

Day 1: June 18, 2026		Title	Session Chair
8:15	Welcome Breakfast & registration table open		
9:00	Welcome remarks		Amy Gillgrass
	Symposium #1: NK cells in infectious disease.		
9:15	Keynote #1: Dr. Kerry Lavender	Natural Killer cells and IFN-alpha14: Potential allies toward an HIV-1 Cure	Aida Ali Bagheri
10:15	Sponsor talks	Miltenyi Biotec, Stem Cell	
10:25-10:40	Trainee talk #1: Saeideh Jamali	Early Innate Immune Signatures Imprint Clinical Outcomes of Bordetella pertussis challenge in a Controlled Human Infection Model	
10:45	Health break		
11:15	Trainee speed poster presentations		
	Claire Attersley	Shock and kill: using latent reversal agents to facilitate an NK cell mediated HIV cure	Amy Gillgrass
11:21	Shelby Kaczmarek	Improving the efficacy and longevity of CAR-NK treatment for multiple myeloma	
11:27	Simin Ahmadvand	BCMA-targeted nk cell engagers promote selective NK-mediated cytotoxicity in multiple myeloma	
11:33	Capucine Bourel	CD11d is essential for NK cell-mediated solid tumour growth control	
11:39	Morgan Pugh-Toole	Harnessing NK cell mediated antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity to overcome hypoxia driven chemoresistance in high-grade serous carcinoma	
11:46	Riley Arseneau	Genomic sequencing reveals distinct mutational and immunologic features of Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma in Maritime Canada	
11:52	Adnan Moinuddin	Enhancing the function of natural killer cells against hard-to-treat solid tumors	
12:00	Lunch		
12:30	Poster session #1: odd numbered posters present		

1:00	Poster session #2: even numbered posters present		
	Symposium #2: NK cells in adaptation and memory		
1:30	Keynote #2: Dr. Andrew Makrigiannis	Transcriptomic elucidation of antigen-adaptive, Ly49I-dependent memory NK cells in an HPV-driven tumor model	Amin Sookhklari
2:30	Trainee talk #2: Machovsky Mendes Pinto, Flora	Distribution of killer-cell immunoglobulin-like receptor (KIR) genes in a donor population from Atlantic Canada	
2:45	Trainee Talk #3: Jules Sotty	NK cells impair lung TIL proliferation by targeting CD127 ⁺ CD4 ⁺ T cells	
3:00	Health break		
3:30	Lab PI talk #1: Amy Gillgrass	Return of the NK Cells	Daniel Medina-Luna
3:50	Lab PI talk #2 Dr. Brendan Leung	Taking a ride in the DeLorean with Schrödinger's cat: disease model design principles across space and time	
4:10	Lab PI talk #3: Dr. Michele Ardolino	The incredibly tiring task of studying NK cell exhaustion	
16:30	Lab PI talk #4: Dr. Jeanette Boudreau	NK cells are good; good NK cells are better: Understanding the role of diversity in NK cell effector functions and immunotherapy	
17:00-18:00	Break	Organization meeting for next CanNKC 2027	
17:45	Volunteers meet contingent to walk to social		
18:00	Social dinner	Sherriff Hall, Dalhousie	

Day 2: June 19, 2026			
9:00	Welcome back		Jeanette Boudreau
	Symposium #3: NK cells and cancer		
9:15	Keynote #3: Dr. Dean Lee	Developing a universal-donor platform for modified and non-modified NK cell therapy	Adnan Moinuddin
10:30	Trainee talk #4: Dabla, Ankita	Developing a serum stable, multifunctional, nanobody-based killer engagers for next-gen anti-multiple myeloma therapy	
10:45	Trainee talk #6: Mejia, Jorge	CD94 ⁺ CD8 ⁺ T and CD16 ⁺ NK cells predict longer survival in patients with stage III colorectal adenocarcinoma.	
11:00	Trainee talk #6: Jeremy Robert	Engineering Durable CAR-NK Responses in Glioblastoma Through Integrated Modulation of TGF- β and NKG2A Pathways	
11:15	Health break & Sponsor passports		
11:45	PI talk: Dr. Seung-Hwan Lee	Sharing Is Good: Allogeneic NK Cells in Cancer Therapy	Daniel Medina-Luna
12:15	PI talk: Dr. Scott McComb	Llama Tell You About New NK Engagers	
12:45	PI talk: Dr. Ali Ashkar	Triple function of NK cells: anti-tumour, anti-viral and immune regulation	
1:00	Awards, goodbye, grab & go lunch		Ali Ashkar, Jeanette Boudreau, Amy Gillgrass