



training a new generation of researchers
in gastroenterology and liver

former une nouvelle génération de
chercheurs en gastro-entérologie et foie

ANNUAL SUMMIT

26-27 Feb 2025
Quebec City Convention Centre





ANNUAL SUMMIT

26 - 27 Feb 2025

WELCOME FROM YOUR LEADERSHIP

Welcome to the 3rd annual TRIANGLE Summit, hosted in vibrant Quebec City. We are truly honored to have you join us for this transformative event, and thank our sponsors listed below for making this possible.

This year's theme, "Empowering Indigenous Voices: Bridging Research, Leadership, and Community," invites us to embark on a powerful journey of collaboration, learning, and innovation in the field of digestive health. Together, we will explore how Indigenous perspectives and methodologies can enrich and elevate research—not just in Canada, but globally. We firmly believe that the integration of traditional Indigenous knowledge with contemporary research practices will unlock new pathways toward a more inclusive, effective, and impactful future. By bridging these worlds, we can create research that is not only more representative but also more attuned to the needs of diverse communities, ultimately improving health outcomes for all.

Over the next few days, we will dive into cutting-edge research, explore new strategies, and cultivate the leadership and collaboration necessary to drive meaningful change. This summit is not only about advancing science but about ensuring that our work is grounded in diverse, inclusive perspectives—helping to shape a healthier, more equitable future for people worldwide.

Throughout the summit, you'll have the chance to engage with distinguished speakers, participate in thought-provoking workshops, and connect with peers who share your passion for advancing GI and liver research. We encourage you to seize these opportunities to broaden your knowledge, forge lasting connections, and inspire one another toward new solutions and impactful action.

Let's work together to build a future where Canadian researchers lead with purpose, innovate with integrity, and make a profound, lasting difference in global health. We look forward to a dynamic and inspiring gathering that will fuel collaboration and drive progress for years to come.

Sincerely,

Nicola Jones, MD FRCPC PhD. TRIANGLE Lead

Derek McKay, PhD CAGF FAPS FCAHS Dr.h.c. (LI.U). TRIANGLE Co-Lead

Bruce Vallance, PhD. TRIANGLE Co-Lead

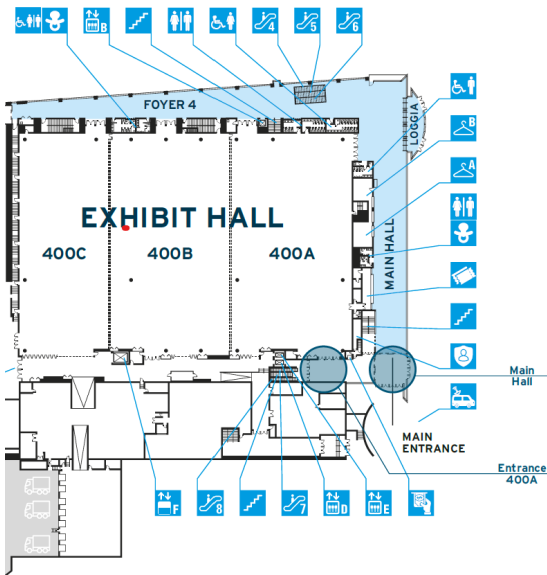


CENTRE DES CONGRESS DE QUEBEC

[CLICK HERE FOR A COMPLETE MAP](#)

INDOOR PASSAGE FROM THE DELTA HOTEL

Take the Elevators to Level C, stay to the left side and follow the signs to the convention centre, which will lead you to the registration desk.



**LEVEL 4
REGISTRATION & ENTRANCE**

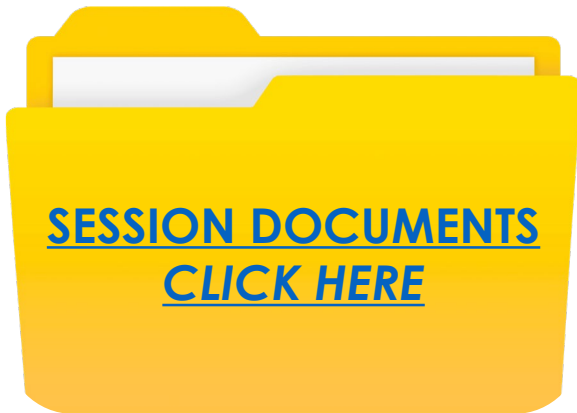
**LEVEL 3
OUR ROOMS:
308B, 309A, 309B**





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SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK



AGENDA

Tuesday February 25th 2025

TRIANGLE Salutation Social. Presidential Suite. Delta Hotel. 11th floor, Rm 1193.
Facilitators: Nicola Jones, Derek McKay, Bruce Vallance, Linda Pires
Swing by, say hi. Tasty bites and beverages awaiting.

7:00 –
10:00 pm



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Wednesday February 26th 2025

BREAKFAST – 1 hour – 309A

9:00 –
10:00 am

Opening Prayer followed by An Introduction to Indigenous Research Methodologies and Methods. RM 309B

Jaris Swidrovich, BSP, PharmD, PhD

Facilitator: Juan-Nicolas Pena-Sanchez



PRE-WORK
See Session Details



**CLICK on
underlined
agenda items
for details**

BREAK – 30 min – 309A

10:30 am –
12:00 pm

Engaging and Working with Indigenous Community Members. RM 309B

Ulrich Teucher, Jaris Swidrovich, Rhonda Sanderson, Robert Porter

Facilitator: Juan-Nicolas Pena-Sanchez

LUNCH – 1 hour – 309A

1:00 –
2:00 pm

Becoming a Resilient Scientist (Cohort 3). RM 309B

Smita L S Halder MBChB, MRCP, MRes, PhD.

Vanina Noejovich, PhD.



PRE-WORK
See Session Details

**Annual Reviews
Award Cohorts 1 & 2
Hall 310**

BREAK – 30 min – 309A

2:30 –
4:00 pm

Growing as a Faculty Leader: developing your 'Leader Muscles.' RM 309B

Karen Murray, MD

Facilitator: Nicola Jones

Patient Advisory RM 308B

Facilitator: Juan-Nicolas Pena-Sanchez

FREE TIME – 1 hour

5:00 –
6:30 pm

TRIANGLE Network Mixer & Award Presentations

Delta Hotel. Wolfe Montcalm Foyer. 3rd floor

Facilitators: Nicola Jones, Derek McKay, Bruce Vallance

6:30 pm

Dinner. Delta Hotel. Wolfe Montcalm. 3rd floor



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Thursday February 27th 2025

BREAKFAST – 1 hour – 309A

9:00 –
10:00 am

Graduate Presentations. RM 309B
Facilitators: Derek McKay, Bruce Vallance

BREAK – 30 min – 309A

10:30 –
11:00 am

Graduate Presentations Cont. RM 309B
Facilitators: Nicola Jones, Derek McKay, Bruce Vallance

11:00 –
11:30 am

Graduate Lessons Learned. RM 309B
Facilitators: Nicola Jones, Derek McKay, Bruce Vallance

11:30 am –
12:00 pm

Graduate Certificate Presentation. RM 309B
Facilitators: Nicola Jones, Derek McKay, Bruce Vallance

LUNCH – 1 hour – 309A

1:00 –
2:00 pm

ECR Peer Mentoring
Presidential Suite. Delta
Hotel. 11th floor,
RM 1193.

Awardee Team Building
Escape Game: Mayhem
Mountain. RM 309B
Facilitator: TBD

TRIANGLE Annual General
Meeting. RM 308B
Facilitators: Nicola Jones,
Derek McKay, Bruce Vallance

BREAK – 30 min – 309A

2:30 –
3:30 pm

2024 Reflections and 2025 Aspirations. RM 309B
Facilitators: Nicola Jones, Derek McKay, Bruce Vallance, David Rojas

3:30 –
3:45 pm

Closing Remarks. RM 309B
Facilitators: Nicola Jones, Derek McKay, Bruce Vallance

4:00 –
5:00 pm

Advisory Meeting. RM 309B
Facilitator: Phil Sherman

AN INTRODUCTION TO INDIGENOUS RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES AND METHODS

February 26th, 2025. 9:00 AM. RM309B.

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Synopsis: Indigenous methodologies are a specific way of doing research (methodology). Indigenous methodologies are distinct from other forms of research and other approaches, because Indigenous methodologies arise from Indigenous Knowledge systems. This workshop will introduce Indigenous methodologies and a selection of specific Indigenous research methods, while providing suggestions for how to begin or continue research using Indigenous methodologies.

Objectives:

1. Explain the differences between Indigenous methodologies and Eurocentric Western paradigms in research.
2. Define key terms related to Indigenous methodologies.
3. Analyze specific Indigenous methodological approaches and their application to biomedical and clinical research.
4. Identify where, when, and how Indigenous methodologies may be used in your own research.



Jaris Swidrovich, BSP, PharmD, PhD
Assistant Professor, Tenure Stream, and Indigenous Engagement Lead
Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto

Jaris (he/they) is an Assistant Professor & Indigenous Engagement Lead in the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto. He is a queer, Two Spirit, Saulteaux and Ukrainian pharmacist from Yellow Quill First Nation. His mother was a 60s Scoop survivor and his grandmother and great-grandmother both survived Indian Residential Schools.

Dr. Swidrovich is the Co-Scientific Director of the CIHR-funded Saskatchewan Network Environment for Indigenous Health Research (SK-NEIHR) called nātawihowin (“art of self-healing” in Cree), which is a First Nations Research Network that supports researchers, students, and First Nations health leaders and communities in Saskatchewan and beyond.

Dr. Swidrovich is an active and engaged citizen of the several communities he belongs to and has been recognized with several awards and honours, including the Governor General's Gold Medal, the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for service to the community, and the National Patient Care Achievement Award from the Canadian Pharmacists Association.

[Click for pre-reading](#)



PREP WORK

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ENGAGING & WORKING WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY MEMBERS

February 26th, 2025. 10:30 AM. RM309B.

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Objectives:

1. Recognize the priorities of Indigenous community members and the roles that they could have as research partners.
2. Describe how we could decolonize ourselves to work with Indigenous community members.
3. Explain how Indigeneity and intersectional identities could affect health projects.

Ulrich Teucher. University of Saskatchewan. *The importance of decolonizing ourselves*



Ulrich is an Associate Professor in the Psychology Department at the University of Saskatchewan. Ulrich worked as a pediatric nurse in a children's cancer ward in Germany before enrolling in Comparative Literature and Psychology at the University of British Columbia. In his Narrative Lab, Dr. Teucher analyzes patients' narratives of living with illness to help improve and personalize healthcare. His research is in the fields of culture, health, and human development. He has conducted cultural studies of illness and identity using quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods. For over 10 years, Ulrich has been working with Indigenous community members in Canada and other countries like Malaysia.

Rhonda Sanderson

My experience as an Indigenous community partner doing health research



Rhonda is an Indigenous Cree woman from James Smith Cree Nation. She was diagnosed with IBD in 2001, although she believes her disease started during childhood. Rhonda grew up in a residential school where her gastrointestinal issues were neglected. As an adult, she was exposed to misconceptions of healthcare providers about IBD among Indigenous peoples. Rhonda was diagnosed with IBD after a non-indicated appendectomy. She also has experienced barriers to accessing gastroenterologist care and became a self-advocate for accessing appropriate care after years of struggles with her disease. She is also actively engaged as a research community partner for several years in multiple research projects.

Robert Porter. My experience as an Indigenous community partner doing health research



Robert is an Indigenous family advocate member of York Factory First Nation. Two of his children were diagnosed with IBD. The youngest daughter, Lisa, suffered and lost her life from IBD. Lisa was diagnosed at 13 years and required surgical interventions which were expected to help her. As a parent, he experienced the challenges of accessing IBD care. Robert witnessed discrimination, racism, and barriers to accessing appropriate and timely treatments. He is involved in multiple gastroenterology research projects to advocate for the health and well-being of Indigenous community members affected by chronic GI conditions.

Jaris Swidrovich University of Toronto **Indigeneity and intersectional identities**



[See biography by clicking here](#)

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BECOMING A RESILIENT SCIENTIST

February 26th 2025. 1:00 PM & 2:30 PM. RM308B.

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Objectives:

1. Understand what resilience is.
2. Be familiar with strategies to develop resilience.
3. Understand what wellness is.
4. Be able to assess our wellness.

Seating Arrangements: To facilitate this session, we are requesting that all our awardee's sit in the reserved tables according to their award/career level (doctoral, postdoctoral, and early career researchers). All other delegates can sit in any non-reserved table.



Vanina Noejovich, PhD.

Vanina is a Research Associate at the Farncombe Institute Nutrition Initiative. She has vast clinical experience in addressing the emotional impact of migration, trauma, mood disorders, chronic pain, addictions, and chronic mental illness. Her clinical practice spans Latin America, Europe, and Canada. Her current research focuses on mitigating barriers to dietary modification in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). She also leads a qualitative study examining the challenges faced by Celiac patients in adhering to gluten-free diets and investigates the social determinants of health in individuals with gastrointestinal disorders. Previously, her research explored the impact of early-life stress on chronic gastrointestinal diseases.



Smita L S Halder MBChB, MRCP, MRes, PhD

Smita is an Associate Professor and Gastroenterologist at McMaster University, where she combines clinical, research and teaching roles. Smita is a senior administrative leader at Hamilton Health Sciences and focusses on wellness, the physician experience, and leadership development at HHS. She is qualified as a Master Certified Physician Development Coach, her goal is to establish a coaching faculty across HHS and McMaster.

[Click for pre-recording](#)



PREP WORK

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ANNUAL REVIEWS

February 26th, 2025. 1:00 PM. HALL 310

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Objectives:

1. Review your individualized research development plan, identifying strengths and gaps
2. Review your TRIANGLE engagement
3. Find ways to bridge your gaps within the TRIANGLE infrastructure.

ADVISOR	TABLE	1:00 PM	1:30 PM	2:00 PM BREAK
François Boudreau	1	Daniel Mulder	Heather Armstrong	
Catharine Walsh	2	Joanna Dione	Yasmin Nasser	Fernando Vicentini
Christopher Rose	3	Henry Nguyen	Or Steg Saban	Preedajit Wongkrasant
Tony Otley	4	Natasha Haskey	Ana Teresa Limon Miro	Simone Isling Paerregaard
Nathalie Perrault	5	Paula Littlejohn	Ryder Whittaker Hawkins	
Kevan Jacobson	6	Thomas Guerbette	Jehison Alirio Herrera Pulido	
Simon Hirota	7	Maude Hamilton	Zhaoping (Aaron) Ju	Siu Ling Tai
Derek McKay	8	Chad Poloni	Kwestan Safari	
Bruce Vallence	9	Edgard Medawar	Jessica Pei	Dianne Pupo Gomez
Eric Benchimol	10	James King	Emily Johnson	Samantha Morin
Fernand Pierre Gendron	11	Armaan Mohan	Rachael Fitzpatrick	Apsara Srinivas

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GROWING AS A FACULTY LEADER: DEVELOPING YOUR 'LEADER MUSCLES'

February 26th, 2025. 2:30 PM. RM309B.

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Objectives:

1. Recognize what qualities make the best leaders
2. Consider your goals & realize that leadership is not about the role, but rather the goal
3. Understand how to develop & practice your leadership skills to be the most effective
4. Planning 'practice'

Seating Arrangements: To facilitate this session, we are requesting that all our awardee's sit in the reserved tables according to their award/career level (doctoral, postdoctoral, and early career researchers). All other delegates can sit in any non-reserved table.



Karen F. Murray, MD

Karen is Chair of the Department of Pediatric Medical Specialties, at Cleveland Clinic, Vice Chair for Research for Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital, and holds the DeBartolo Family Endowed Chair of Pediatrics. She is Professor and Chair of Pediatrics for Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University.

Prior to moving to Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Murray had been the Chief of Pediatric Gastroenterology for ~9 years, and had served as Interim-Chair of Pediatrics for 1 year, at the University of Washington School of Medicine and Seattle Children's Hospital, in Seattle. She had served in a number of other leadership roles over the years including President of the Medical Staff, Board of Directors of the Practice Plan, Chair of the Gastroenterology sub-board of the American Board of Pediatrics, and has served as elected Councilor and President of the ~3000 member professional society, the North American Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition (NASPGHAN). Dr. Murray is currently President-Elect of the NASPGHAN Foundation.

Dr. Murray graduated from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland. She completed a residency in pediatrics at the University of Washington School of Medicine at Seattle Children's Hospital, and a fellowship in pediatric gastroenterology at Boston Children's and Massachusetts General Hospitals. She is Board Certified in General Pediatrics, Pediatric Gastroenterology, and Pediatric Transplant Hepatology.

In addition to clinical care in pediatric gastroenterology and hepatology, Dr. Murray had an active clinical research program in pediatric hepatology, with a focus in viral hepatitis and cholestatic liver diseases, and has authored more than 150 original manuscripts, 40 book chapters, and has edited two books.

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NETWORK MIXER & AWARD CEREMONY

February 26th, 2025. 5:00 PM.

Delta Hotel. Wolfe Montcalm Foyer. 3rd floor

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WELCOME COHORT 3

CAG

Lucas	Kraemer Rocha	University of Calgary	PDF	AMPLIFY
Kyle	Lesack	University of Calgary	PDF	AMPLIFY
Theresa	McIver	University of Manitoba	PDF	ENRICH
Emanuel	Muruaga	SickKids	PDF	ENRICH
Emad	Yuzbashian Sharifabad	University of British Columbia	PDF	ENRICH
Wei Jen	Ma	University of British Columbia	PhD	AMPLIFY
Natasha	Norton	University of Victoria	PhD	AMPLIFY
Testimony	Olumade	University of Manitoba	PhD	AMPLIFY
Molly	Sedeuil	Université de Sherbrooke	PhD	ENRICH

Farncombe

Alberto	Caminero	McMaster University	ECR	SECURE
Bruna	Barbosa da Luz Confetti	McMaster University	PDF	AMPLIFY
Tyler	Seto	McMaster University	PhD	ENRICH

CASL

Kate	Dunn	York University	ECR	SECURE
Xun	Zhao*	University of Toronto	PhD	ENRICH

* sends his regrets

CIDSCaNN

Eileen	Crowley	Western University	ECR	SECURE
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GRADUATE PRESENTATIONS

February 27th, 2025. 9:00 AM. 309B.

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Objectives:

1. Gain experience in presenting your research in a clear and persuasive manner
2. Develop confidence and poise when speaking in public settings
3. Learn the research interests of your peers to engage in networking opportunities

Scored by: Patient Advisory Group

Each trainee will have 3 minutes to present their elevator pitch with or without slides. Following each presentation the patient advisory group will send in their score using the TRIANGLE link on the bottom left of this page.

PART 1 9:00 AM

1. Boyan Tsankov
2. Siu Ling (Ling Ling) Tai
3. Kwestan Safari
4. Dianne Pupo Gomez
5. Edgard Medawar
6. James King

PART 2 9:30 AM

7. Maude Hamilton
8. Rachael Fitzpatrick
9. Samantha Morin
10. Emily Johnson
11. Or Steg Saban
12. Ana Teresa Limon Miro

PART 3 10:30 AM

13. Preedajit Wongkrasant
14. Fernando Vicentini
15. Paula Littlejohn
16. Natasha Haskey
17. Joanna Dionne
18. Yasmin Nasser

1 award at each level (ECR, PDF, PhD) valued at \$100 each

**SCORE
HERE**



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GRADUATE LESSONS LEARNED

February 27th, 2025. 11:00 AM. 309B.

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DOCTORAL STUDENTS



Siu Ling (Ling Ling) Tai
University of Toronto



James King
University of Calgary

POST DOCTORAL FELLOWS



Natasha Haskey

University of British Columbia

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Yasmin Nasser
University of Calgary



Joanna Dionne
McMaster University

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GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

February 27th, 2025. 11:30 AM. 309B.

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CONGRATULATIONS COHORT 1

CIHR

Joanna	Dionne	McMaster University	ECR	SECURE
Yasmin	Nasser	University of Calgary	ECR	SECURE

CAG

Maude	Hamilton	Université de Sherbrooke	PhD	AMPLIFY
James	King	University of Calgary	PhD	ENRICH
Edgard	Medawar	Université de Montréal	PhD	AMPLIFY
Dianne	Pupo Gomez	Université de Sherbrooke	PhD	AMPLIFY
Kwestan	Safari	University of British Columbia	PhD	AMPLIFY
Siu Ling (Ling Ling)	Tai	University of Toronto	PhD	AMPLIFY
Rachael	Fitzpatrick	University of Victoria	PhD	ENRICH
Boyan	Tsankov*	University of Toronto	PhD	ENRICH

*regrets

CCC

Natasha	Haskey	University of British Columbia	PDF	AMPLIFY
Paula	Littlejohn	University of British Columbia	PDF	AMPLIFY
Fernando	Vicentini	McMaster University	PDF	AMPLIFY
Preedajit (Som)	Wongkrasant	University of Calgary	PDF	AMPLIFY

CIDSCaNN

Samantha	Morin	McMaster University	PhD	AMPLIFY
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CASL

Ana Teresa	Limon Miro	University of Alberta	PDF	ENRICH
Or	Steg Saban	University of Toronto	PDF	AMPLIFY
Emily	Johnson	University of Alberta	PhD	AMPLIFY

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ECR PEER MENTORING

February 27th, 2025. 1:00 PM. PRESIDENTIAL SUITE
Delta Hotel. 11th floor. Rm1193.

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Objectives:

1. Attain feedback on an ECR Leadership Retreat – please complete this brief survey independently, using the QR Code below in the first or last 10 minutes of this session.
2. To establish a sense of community and trust among early career researchers (ECRs) in TRIANGLE, where they can openly discuss their challenges and share experiences.
3. To collaboratively identify common issues or challenges that are being faced at work.
4. To enable ECRs to share practical strategies, solutions, or tools they have found effective in overcoming challenges, fostering a collaborative learning environment.
5. Engage ECRs in collaborative problem-solving by providing peer feedback on specific issues they are facing in their work or career.
6. Help ECRs reflect on their career development and self-assess their skills, progress, and goals.
7. To provide a platform for discussing strategies for career progression, including publishing, grant applications, teaching responsibilities, and navigating academia.

ECR
LEADERSHIP
RETREAT
SURVEY

click or
scan



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ESCAPE GAME: MAYHEM MOUNTAIN

February 27th, 2025. 1:00 PM. RM309B.

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To access the escape game do ONE of the following:

- <https://surveys.sickkids.ca/surveys/>
Then enter this code: NKD34L4A4
- Scan QR code above

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

February 27th, 2025. 1:00 PM. RM308B.

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DRAFT Agenda

1. Program Overview
2. Committee Updates
3. Budget Approval
4. Infrastructure, Sustainability, and Next Steps

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2024 REFLECTIONS & 2025 ASPIRATIONS

February 27th, 2025. 2:30 PM. RM309B.

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TRIANGLE



ANNUAL SUMMIT

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L'Association Canadienne
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Canadian Children Inflammatory Bowel Disease Network
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FARNCOMBE
Farncombe Family Digestive Health Research Institute

SAVE THE DATE

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SICKKIDS PETER GILGAN CENTRE FOR RESEARCH
AND LEARNING & PATIENT SUPPORT CENTRE



2026
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25-26
FEBRUARY