2026
University of Toronto Microbiology & Infectious Disease Research Days

AGENDA
Main Programming Day, May 28

Room 3154, Medical Sciences Building, 1 King's College Circle

Presented by

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO | EPIC Emerging & Pandemic Infections Consortium

In collaboration with

U of T's Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, and postgraduate medical and clinical microbiology program, the Division of Infectious Diseases at The Hospital for Sick Children and the Institute of Health Emergencies and Pandemics.

With support from BIOMÉRIEUX

EPIC is a collaborative initiative between the University of Toronto and five hospital partners.

SickKids | Sinai Health | Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute | Sunnybrook Research Institute | UNITY HEALTH TORONTO | UHN Canada's Hospital

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Abstract Booklet

May 27th - 28th, 2026

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In collaboration with U of T's Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, and postgraduate medical and clinical microbiology program, the Division of Infectious Diseases at The Hospital for Sick Children and the Institute for Health Emergencies and Pandemics at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health.

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Poster 21

Targeted Pharmacological Interventions for the Prevention and Treatment of Viral Hemorrhagic Fever: A Systematic Review of Updated Intelligence from the 74th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

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Background: Viral hemorrhagic fevers (VHF) are high-consequence, life-threatening illnesses characterized by systemic disease, hemorrhage, and high mortality. The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) Annual Meeting functions as a major international forum for the presentation of emerging data on infectious diseases, including novel pharmacologic and biologic interventions for VHF. However, while ASTMH presentations provide timely and high-impact insights, there is no consolidated synthesis of this rapidly evolving evidence base. Given the acute, outbreak-prone nature of VHF and the need for rapid translation of emerging data into clinical and public health practice, a structured synthesis of these data is warranted.
Methods: This systematic review follows PRISMA guidelines and is limited to presentations delivered at the ASTMH Annual Meeting in Toronto (November 9-13, 2025) in order to capture evolving evidence as it emerges. Titles and abstracts were screened for inclusion and eligible symposia, oral presentations, and poster abstracts, attended in person, will undergo data extraction. Studies of all designs evaluating vaccines, chemoprophylactic agents, or targeted biological therapies for the prevention or treatment of VHF in adults and children will be included. Methodological quality will be assessed using the GRADE framework, with risk of bias evaluated using JBI tools.
Results: Data will be extracted on incidence of VHF among exposed populations, safety, toxicity, and tolerability of preventive and therapeutic interventions, and morbidity and mortality outcomes among treated individuals. Secondary outcomes will include hospitalization length-of-stay, economic outcomes, and measures of feasibility, acceptability, accessibility, and health equity. Currently, 11 abstracts have been identified for final inclusion and data synthesis.
Discussion/Conclusion: This systematic review will provide a rapid, structured synthesis of targeted pharmacological interventions presented as emerging evidence at an expert scientific venue, while addressing the current lack of a consolidated accessible summary of emerging VHF evidence. By rapidly organizing and evaluating these data, this work facilitates timely interpretation and application in clinical and public health settings where rapid decision-making is critical.