

# Atlantic Canada Association of Parasitologists

## Annual meeting 2025

### Customs House Inn, Pictou, Nova Scotia

#### Friday, October 24

- 17:00 Registration (\$75 for full-time faculty, \$60 for students, post-docs, and retirees)
- 18:30 **ACAP Reception**  
Russell Easy's and sous-chef Don Stewart's famous seafood chowder  
*Customs House Inn*

#### Saturday, October 25

- 08:53 **Welcome to ACAP 2025**  
Convenors: Laura Ferguson<sup>1</sup>, Todd Smith<sup>1</sup>, Nina Germitsch<sup>2</sup>, and Russell Easy<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>*Acadia University*, <sup>2</sup>*University of Prince Edward Island*

#### Session 1: Tapeworms, molluscs, and mosquitoes

Chair: Laura Ferguson  
*Customs House Inn*

- 09:00 **The fox-cinating tale of *Echinococcus multilocularis* on Prince Edward Island**  
Brady Sweeney\*, Laura Leaman, Megan Jones, Kylee Graham, Spencer Greenwood, and Nina Germitsch  
*University of Prince Edward Island*
- 09:15 ***Echinococcus* species: emerging parasites in wild canids of Nova Scotia**  
Cara Doucette<sup>\*1</sup>, Sarah Purcell<sup>\*1</sup>, Laura Leaman<sup>1</sup>, Jenna Priest<sup>2</sup>, Lee Millett<sup>2</sup>, and Nina Germitsch<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>*University of Prince Edward Island*, <sup>2</sup>*NS Department of Natural Resources*
- 09:30 **Transmissible cancers in Nova Scotia bivalves: an unexpected cellular parasite**  
Grace Bulger\* and Russell Easy  
*Acadia University*
- 09:45 **Measuring Malpighian tubule function in mosquitoes (*Culex territans*) infected with *Hepatozoon* parasites from Green Frogs (*Rana clamitans*)**  
Maddy MacNeil\*, Matt Hazel, Laura Ferguson, and Todd Smith  
*Acadia University*

10:00      **Attraction of *Culex territans* mosquitoes to volatile chemical compounds of Green Frogs infected with *Hepatozoon* blood parasites**  
Ophelia Carter\*, Kirk Hillier, and Todd Smith  
*Acadia University*

10:15      **Examining the potential for West Nile Virus in Nova Scotia.**  
Leah MacLean\*, Gemma Rawson, and Laura Ferguson  
*Acadia University*

10: 30      Coffee break

**Session 2: Keynote address**

Chair: Laura Ferguson  
*Customs House Inn*

11:00      **Host-parasite interactions: bridging immunology and parasite biology**  
Constance Finney  
*University of Calgary*

12:00      **ACAP Lunch and Poster Session**  
Todd Smith's famous sandwich spread  
*Customs House Inn*

poster      **The possible role of viruses in the unusual system of mtDNA inheritance in bivalves**  
Don Stewart  
*Acadia University*

**Session 3: Nematodes, mites, and ticks**

Chair: Nina Germitsch  
*Customs House Inn*

13:00      **Exploring the prevalence of lung and heartworms in Nova Scotia foxes**  
Hannah Johnston\*<sup>1</sup>, Laura Leaman<sup>1</sup>, Jenna Priest<sup>2</sup>, Lee Millett<sup>2</sup>, and Nina Germitsch<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>*University of Prince Edward Island*, <sup>2</sup>*NS Department of Natural Resources*

13:15      **Genetic characterization of *Sarcoptes scabiei* in a naïve North American wild canid population**  
Kylee Graham\*<sup>1</sup>, Spencer Greenwood<sup>1</sup>, Nina Germitsch<sup>1</sup>, Dave Shutler<sup>2</sup>, Javier Sanchez<sup>1</sup>, Megan Jones<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>*University of Prince Edward Island*, <sup>2</sup>*Acadia University*

- 13:30      **Chemical composition matters! The role of nepetalactone isomers in tick repellency**  
 Miranda Amiro, Erika Plazas, and Nicoletta Faraone\*  
*Acadia University*
- 13:45      **Repellent efficacy of a novel essential oil-based fabric spray formulation against *Ixodes scapularis* and *Dermacentor variabilis* ticks in laboratory conditions and human trials**  
 Luis Anholetto\*, Creighton Jarvis, Jaclyn Delahunt, and Nicoletta Faraone  
*Acadia University*
- 14:00      **Exploring tick behavior in response to temperature and moisture**  
 Jaclyn Delahunt\*, Laura Ferguson  
*Acadia University*
- 14:15      **Characterizing the cold tolerance and winter activity of adult black-legged ticks**  
 Mia Lauzon\*<sup>1</sup>, Amber Gough<sup>2</sup>, Miranda van Oirschot<sup>2</sup>, Jantina Toxopeus<sup>2</sup>, Laura Ferguson<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>*Acadia University*, <sup>2</sup>*St Francis Xavier University*
- 14:30      Coffee break

#### **Session 4: Lloyd-a-palooza!**

Chair: Russell Easy  
*Customs House Inn*

- 15:00      **Investigating epigenetic regulation of *Ixodes scapularis* ticks by *Borrelia* infection**  
 Meg Sarty\*, Avery MacKinnon, and Vett Lloyd  
*Mount Allison University*
- 15:15      **Mass spectrometry-based proteomics on Morgellons filaments**  
 Julie Lewis\*<sup>1</sup>, Gilles Robichaud<sup>2</sup>, Vett Lloyd<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>*Mount Allison University*, <sup>2</sup>*Université de Moncton*
- 15:30      **Do vector borne diseases alter oncogene expression?**  
 Wren Beghin\* and Vett Lloyd  
*Mount Allison University*
- 15:45      **The detection of vector-borne zoonotic pathogens in commensal rodents from Maritime Canada**  
 Lana Boyd\* and Vett Lloyd  
*Mount Allison University*

- 16:00      **Detection and prevalence of *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* in ticks from Maritime Canada, 2012 to 2024**  
Kat Kerner\* and Vett Lloyd  
*Mount Allison University*
- 16:15      **The experience of patients with Lyme Disease in Canadian health care**  
Hanna Klincewicz\* and Vett Lloyd  
*Mount Allison University*
- 16:30      ACAP 2025 closing comments**  
Convenors: Laura Ferguson<sup>1</sup>, Todd Smith<sup>1</sup>, Nina Germitsch<sup>2</sup>, and Russell Easy<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>*Acadia University*, <sup>2</sup>*University of Prince Edward Island*
- 16:37      Group photo
- 16:45      Free time
- 18:30      **ACAP Banquet**  
Don Stewart's and sous-chef Russell Easy's famous chilli  
*Customs House Inn*
- 20:00      Social festivities

## **Sunday, October 26**

Have a safe trip home!