

Welcome from the Local Organizing Committee Chairs

Dear Colleagues,

As conference co-chairs, and on behalf of our local organizing committee, we welcome you to the 67th Canadian Society of Microbiologists Annual Conference in Waterloo, Ontario. As you can see, CSM2017 hosts a showcase of the best microbiology research in the country, and beyond, with many opportunities to initiate and foster lasting research connections. Continuing the CSM's strong commitment to early career researchers, each day features sessions exclusively presented by graduate students or postdoctoral research fellows, highlighting up-and-coming scientists of the CSM.

We are delighted to be joined by two outstanding conference keynote speakers. Our first keynote speaker will be Ed Yong, a science writer for The Atlantic who is renowned for his clarity in scientific communication. His most recent book, "I Contain Multitudes: The Microbes Within Us and a Grander View of Life", examines microbiomes across the animal kingdom, from wasps and squid to humans. Our second conference keynote speaker is Dr. Barbara Sherwood Lollar, University of Toronto professor, 2016 NSERC John C. Polanyi award recipient and 2016 Companion to the Order of Canada. She will be talking about microbes as they relate to deep subsurface geochemistry.

Importantly, our keynote speakers and sessions were chosen specifically to encourage thinking of microbiology less as distinct subject areas, but rather to emphasize the way microbiology and the CSM are unified across multiple research focus areas. Our strength as a society lies in the balance of representation and expertise.

The University of Waterloo boasts a modern campus with ample green space and a picturesque creek running alongside. We will be meeting in the Science Teaching Complex or the Physical Activities Complex, only a short distance apart. Social activities during the meeting will include a keynote reception on Tuesday, an opening reception on Wednesday night, a student mixer with entertainment and refreshments, and a President's banquet at the Concordia Club where we will celebrate the German heritage of the Kitchener Waterloo region.

Please enjoy your time in Waterloo and we wish you an engaging and productive CSM 2017 experience.

Sincerely,

Josh Neufeld and Laura Hug
CSM 2017 conference co-chairs

