

# 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



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



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## Abstract Booklet

May 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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EPIC is a collaborative initiative between the University of Toronto and five partner hospitals:

**SickKids**



Sinai  
Health

Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum  
Research Institute



**Sunnybrook**  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE



UNITY HEALTH  
TORONTO



**UHN** Canada's  
Hospital

Supported by **bioMérieux Canada**



## Rifampin-Ofloxacin-Minocycline (ROM) for the Treatment of Paucibacillary Leprosy: A Systematic Review

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Leprosy is a complex tropical infection from a diagnostic and management perspective, as patients with leprosy are at risk of numerous related complications from the disease itself and its treatment. Standard WHO multi-drug treatment (MDT) consists of medications that are potentially harmful and cause a range of adverse systemic effects.

Monthly- or single dosing of combined rifampicin, ofloxacin, and minocycline (ROM) has emerged as a potential treatment option for leprosy, however, a recent synthesis of the evidence supporting ROM does not exist. Paucibacillary leprosy, characterized by limited skin lesions and a low bacillary load, may be most amenable to a fluoroquinolone-based treatment protocol.

We performed a systematic review of relevant literature to evaluate the safety and efficacy of ROM-based treatment for paucibacillary leprosy. The systematic review will focus on assessing and reporting on the efficacy, and safety of monthly ROM in the treatment of paucibacillary leprosy within a human population. 1,201 records were retrieved for title and abstract screening, however, after a multi-step de-duplication pipeline, 625 articles remained. Thus far, 28 articles have been identified for final inclusion, however screening remains ongoing.

Results: Interim findings suggest that patient lesion clearance and treatment failure is greater in the comparator group (+4.69% and +2% respectively), and that relapse, side effects, and reversal reactions are more frequent in the ROM group (+0.39%, +0.42%, and +8.15% respectively). This suggests that ROM may be slightly less efficacious than its comparator, however, a more robust analysis is necessary. Determinants of health identified in the treatment of leprosy include social environments, patient education, health services, gender, and income.

Synthesizing the current evidence discussing the efficacy of monthly ROM, will strengthen the current body of knowledge surrounding the treatment of paucibacillary leprosy, and may allow for the development of standardized fluoroquinolone-based treatment protocols.