

# geXc Guelph 2026

Next-Generation Genomics for Sustainability and Planetary Health

June 10, 2026 | University of Guelph | MACN 105, Summerlee Science Complex



Co-hosted by



TIME	SPEAKER & AFFILIATION		TALK TITLE
7:45 AM – 8:45 AM	<b>Registration &amp; Breakfast</b>		
8:45 AM – 8:55 AM	<b>Opening Remarks – Jeffrey Seitz, M.Sc</b> , Vice President, DMark Biosciences Inc.		
<b>SESSION 1: GENOMICS FOR BIODIVERSITY</b>		<b>TALK TITLE</b>	
8:55 AM – 9:20 AM	<b>Dr. Jennifer Geddes-McAlister</b> Canada Research Chair & Associate Professor, University of Guelph	A Structure-Guided Pipeline Yields Peptide Inhibitors that Disarm Fungal Peptidase-Driven Virulence and Resistance	
9:20 AM – 9:35 AM	<b>Brandon Vanderbush</b> Field Application Scientist, Complete Genomics	Revealing Deeper Insights with Stereo-seq's True Single-Cell Spatial Resolution	
9:35 AM – 10:00 AM	<b>Dr. Kari E. Dunfield</b> Professor, Soil & Environmental Microbiology, University of Guelph	Genomic Insights From the Soil Microbiome for Ecosystem Sustainability and Planetary Health	
10:00 AM – 10:25 AM	<b>Dr. Mehrdad Hajibabaei</b> CSO, Centre for Biodiversity Genomics & Associate Professor, Dept of Integrative Biology, University of Guelph	Is eDNA Good Enough? Implications for Science and Society	
10:25 AM – 10:50 AM	<b>Dr. Paul Wilson</b> Professor of Conservation Genomics, Biology Department, Trent University	Biodiversity Genomics of Caribou ( <i>Rangifer tarandus</i> ): an Iconic Canadian Species-at-Risk	
10:50 AM – 11:15 AM	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
<b>SESSION 2: AQUATIC GENOMICS</b>			
11:15 AM – 11:40 AM	<b>Dr. Marc Habash</b> Associate Professor, School of Environmental Sciences University of Guelph	Beyond E. coli: Advanced molecular and genomics tools for microbial water quality assessment	
11:40 AM – 11:55 AM	<b>Ian Lee</b> Senior Sequencing Specialist – Ontario, Illumina Inc.	Driving the Multiomics Revolution: The Latest Innovations from Illumina	
11:55 AM – 12:20 PM	<b>Dr. Andreas Heyland</b> Professor, Integrative Biology, University of Guelph	Selecting Algal Biodiversity with Light: Genomic Insights from Side-Glowing Fiber Systems for Sustainable Water Treatment	
12:20 PM – 12:45 PM	<b>Dr. Kara Layton</b> Assistant Professor, Department of Biology UTM, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Toronto	Forecasting the Future of Imperilled Molluscs	
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM	<b>Networking Lunch</b>		
<b>SESSION 3: ONE HEALTH – PART 1</b>			
1:45 PM – 2:10 PM	<b>Dr. Christine Baes</b> Professor & Canada Research Chair, Livestock Genomics, Associate Dean of External Relations, Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph	Long Reads, Living Systems: Next-Generation Genomics for Sustainable Dairy Production	
2:10 PM – 2:25 PM	<b>Kaylinnette Pinet</b> Development Scientist, New England Biolabs	From Salt Marsh to Wastewater: Sequencing Microbial Ecosystems for Sustainability and Health	
2:25 PM – 2:50 PM	<b>Mr. Patrick McMillan</b> PhD Candidate, Bioinformatics	Evaluating the Use of Genomic Information to Predict Plant Lines' Field Performance	
2:50 PM – 3:15 PM	<b>Candy Break</b>		
<b>SESSION 3: ONE HEALTH – PART 2</b>			
3:15 PM – 3:40 PM	<b>Dr. Nicole Ricker</b> Tier 2 Canada Research Chair & Associate Professor, University of Guelph	Developing a Targeted Metagenomic Platform for Surveillance of Antibiotic Resistance Genes in Environmental Samples	
3:40 PM – 3:55 PM	<b>Ken Tenan</b> Senior Field Applications Scientist, seqWell	Scaling Agrigenomic Discovery Through High Throughput Sequencing Library Prep Workflows	
3:55 PM – 4:20 PM	<b>Dr. Lawrence Goodridge</b> Canada Research Chair in Foodborne Pathogen Dynamics, Director, Canadian Research Institute for Food Safety	One Health Genomics for Food Safety, AMR, and Pandemic Preparedness	
4:20 PM – 4:30 PM	<b>Closing Remarks</b>		
4:30 PM – 6:30 PM	<b>Wine &amp; Cheese Social / Networking + Student Poster Competition</b>		

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