



**Physical Organic Mini-Symposium (POMS)**

Toronto Metropolitan University

Friday, November 13 – Sunday, November 15, 2026

Hosted by Drs. Stefania Impellizzeri and Bryan Koivisto

*Estimated size of event 50-75 participants (students, faculty and volunteers) – there will be a registration fee (nominal depending on fundraising) set up in advance using our online system.*

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## Attendee, Volunteer, and Staff Conduct Guidelines

POMS 2026 is committed to providing a safe, supportive and welcoming environment for all participants. The conference provides an excellent opportunity for members and meeting attendees to connect, learn, expand, and grow their careers. At all times, meeting attendees, volunteers, and staff should act in accordance with this Code of Conduct across all conference activities.

By participating in this event, you agree to:

- Engage respectfully with all individuals involved in the meeting, including attendees, volunteers, management, speakers and coordinators.
- Ensure a professional, collaborative and constructive dialogue, avoiding personal attacks, derogatory remarks, or disruptive behaviour.
- Being conscious of critiquing ideas, not individuals.
- Accept that disruptive, harassing or other inappropriate statements or behaviour toward an individual is unacceptable.
- Refrain from engaging in unacceptable behaviour\*.

\*Examples of unacceptable behaviour:

- Disruption or obstruction of any meeting activity or social events.
- Physical or verbal harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying, discrimination in any form, or abuse of any attendee.
- Intimidation, threats or coercion.
- Conduct or knowingly create a condition that threatens or endangers any person.
- Conduct that is, or is reasonably seen to be, humiliating or demeaning to another person.
- Aiding or encouraging others to act in a manner prohibited under these guidelines.
- Verbal comments based on gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance and dress, body size, socioeconomic status, education background, marital status, and personal characteristics protected under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms (race, religion, national origin); inappropriate use of nudity and/or sexual images in public spaces or in presentations; threatening, stalking, and harassing of any attendee at the event or meeting, including speakers, volunteers, staff, service providers, and guests; unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favours; and harassment intended and communicated in a joking manner.

In addition, participants are asked to adhere to the following rules:

- The recording or transmission of any education sessions, presentations, demos, videos, or content in any format is strictly prohibited.
- Disruption of presentations during sessions, in the exhibit hall, or at other events organized throughout the meeting. All participants must comply with the moderator's instructions.

- Any direct selling of products/services offered by speakers, industry partners, or consultants in any public area is prohibited. Many engagement conversations are based on knowledge and expertise and are not categorized as a direct sales pitch. Selling must be conducted during mutually agreed-upon private conversations.

This is a drug- and smoke-free event. The use of illegal substances, smoking, and vaping are prohibited in conference spaces. Alcohol consumption is restricted to approved events for attendees aged 19+.

We take all reports of violations seriously. If you experience or witness any inappropriate behaviour, please [contact us](#). Reports will be handled confidentially. Violators may be subject to:

- A warning about their behaviour.
- Removal from the event without a refund.
- Exclusion from future events hosted by Toronto Metropolitan University

## Land Acknowledgement

POMS2026 is taking place on the traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples, and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. This territory is covered by Treaty 13, signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties, signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

As members of a scientific community convened to advance the fields of chemistry, we acknowledge that Indigenous Peoples have long engaged in scientific inquiry, technological innovation, and environmental stewardship. Their sophisticated knowledge systems reflect a deep understanding of the interrelatedness of materials, their properties, and ecosystems— developed over centuries through careful observation, experimentation, and iterative refinement. These methods parallel what we now refer to as the scientific method and challenge the false dichotomy between Indigenous and Western approaches to knowledge creation.

We acknowledge the ingenuity embedded in Indigenous technology. Several Indigenous Nations across Turtle Island have masterfully used the lightweight, waterproof, and antimicrobial properties of birch bark nanostructures in traditional watercraft and medical treatments. Recent research has shown that birch bark contains naturally occurring nanostructures (specifically, nanocellulose) that contribute to its hydrophobicity, durability, and resistance to microbial growth. These characteristics are being studied in nanomaterials research for sustainable packaging and coatings, as well as biomedical applications. The natural dyeing and tanning practices developed and sustained by Indigenous Peoples exemplify molecular-level manipulation of plant- and mineral-based materials, an approach that academic research groups and laboratories seek to replicate using engineered nanoparticles and polymer systems. These traditional tanning methods relied on altering the molecular structure of collagen in animal hides, a mechanism that we now understand involving cross-linking reactions between tannins and collagen fibres, and which is mirrored in the design of nanostructured biomaterials for wound dressings, tissue scaffolds, drug delivery and functional textiles. Water purification practices employing clay-based ceramics, which have been used for centuries by Indigenous communities worldwide, were designed and fabricated by leveraging the materials' porosity and adsorption, and are the precursors of today's nanofiltration and membrane-based water treatment technologies. Research on nanostructured ceramic membranes builds directly on this foundation, refining the pore structure, surface charge, and mechanical stability through nanoengineering techniques.<sup>1</sup>

Moreover, certain Indigenous macroscale structures also offer critical cultural connections to nanoscale phenomena. The relation between fullerene molecules and the geodesic domes of Buckminster Fuller is well known. Less well known is the use of similar structures in baskets and other Indigenous artifacts. A particularly vivid example is the Malaysian sepak takraw ball, whose woven structure strikingly resembles the

geometry of a C60, with both exhibiting a truncated icosahedral symmetry composed of interlocking pentagons and hexagons, illustrating how Indigenous designs have long mirrored molecular architectures now described through Western nanoscience. These artifacts and practices are presented in popular media as either fortuitous accidents or historical curiosities. However, Indigenous knowledge systems have made significant and enduring contributions to the foundations and advancement of numerous fields related to nanoscience and nanotechnology.

As we gather on this land, home to generations of knowledge keepers, we are called to reflect critically on whose knowledge has historically been amplified, and whose has been overlooked, marginalized, or intentionally excluded. Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge systems have too often been absent from our laboratories, classrooms, and research frameworks.

We invite participants to consider their responsibilities both as guests on this land and as stewards of technologies that shape lives, communities, and ecosystems, and to explore the Indigenous placemaking installations at TMU. For more information see [Indigenous TMU Placemaking](#).

<sup>1</sup> For more examples of how Indigenous practices exemplify long-standing innovation that aligns with academic Western nanoscience, see Eglash, R. Indigenous Nanotechnology, In: Encyclopedia of Nanoscience and Society, ed: David H. Guston. SAGE Publications, **2010**).

## Our Invited Lectures



**Dr. Audrey Laventure**  
Université de Montréal



**Dr. Vance William**  
Simon Fraser University



**Dr. Terri Lovell**  
University of Ottawa

### **The Friday Night Social**

POMS 2026 opening social will be located at (TBD)

### **The Saturday (and Sunday) Lecture Hall**

POMS 2026 will feature a single-session program for maximum exposure of all speakers. The lecture hall ([KHE127](#)) is located on the ground floor of Kerr Hall (east side the TMU quad). Doors to Kerr Hall are locked, but Security will be present to admit registrants (with their name tag) at the entrance below Saturday morning.



## Saturday evening - Poster Session and Banquet

The poster sessions will take place Saturday evening prior to, but in the same room as the banquet in [POD250](#). POD250 can be accessed from the KHE entrance, by walking around the the second floor connecting walkway. The Authors should be present during the reception to present their posters.

Poster can be put up during the afternoon coffee break or during the transition period after Saturday talks.

Please make sure to bring your nametag with you at all times.

## Information for Presenters

### Instructions for Speakers

The Invited Lectures (IL - 35 + 5 min) will be a total of 40 min, and the Contributed Lectures (CL – 17 + 3 min) will be contained within a 20 min time slot. We will additionally have Lightning Talks (LT – 2 min +1 slide) where a cluster of poster presenters can 'advertise' their poster to the audience.

Presenters should be available before the start of their session to meet the Session Chair and have their presentation uploaded to the computer supplied in the lecture hall. A volunteer will assist with uploading your presentation for you.

There will be both a PC and a Mac computer available to accommodate MS Powerpoint and Keynote presentations. The computers are equipped with USB ports. Speakers should bring their presentation on a USB flash drive or email their presentation to [bryan.koivisto@torontomu.ca](mailto:bryan.koivisto@torontomu.ca) to preload it on one of the presentation computers.

Presenters are free to use their own laptop for their presentation but must ensure compatibility with the projector prior to the start of their session (VGA and HDMI connections are available, but presenters must supply their own adapters).

A laser pointer will also be provided. A volunteer will assist with setting up the microphone prior to the presentation.

### Instructions for Poster Presentations

**Location:** The poster sessions will take place in [POD250](#) on Saturday evening during the receptions

**Format:** The available poster boards accommodate two posters side by side, with an allocated 4ft x 4ft (~1.2m x 1.2m) area for each poster. Presenters are thus free to choose either portrait or landscape for their standard poster layout (3' x 4' or DIN A0).

**Security:** We will not have security to enter and leave the building Saturday evening, so please consider a buddy system when leaving and re-entering the building. You can text Bryan Koivisto (705) 782-6303 at anytime if there is a problem.

### Accommodations

We do not have an affiliated hotel for POMS 2026. However, TMU is conveniently located nearest to College or TMU TTC (Toronto transit commission) subway stations. As such, any hotel adjacent to the TTC line 1 makes it easy to connect to campus.

The closest hotel to campus would be the [Chelsea](#) and they do offer TMU guests a discount. However, these promocode may become limited and you may be able to find shared accommodations much cheaper.

Please see below options for **HOW TO BOOK** with the Chelsea:

1. Call or write their in-house reservations department at **1-800-CHELSEA** ([1-800-243-5732](tel:1-800-243-5732))/ [cstor.specialtyres@chelseatoronto.com](mailto:cstor.specialtyres@chelseatoronto.com) and ask for **TMU** rates.  
or
2. Utilize the Rate Code “**NTMUA**” as a promo code on our website or use the booking link below for immediate booking and confirmation:

[Toronto Metropolitan University Rates - BOOK HERE](#)

## Off Campus Lunch Options

There are several lunch options close to the conference venue.

Here are some convenient places:

1. **Dundas St. W** - Authentic Asian food in primarily small restaurants (between Bay and University Ave)
2. **Yonge St.** - Primarily fast food & food trucks with global cuisine options (North of Dundas). A range of restaurants with various cuisines and price points (South of Dundas)
3. **Eaton Centre** - Food court with standard fast-food options (North end, Dundas St.) Queen's Cross Food Hall, a cross-section of 16 chef-driven food stalls (South end, Queen St.) <https://queenscrossfoodhall.com>

For attractions and restaurant options, here are some additional sites to consider:

- Visiting Toronto (<https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/visitor-toronto/>)
- Destination Toronto (<https://www.destinationtoronto.com/>)
- Toronto Attractions (<https://www.blogto.com/slideshows/best-attractions-downtown-toronto/>)
- Toronto Food Scene (<https://www.blogto.com/slideshows/best-restaurants-toronto/>)
- 50 Restaurants to Visit (<https://www.blogto.com/slideshows/best-restaurants-in-downtown-toronto/>)

## Tentative Conference Program

### Friday, November 13 — Arrival and Welcome

| Time           | Activity                                                                                                                  |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:00–9:00 p.m. | <b>Welcome Reception and Early Registration</b><br>(off campus, TBA)<br>Informal social gathering with light refreshments |

| <b>Time</b>      | <b>Activity</b>                                                  |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                  | Conference registration and name-tag pickup available throughout |
| 9:00 p.m. onward | Evening at leisure                                               |

*Participants travelling longer distances may register on Saturday morning instead.*

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## **Saturday, November 14 — Full Symposium Day**

### **Morning Program**

| <b>Time</b>           | <b>Activity</b>                                             |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30–9:15 a.m.        | <b>Registration</b>                                         |
| 9:15–9:25 a.m.        | <b>Opening Remarks and Welcome to TMU</b>                   |
| 9:25–10:05 a.m.       | <b>Invited Lecture 1</b>                                    |
| 10:05–10:25 a.m.      | Student Presentation 1                                      |
| 10:25–10:45 a.m.      | Student Presentation 2                                      |
| 10:45–11:05 a.m.      | <b>Coffee and Refreshment Break</b>                         |
| 11:05–11:25 a.m.      | Student Presentation 3                                      |
| 11:25–11:45 a.m.      | Student Presentation 4                                      |
| 11:45 a.m.–12:05 p.m. | Student Presentation 5                                      |
| 12:05–12:25 p.m.      | Student Presentation 6                                      |
| 12:25–1:55 p.m.       | <b>Lunch Break — Participants Explore Local Restaurants</b> |

### **Afternoon Program**

| <b>Time</b>    | <b>Activity</b>                                      |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1:55–2:35 p.m. | <b>Plenary Lecture 2</b>                             |
| 2:35–2:55 p.m. | Student Presentation 7                               |
| 2:55–3:15 p.m. | Student Presentation 8                               |
| 3:15–3:35 p.m. | Student Presentation 9                               |
| 3:35–3:55 p.m. | <b>Coffee and Refreshment Break</b>                  |
| 3:55–4:15 p.m. | Student Presentation 10                              |
| 4:15–4:35 p.m. | Student Presentation 11                              |
| 4:35–4:55 p.m. | Student Presentation 12                              |
| 4:55–5:15 p.m. | Student Presentation 13                              |
| 5:15–5:45 p.m. | <b>Transition to Poster Session and Dinner Venue</b> |

### **Poster Session and Conference Dinner**

| <b>Time</b>    | <b>Activity</b>                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5:45–7:30 p.m. | <b>Poster Session and Reception</b> |

| <b>Time</b>      | <b>Activity</b>                               |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 7:30–9:00 p.m.   | <b>POMS Conference Dinner and Celebration</b> |
| 9:00 p.m. onward | Evening at leisure                            |

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### **Sunday, November 15 — Closing Symposium Program**

| <b>Time</b>      | <b>Activity</b>                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 8:30–9:00 a.m.   | <b>Coffee and Informal Networking</b> |
| 9:00–9:40 a.m.   | <b>Plenary Lecture 3</b>              |
| 9:40–10:00 a.m.  | Student Presentation 14               |
| 10:00–10:20 a.m. | Student Presentation 15               |
| 10:20–10:40 a.m. | Student Presentation 16               |
| 10:40–10:55 a.m. | <b>Coffee and Refreshment Break</b>   |
| 10:55–11:15 a.m. | Student Presentation 17               |
| 11:15–11:35 a.m. | Student Presentation 18               |
| 11:35–11:55 a.m. | Student Presentation 19               |
| 11:55 a.m.       | <b>Closing Remarks and Farewell</b>   |

### **Presentation Format**

- **Guest lectures:** 40 minutes, including discussion/Q&A.
- **Student oral presentations:** 20 minutes, ideally consisting of approximately 15 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes for questions and transition.
- **Posters:** Presented during the Saturday evening reception, with presenters expected to remain near their posters for an assigned portion of the session.