



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
CENTRE *for* EXCELLENCE  
*in* HIV/AIDS



Providence  
Health Care

# BC CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN HIV/AIDS

KEY OUTPUTS, RESEARCH, POLICY & INNOVATION

REPORTING PERIOD 2025 - Q2 | JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30



**“Dr. Brumme has a brilliant analytical mind and a determination to tackle some of the deeper mysteries of HIV evolution. Her appointment to the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences shines a well-deserved spotlight on the hard work and innovation that defines her leadership.”**

- DR. JULIO MONTANER on the August 19th election of Dr. Zabrina Brumme as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences

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*Please Note: All data is presented to our best knowledge at time of report, and thus may not fully capture organizational research outputs.*

# GRANTS, AWARDS & FUNDING

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## Dr. Zabrina Brumme

Elected as a Fellow to the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences

## Amanda Cabral da Silva

Canadian HIV Cure Enterprise CanCURE Fellowship award

Project title: *Investigating HIV transcript/protein/virion production and immune evasion properties of 5' defective proviruses persisting in tissue*

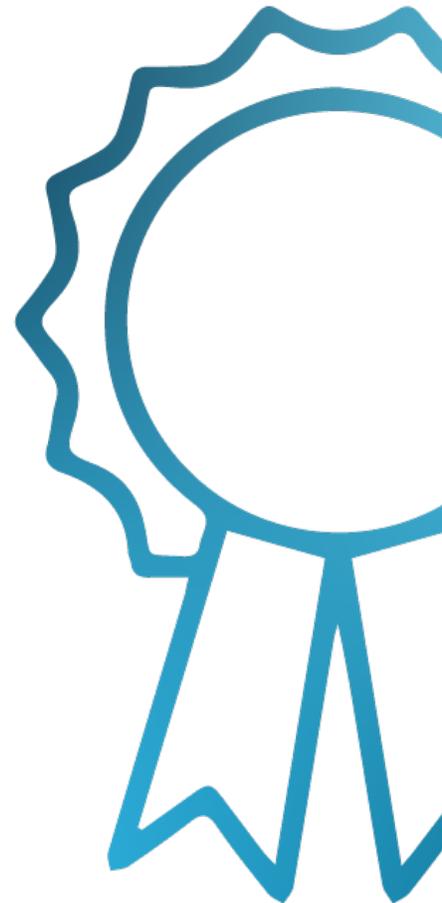
\$25,000

## Dr. Aniq Shahid

Michael Smith Health Research BC Fellowship Award

Project Title: *"Origins and consequences of Persistent Low-Level HIV Viremia During Antiretroviral Therapy"*

\$7,000/year for three years



# PRESENTATIONS & EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

PRESENTATIONS & EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

## BC-CfE Journal Clubs

### **Principles of Economics in Healthcare**

Kevin Fung

July 15, 2025

### **Clones of HIV-1 Infected Cells Producing Virus can Cause Failure of ART to Suppress Viremia**

Evan Barad

September 18, 2025

## BC-CfE Hope to Health Learning Series

### **Treatment of Skin and Soft Tissue Infections**

Dr. Victor Leung

August 27, 2025

### **Sex Work and Health: Strategies and Tools for Inclusive Practices**

Vancouver Sex Work Community Alliance

September 11, 2025

### **Treatment of People with Substance Use Disorders under the Mental Health Act**

Dr. Daniel Vigo

September 18, 2025

## External Presentations

### **Functional genomic analysis reveals mechanisms of epigenetic interference in SARS-CoV-2 (Oral Presentation)**

American Society for Virology Conference

Amber Paulson on behalf of Dr. Jeffrey Joy's Lab

Joy's Lab

July 16, 2025

PRESENTATIONS & EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

### **Exploring small viral RNA-mediated epigenetic interference as an evolutionary driver in SARS-CoV-related viruses (Poster Presentation)**

American Society for Virology Conference

Amber Paulson on behalf of Dr. Jeffrey Joy's Lab

July 16, 2025

### **Ending HIV Transmission: roles of phylogenetic monitoring**

Presentation to Ontario Public Health

Phylogenetics

Dr. Jeffrey Joy

July 25, 2025

### **HIV Molecular Epidemiology in British Columbia: 2025 Quarter 2 update**

BC CoP for Phylogenetic Monitoring

Dr Jeffrey Joy

July 31, 2025

### **HIV transmission among Vancouver Coastal Health focal cases**

Presentation to Vancouver Coastal Health

Medical Health Officers

Dr. Jeffrey Joy

August 7, 2025

### **Persistent (>6 years) detectable plasma viral loads caused by DNAemia from massively clonally-expanded, genetically defective, drug-susceptible provirus (Poster Presentation)**

31st International Workshop on HIV Drug

Resistance and Treatment

Evan Barad

September 1, 2025

PRESENTATIONS & EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

**Most instances of persistent low-level HIV viremia during ART are not attributable to either low antiretroviral drug levels or emerging drug resistance (Poster Presentation)**

31st International Workshop on HIV Drug Resistance and Treatment  
Amanda Cabral da Silva  
September 1, 2025

**Pretreatment HIV Drug Resistance in Adults in Ukraine in 2023 (Poster Presentation)**

31st International Workshop on HIV Drug Resistance and Treatment  
Maria Liulchuk working with Drs. Zabrina & Chanson Brumme  
September 3, 2025

**SHAPE 2.0 meeting with Northern Health HIV HCV Network**

Presentation to the Northern Health HIV HCV Network  
Farnaz Azarmju, Tim Wesseling and Rodney Little Mustache  
September 9, 2025

**Non-Suppressible Viremia Sustained by a Clonally Expanded, Defective Provirus with an Immune-Evasive HIV Protein Expression Profile**

REACH for Cure Year 4 Annual Meeting  
Dr Zabrina Brumme  
September 11, 2025

**Persistent HIV DNAemia from a Massively-Expanded, Genetically Defective Proviral Clone Caused Detectable Plasma Viral Loads for > 6 Years**

REACH for Cure Year 4 Annual Meeting  
Evan Barad  
September 12, 2025

**Frequency, Duration and Possible Drivers of Persistent Low-Level HIV Viremia During ART**

REACH for Cure Year 4 Annual Meeting  
Amanda Cabral da Silva  
September 12, 2025

**Resilience of the Intact Proviral DNA Assay to HIV Polymorphism**

REACH for Cure Year 4 Annual Meeting  
Maggie Duncan  
September 12, 2025

**Only a minority of cases of persistent low-level HIV viremia during ART feature low antiretroviral drug levels or emerging HIV drug resistance (Poster Presentation)**

EU2 CURE HIV Symposium 2025  
Amanda Cabral da Silva  
September 14, 2025

**Evolutionary dynamics of non-suppressible viremia during HIV therapy (Oral Presentation)**

EU2 CURE HIV Symposium 2025  
Dr. Aniqah Shahid  
September 14, 2025

**Quarterly update on molecular epidemiology and phylogenetic monitoring of HIV in Saskatchewan**

Presentation to the Saskatchewan Community of Practice for HIV Phylogenetic Monitoring Committee.  
Dr Jeffrey Joy  
September 18, 2025

**Closing the transgender gap in health and research**

Vancouver Bioinformatics Users Group (VanBUG)  
Giuli Sucar  
September 18, 2025

**Lessons from the Health Connect study: Enhancing STBBI testing and linkage-to-care for people who use drugs**

BC CDC Grand Rounds  
Dr. Kate Salters  
September 23, 2025

# PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES & BOOK PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATIONS

1: Azar P, Wong JSH, Machado J, Nikoo M, Li VW, Ignaszewski MJ, Mathew N, Krausz RM, Herring AA, Mullen R, Montaner JSG, Maharaj AR. Direct Induction of Buprenorphine Extended-Release: A Case Report. *J Addict Med.* 2025 Jul-Aug 01;19(4):490-493. doi: 10.1097/ADM.0000000000001425. Epub 2024 Dec 31. PMID: 39787454.

2: Tam C, Zhang W, Moore D, Salters K, Trigg J, Wesseling T, Parashar S, McLinden T, Sereda P, McDougall P, Moher M, Montaner JSG, Hogg R, Barrios R. Impacts of overdose and socio-structural factors on recent mortality among people with HIV in British Columbia, Canada. *AIDS.* 2025 Jul 1;39(8):1055-1064. doi: 10.1097/QAD.0000000000004158. Epub 2025 Feb 21. PMID: 39992124.

3: Emerson SD, McLinden T, Sereda P, Trigg J, Yonkman AM, Salters KA, Au S, Kooij KW, Budu MO, Lima VD, Barrios R, Hogg RS. Identifying hospitalization episodes of care among people with and without HIV in British Columbia, Canada. *BMC Med Res Methodol.* 2025 Jul 1;25(1):161. doi: 10.1186/s12874-025-02602-5. PMID: 40596857; PMCID: PMC12211187.

4: Knodel S, Main L, DeLeon M, Lamont A, Edward J, Gupta AK, Noel-Romas L, Mohammed S, Tattersall T, Wong J, Hull M, Grennan T, Burgener AD. Impact of doxycycline pre-exposure prophylaxis (doxyPrEP) for sexually transmitted infections on the microbiome of men who have sex with men on HIV PrEP. *Nat Commun.* 2025

Jul 3;16(1):6143. doi: 10.1038/s41467-025-61426-5. PMID: 40610420; PMCID: PMC12229472.

5: Magee C, Nathani H, Chan M, Takeh B, Budu M, Kooij KW, Hogg RS, Guillemi S, Montaner JGS, Lima VD. Comorbidity prevalence and healthcare costs in people living with HIV compared with the general population: a 19-year retrospective cohort study in British Columbia, Canada. *BMJ Open.* 2025 Jul 16;15(7):e099263. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2025-099263. PMID: 40669894; PMCID: PMC12273141.

6: Azar P, Ignaszewski MJ, Harris M, Barazanci Z, Davison R, Wong JSH, Maharaj A, Mathew N, Hall D, Guillemi SA, Foreman J, Barrios R, Montaner JSG. Rapid intravenous symptom-inhibiting fentanyl induction (SIFI) to optimize rotation onto oral opioid agonist therapy among individuals who use unregulated fentanyl: protocol for an open-label, single arm clinical trial. *Addict Sci Clin Pract.* 2025 Jul 29;20(1):58. doi: 10.1186/s13722-025-00586-7. PMID: 40731024; PMCID: PMC12306136.

7: Leung V, Toy J, Phillips P, Montaner JSG. Prophylaxie postexposition par la doxycycline pour prévenir les infections bactériennes transmissibles sexuellement. *CMAJ.* 2025 Aug 24;197(28):E895-E896. French. doi: 10.1503/cmaj.250128-f. PMID: 40854605; PMCID: PMC12380437.

PUBLICATIONS

8: Pedí VD, de França GVA, Rodrigues VB, Duailibe FT, Santos MTP, de Oliveira MRF. Burden of Chikungunya Fever and Its Economic and Social Impacts Worldwide: A Systematic Review. *Trop Med Int Health*. 2025 Sep;30(9):865-892. doi: 10.1111/tmi.70012. Epub 2025 Jul 22. PMID: 40692505; PMCID: PMC12401649.

9: Duailibe FT, Moore D, Hull M, Lima VD. Estimating the population size of gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men in four major provinces in Canada: A descriptive study using data from a population-based survey. *PLoS One*. 2025 Sep 11;20(9):e0330853. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0330853. PMID: 40934254; PMCID: PMC12425296.

10: Goldman M, Drews SJ, Brumme C, Lapointe HR, Tang T, Osmond L, O'Brien SF. Nondisclosure of use of antiretroviral medications in Canadian blood donors. *Transfusion*. 2025 Oct;65(10):1869-1875. doi: 10.1111/trf.18393. Epub 2025 Sep 7. PMID: 40916486.

11: Oo MM, Rudd M, Shukalek C, Kishibe T, Hull M, Tan DHS. Diagnostic performance of HIV risk assessment tools for identifying pre-exposure prophylaxis candidates: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *EClinicalMedicine*. 2025 Sep 17;88:103487. doi: 10.1016/j.eclinm.2025.103487. PMID: 41018499; PMCID: PMC12475485.

## Drug Treatment Program Monthly Report

October 2024 (released August 2025)

November 2024 (released August 2025)

December 2024 (released August 2025)

## PrEP Semi-Annual Report

Fourth Quarter 2024



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