John Simon & Sindhu Nair
16:00 – 16:30	**Closing Remarks**		
	16:00-16:30	Closing Remarks	Dr. Anne Halpin, Dr. Francis Migneault