

Dr. Dawn Bowdish is an Associate Professor at McMaster University where she studies macrophage phagocytosis, how macrophages contribute to shaping microbial communities of the upper respiratory tract and how they eliminate or fail to eliminate resident pathogens such as *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. Since the nasopharynx is the gateway to respiratory infections such as pneumonia and influenza, when immune control of this region is impaired, as is the case as we age, infections are more likely to occur. Dr Bowdish did her PhD at the University of British Columbia with Prof. Bob Hancock where she studied the immunomodulatory properties of antimicrobial/host defence peptides. She did her post-doctoral work with Prof. Siamon Gordon, a world renowned expert in macrophage biology. There she studied a class of macrophage phagocytic receptors called the scavenger receptors and found that the phagocytic process is linked in unexpected ways to pathogen sensing and the initiation of inflammation. She has won a number of early career awards including the Pfizer-ASPIRE award and the G. Jeannette Thorbecke Award from the Society of Leukocyte Biology. She has been recognized for her teaching and supervision by being nominated by her trainees for the President's Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision and receiving the Best Teacher Award from the Department of Pathology.