



Fundamental research scientists, clinicians and epidemiologists



# From molecules to healthcare

[idigh.ca/symposium](http://idigh.ca/symposium)

Conference  
Networking  
Vendor show

# IDIGH

# Symposium 2018

# Friday October 19

McGill University Health Centre, Glen Site, Block E

# Welcome

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[idigh.ca](http://idigh.ca)



IDIGHProgram

Dear Symposium Attendees,

It is with great pleasure that the Infectious Diseases and Immunity in Global Health Program (IDIGH) of the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC) welcomes you to join its fourth annual Symposium.

The objective of the IDIGH Symposium is to provide a platform for all participants to interact and exchange research ideas in the area of infectious diseases, immunity and global health. Each year the symposium brings together at least 245 attendees from more than 40 different academic research departments, centers and institutions or companies. They are graduate students, established researchers, highly qualified research professionals or representatives of companies that provide a broad range of lab equipment, drugs, chemicals, new technologies and services. The synergies emerging from our symposium lead to innovative new collaborations not only among the RI-MUHC/McGill groups but also in the larger Canadian and international Global Health communities. This ecosystem contributes to the training of our students who will constitute the workforce of tomorrow.

The focus of the IDIGH Symposium 2018 is “From molecules to healthcare”. We are grateful for the participation of our guest speakers who are leading experts in the fields of genetics and immunology (Dr. Luis Barreiro), HIV and viral latency (Dr. Nicolas Chomont), vaccine development (Dr. Mark Larché) and point of care diagnostics for HIV and co-infections (Dr. Nitika Pai). We are looking forward to learning about the latest results of their cutting-edge research and are enthusiastic to apply their experiences in moving “from molecules to healthcare” into our own efforts.



# Symposium Schedule

10:30-12:00

## Registration

Collect your name tag and door prize sponsor sheet

10:30-12:00

## Sponsor product show, coffee and pastries

Visit sponsor booths, collect stamps and enjoy refreshments

12:00-1:25

## Sponsor product show and lunch

Lunch will be served to registered guests

1:25-1:30

## Introductory remarks - **Dr. Bruce Mazer**

Executive Director/Chief Scientific Officer of the RI-MUHC

1:30-2:05

## Keynote speaker - **Dr. Nitika Pai**

SmartApp solutions for Point-of-Care technologies—Innovation, Implementation & Impact

2:05-2:40

## Keynote speaker - **Dr. Nicolas Chomont**

HIV reservoirs: Where does HIV hide?

2:40-3:00

## Coffee Break

3:00-3:35

## Keynote speaker - **Dr. Mark Larché**

Developing curative therapeutic vaccines for chronic inflammatory diseases

3:35-4:10

## Keynote speaker - **Dr. Luis Barreiro**

Evolution of innate immune responses in primates

4:10-4:35

## Closing remarks - **Dr. Erwin Schurr**

Closing remarks, IDIGH Travel awards and door prizes

4:35-6:00

## Wine and cheese and networking

Mingle among your colleagues!

Made possible thanks to  
our major sponsors



Dr. Mark Larché



Dr. Nitika Pai



Dr. Luis Barreiro



Dr. Nicolas Chomont



IDIGH Symposium 2018 speakers

# Keynote Speakers



## Dr. Luis Barreiro

*Associate Professor, Genetics Section, University of Chicago*

Luis Barreiro received his undergraduate and Master's degrees in Biotechnology at Lusófona University, Lisbon, Portugal. In 2008, he obtained his PhD in Human Population Genetics from the University of Paris VII, followed by a post-doc in the Department of Human Genetics at the University of Chicago. From 2011 to 2018 he was Professor at the Université de Montréal, and a researcher at the CHU Sainte-Justine. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Genetics division, at the University of Chicago. His work has been pioneer at using population genomic data to characterize the genetic basis of inter-individual differences in immune response to infectious agents.



## Dr. Nicolas Chomont

*Associate research professor, Centre de Recherche du CHUM, Axe Immunopathologie*

Dr. Nicolas Chomont is an Associate professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Université de Montréal (CHUM Research Center). He obtained his PhD in medical virology at Pierre et Marie Curie University in Paris where he extensively studied the interactions between HIV and the genital mucosa. From 2004 to 2009, he joined Dr Sekaly's team at the University of Montreal for his post-doctoral training. During this time, he described several cellular reservoirs that contribute to the persistence of HIV in infected individuals receiving antiretroviral therapy. He pursued his research as a principal investigator at the Vaccine & Gene Therapy Institute of Florida to characterize these reservoirs which represent the main obstacle to HIV eradication. At the Université de Montréal, Dr. Chomont is overseeing studies to unravel the molecular mechanisms involved in HIV latency and to develop novel therapeutic strategies aimed at reducing the size of the HIV reservoir.

# Keynote Speakers



## Dr. Mark Larché

*Divisions of Clinical Immunology & Allergy, and Respiriology, Department of Medicine and Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health, The Research Institute at St. Joe's, McMaster University*

Dr. Larché completed his PhD in Immunology at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, University of London in 1990. He spent 3 years at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN as a postdoctoral fellow. He returned to the Immunology Department at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, prior to joining the faculty of the National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London (1995). In Sept 2006 he moved to McMaster University, Canada.

Dr. Larché has authored over 160 scientific papers and 17 patents. He has been the recipient of several international prizes including "The Respiratory 2000 International Young Investigator Award", "The Henning Lowenstein Research Award 2000" and the "Pharmacia Allergy Research Foundation Award" in 2001. Together with Professor AB Kay, he co-founded Circassia Ltd. ([www.circassia.co.uk](http://www.circassia.co.uk)), a biotechnology company developing vaccines for allergic diseases. More recently he was Founding Scientist of Adiga Life Sciences, a Joint Venture between Circassia Ltd and McMaster University. Research interests include the immunopathogenesis of asthma/allergy, immunological mechanisms of immunotherapy, pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases and graft rejection.

Dr. Larché's research program is funded by CIHR, Canada Research Chairs Program, Canada Foundation for Innovation, Ontario Research Fund, National Institutes of Health (USA), Public Health Agency of Canada, Scleroderma Society of Ontario, McMaster University/GSK endowed Chair and Adiga Life Sciences.

# Keynote Speakers



## Dr. Nitika Pai

*Department of Medicine, McGill University*

*Research Scientist, Research Institute of the MUHC*

Dr. Nitika Pant Pai (Nikki Pai) research vision is to develop innovative, digital screening strategies and solutions, for HIV self- testing and monitoring, test/treat strategies for Hepatitis C /Hepatitis B, multiplexed co-infection screening strategies for STBBIs and for access to sexual and reproductive health. Some of these solutions are being scaled nationally and internationally. Her research has informed domestic and global policy on the point of care diagnostics to date. She has contributed to WHO global HIV self-testing guidelines and implementation guidance document on HIV self-testing. She has served on various technical working groups on HIV self-testing, Multiplexed testing, Point-of-care testing, for the WHO, the Gates Foundation, UNAIDS DAI initiative, FIND, PSI, CHAI, and the Office of Science of the US Congress, among others.

She is a recipient of many research awards: CIHR New Investigator award 2010, McMaster University's Chanchalani Award for Research Excellence in HIV 2012, McGill University's Maude Abbott Award for research excellence 2013, Grand Challenges Canada's Stars in Global Health Awards (2011,2013, 2017) FRSQ Chercheur Boursier award 2015, GCC's Transition to scale award (2015). Her research is supported by grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the FRSQ Quebec, Grand Challenges Canada, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, NIH, among others. She was recently appointed the member of the New College of Scholars in the Arts & Sciences of the Royal Society of Canada. She is also a social entrepreneur and has founded a social enterprise called Sympact-X to take innovations to scale in the real world. Nikki's work has been featured in the Economist, MacLeans, The Globe and Mail, Gazette, Times now, Times, CTV. CBC, and international media.

# Product Show

10:30

Visit our sponsors for a chance to win door prizes



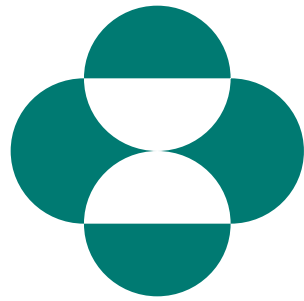
To be eligible to win one of many exciting door prizes, you must visit at least 12 vendor booths and collect a stamp form each of them. Once you have a minimum of 12 stamps, return the stamped sheet to the registration desk and you will be entered in the door prize draw. Good luck to all who participate!



2:30

# Sponsors & Partners

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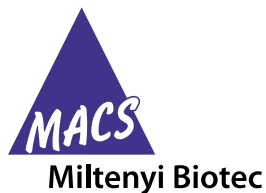


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# Getting Here



## Our address

1001 Decarie Blvd  
Montreal, QC  
H4A 3J1



Vendôme



77-37-90-102-  
104-105-124

## Using car

**Parking:** the underground parking is indicated in blue on the map below. The entrance is also indicated by a blue arrow.

**Delivery:** it's possible to park your car freely in front of the RI-MUHC Block E for 30 min (Orange area on the map).



**Parking rates:** see [muhc.ca](http://muhc.ca) for the parking rates.

