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## Research Group

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<b>Dirk Douwes-Schultz (CANSSI Distinguished PDF)</b>	(Sept 2024 – )
Hidden Markov individual-level epidemic models Co-supervised with Alex Schmidt, McGill University	
<b>Jessica Pavani (PDF)</b>	(Jan 2025 – )
Behavioural-change heterogeneity in epidemic models Co-supervised with Alex Schmidt, McGill University	
<b>Ruoyu Li (PhD candidate, Biostatistics)</b>	(Jan 2022 – )
Hospital-acquired antimicrobial resistant infections Co-supervised with Jenine Leal, University of Calgary	
<b>Mili Roy (PhD candidate, Biostatistics)</b>	(March 2022 – )
Joint Modelling of Correlated Data Co-supervised with Tolu Sajobi, University of Calgary	
<b>Yirao Zhang (PhD candidate, Biostatistics)</b>	(Sept 2022 – )
Composite spatial individual-level models of disease transmission Co-supervised with Lorna Deeth, University of Guelph	
<b>Haydn Hornbeck (PhD candidate, Computer Science)</b>	(Sept. 2022 – )
Curve-fitting approaches to COVID-19 forecasting Co-supervised with Usman Alim, University of Calgary	
<b>Sorif Hossein (PhD student, Biostatistics)</b>	(Sept 2024 – )
Behavioural change epidemic models incorporating noisy alarm functions Co-supervised with Gyanendra Pokharel, University of Winnipeg	
<b>Md Iqramul Haq (PhD student, Veterinary Medical Sciences)</b>	(Jan. 2025 – )
Analysis of antimicrobial resistance data using modern statistical approaches Co-supervised with Diego Nobrega, University of Calgary	
<b>Yicheng Mao (Visiting PhD student, Statistics)</b>	(May 2025 – )
Population memory mechanisms in behavioural change epidemic models Co-supervised with Lorna Deeth, University of Guelph	

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**Parker Wieck (MSc student, Statistics)** (Sept 2024 – )

Fast Python-based inference for spatial disease models

**Autumn Palichuk (MSc student, Biostatistics)** (Sept 2025 – )

TBD

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### Past Members

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**Raja Ben Hajria (Postdoctoral Research Fellow)** (Fall 2021 – Fall 2023)

Hidden Markov Individual-level Models of Disease Transmission  
Co-supervised with Alex Schmidt, McGill University

**Caitlin Ward (CANSSI Distinguished PDF)** (Fall 2021 – Fall 2022)

Behavioural-change individual-level models of disease transmission  
Co-supervised with Alex Schmidt, McGill University

**David Vickers (Postdoctoral Research Fellow)** (Fall 2021 – Fall 2022)

Modelling COVID-19 pandemic spread  
Co-supervised with Tyler Williamson, UCalgary

**Leila Amiri (Postdoctoral Research Fellow)** (Fall 2019 – Fall 2021)

Spatial models for infectious disease transmission in heterogeneous systems  
Co-supervised with Mahmoud Torabi, University of Manitoba

**Mojtaba Pasha (Postdoctoral Research Fellow)** (Summer 2019 – Summer 2021)

Optimal design of control charts

**(Grace) Pui Sze Kwong (Postdoctoral Research Fellow)** (Fall 2009 – Fall 2014)

Spatio-temporal analysis of porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome in Ontario /  
Efficient forms of individual level models for infectious disease spread

**Gyanendra Pokharel (Postdoctoral research fellow)** (May 2015 – July 2018)

Approximate methods of inference for spatial infectious disease models /  
Bayesian clinical trials and patient centred medicine

**Vineetha Warriyar (Postdoctoral research fellow)** (May 2016 – Aug 2018)

Democratizing complex infectious disease data analysis

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**Lorna Deeth (PhD, Statistics)** (Fall 2007 – Winter 2013)

Latent-conditional models of infectious disease and related topics

**Lin Zhang (PhD, Statistics)** (Fall 2009 – Fall 2013)

Time-varying individual-level infectious disease models

**Jourdan Gold (PhD, Statistics)** (Fall 2008 – Winter 2015)

Computational inference for network-based individual-level models of disease transmission  
Co-supervised with Zeny Feng, University of Guelph

**Rajat Malik (PhD, Statistics)** (Fall 2010 – Winter 2015)

Sampling-based likelihood approximations for infectious disease models and related topics

**Nadia Bifolchi (PhD, Statistics)** (Fall 2010 – Winter 2015)

Individual-level models for use with incomplete infectious disease data and related topics  
Co-supervised with Zeny Feng, University of Guelph

**Gyanendra Pokharel (PhD, Statistics)** (Fall 2011 – Winter 2015)

Back-calculation, classification & emulation-based inference for spatial disease models

**Razvan Romanescu (PhD, Statistics)** (Fall 2012 – Summer 2016)

Modelling heterogeneity in infectious disease systems for inference and monitoring

**Waleed Almutiry (PhD, Statistics)** (Jan 2014 – Aug 2018)

Network uncertainty in infectious disease systems

**Justin Angevaare (PhD, Statistics)** (Fall 2014 – Fall 2020)

Infectious disease models incorporating pathogen genomic sequence data  
Co-supervised with Zeny Feng, University of Guelph

**Carolyn Augusta (PhD, Statistics)** (Fall 2014 – Fall 2020)

Deep learning of infectious disease systems  
Co-supervised with Graham Taylor, University of Guelph

**Syed Ali Naqvi (PhD, Biostatistics)** (Sept. 2017 – Dec. 2021)

Machine learning tools for understanding mastitis epidemiology  
Co-supervised with Herman Barkema, University of Calgary

**Md. Mahsin (PhD, Statistics)** (Sept. 2015 – June 2022)

Modelling spatial heterogeneity in infectious disease data

**Kamso Mohammed Mujaab (PhD, Biostatistics)** (Sept. 2018 – May 2024)

A novel semi-automated approach for trial identification and evaluation  
of the certainty of evidence from network meta-analyses  
Co-supervised with Glen Hazelwood, University of Calgary

**Chinmoy Rahul Roy (PhD, Biostatistics)** (Sept. 2019 – Sept. 2024)

Non-parametric spatial infectious disease models

**Madeline Ward (PhD, Biostatistics)** (Sept 2020 – Jan 2025)

Bayesian epidemic models with mechanisms for behaviour change  
Co-supervised with Lorna Deeth, University of Guelph

**Tahmina Akter (PhD, Biostatistics)** (Sept. 2019 – March 2025 )

Variable selection in infectious disease models

**Babak Habibzadeh (MSc, Statistics & URA)** (Fall 2009)

Misspecification of latent and infectious periods in space-time infectious disease models

**Hau Yi (Helen) Chung (MSc, Statistics)** (Winter 2009)

Individual-level models applied to an equine-influenza outbreak

**Sanjeena Dang (née Subedi) (MSc, Statistics & URA)** (Summer 2009)

SNP selection methods: modelling the expected breeding value of Holstein Cattle

**Abbie Gardener (MSc, Statistics & URA)** (Summer 2010)

Goodness-of-fit measures for individual-level infectious disease models in a Bayesian framework

**Irene Vrbik (MSc, Statistics)** (Summer 2010)

Modelling the spatio-temporal dynamics of combustion

**Daria (Dasha) Martchenko (MSc, Statistics)** (Winter 2011)

Designing experiments to assess the spatio-temporal dynamics of crop disease.

**Mingying Fang (MSc, Statistics)** (Summer 2011)

Generalizing individual-level models of infectious disease spread

**Xuan Fang (MSc, Statistics)** (Winter 2012)

Computational gains via a discretization of the parameter space in individual-level models of infectious disease

**Angie Dobbs (MSc, Statistics)** (Winter 2012)

On computational efficiency and model approximation for spatial individual-level infectious disease models

**Longyao (Chloe) Cai (MSc, Statistics)** (Fall 2011 – Winter 2013)

Logistic growth models for estimating vaccination effects in transmission experiments

**Carolyn Augusta (MSc, Statistics)** (Sept 2012 – Summer 2014)

Fast inference for spatial infectious disease models

**Lea Enns (MSc, Statistics)** (Fall 2014 – Fall 2015)

Individual level models of infectious disease transmission for animal experiments

**Susannah Ripley (USRA)** (Summer 2014)

Random forest-based insect species identification

**Anu Stanley (MSc, Statistics & URA)** (Fall 2013 – Winter 2015)

Early prediction of seasonal influenza using school absenteeism data

**Tahsin Ferdous (MSc, Biostatistics)** (Sept. 2017 – Sept 2019)

On the effect of ignoring within-unit infectious disease dynamics when modelling spatial transmission

**Behnaz Jafari (MSc, Statistics)** (Sept. 2017 – Jan 2020)

Bias in individual-level infectious disease models

**Thet Nyein (MSc, Statistics)** (Sept 2021 – June 2023)

Data subset-based methods of inference for spatial epidemic models  
Co-supervised with Lorna Deeth, University of Guelph

**Danika Lipman (MSc, Statistics)** (Sept 2022 – August 2023)

A Bayesian variable selection model for semi-continuous responses using Gaussian processes  
Main supervisor: Thierry Chekouo, University of Minnesota

**Matthew Baxter (MSc, Artificial Intelligence)** (Fall 2021 – Winter 2023)

Parameter estimation using random forests for two-stage individual-level models of infectious disease spread  
Co-supervised with Lorna Deeth, University of Guelph

**Jeffrey Peitsch (MSc student, Biostatistics)** (Sept 2023 – May 2025 )

Directional spatial individual-level models of disease transmission  
Co-supervised with Gyanendra Pokharel, University of Winnipeg

**William Lee (URA)** (May 2016 – Dec. 2016)

Analysis of infectious disease surveillance data

**Madeline Ward (URA)** (May 2018 – Aug 2018)

Approaches to disease surveillance using predictive covariates  
Co-supervised with Lorna Deeth, University of Guelph

**Arthur Novaes de Amorim (GRA)** (May 2019 – April 2020)

Predicting magnitude, timing, peak and duration of influenza at ER level  
Co-supervised with Vineet Saini, Alberta Health Services

**Zeyi Liu (GRA)** (March 2020 – Nov. 2020)

Spatial metapopulation models of Covid-19

**Emil Hodzic-Santor (URA)** (May 2022 – Aug 2022 & May 2023 – Aug 2023)

Edge effects in spatial epidemic models

**Evans Mensah (GRA)** (Nov 2023 – June 2024)

Forecasting with behavioural-change population-level epidemic models

**Jensen MacLean (URA student)** (May 2024 – Aug. 2024 & May 2025 – Aug. 2025)

Patterns of behavioural-change in historic epidemic data