

## Track A Lead – Basic Science



**Nicolas Chomont, Canada**

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Nicolas Chomont is an associate research professor in the Department of Microbiology, Infectiology and Immunology at the Université de Montréal. His laboratory is located at the Research Center of the Montréal University Hospital (CRCHUM). Dr Chomont received his doctorate in medical virology at the Pierre and Marie Curie University (Paris VI) under the direction of Prof Laurent Bélec in the laboratory of Prof Michel Kazatchkine. He studied the interactions between HIV and genital mucosa and their implications for the sexual transmission of the virus. Between 2004 and 2009, he completed a postdoctoral internship in Dr Rafick Sékaly's laboratory at the Université de Montréal and the Montréal University Hospital's Research Centre. His work has led to the identification of the cellular reservoirs of HIV that are responsible for the persistence of the virus during antiretroviral therapies. Dr Chomont then moved to VGTI-Florida where he was named as an associate member. As an independent researcher, he has continued to characterize viral reservoirs as the major obstacle to the eradication of HIV. Dr Chomont joined the Université de Montréal and the CRCHUM in January 2015; here, he leads a research programme aimed at dissecting the molecular and immunological mechanisms involved in viral latency and developing new therapeutic strategies aimed at the elimination of HIV reservoirs.