



GWC²

GUELPH-WATERLOO CENTRE FOR GRADUATE WORK IN CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

50TH ANNIVERSARY



GWC² Alumni Speaker

Dr. Gerry Wright

*Distinguished University Professor
Dept. of Biochemistry & Biomedical Sciences,
McMaster University*

“Chemical Biology to Address Infectious
Disease Challenges”

Friday, May 3rd, 2024 at 1:45 PM

STC 0020 & MicroSoft Teams

ABSTRACT: Infectious diseases remain among the most significant threats to the health and wealth of the global community. Before the advent of antibiotics and vaccines, the primary cause of death was infection. In the late 20th Century, AIDS emerged as a significant scourge, demolishing the immune systems of infected individuals, often young and previously healthy, and rendering them highly susceptible to infection. Resistance to antibiotics is now emerging as an existential threat to modern medicine. The COVID-19 pandemic reminded us that new infectious diseases will continue to be a challenge we must reckon with. Beginning with my undergraduate education at Waterloo and graduate work at GWC², I have attempted to use chemical logic and techniques to advance knowledge in infectious disease research and develop strategies to mitigate them. My foundational training in chemical biology at GWC² was critical to launching my career in this area.

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