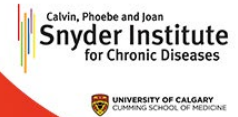




A NEWSLETTER FROM  
**The Snyder Institute  
for Chronic Diseases**



**December 2022**

## **Message from the Director**

Dear Snyder Institute Member,  
As we near the close of 2022, I want to thank each of you for your contributions to our Institute and congratulate you on the many outstanding accomplishments this year. Together, we have moved our goals and mission forward, and I know we will continue on this path in 2023.

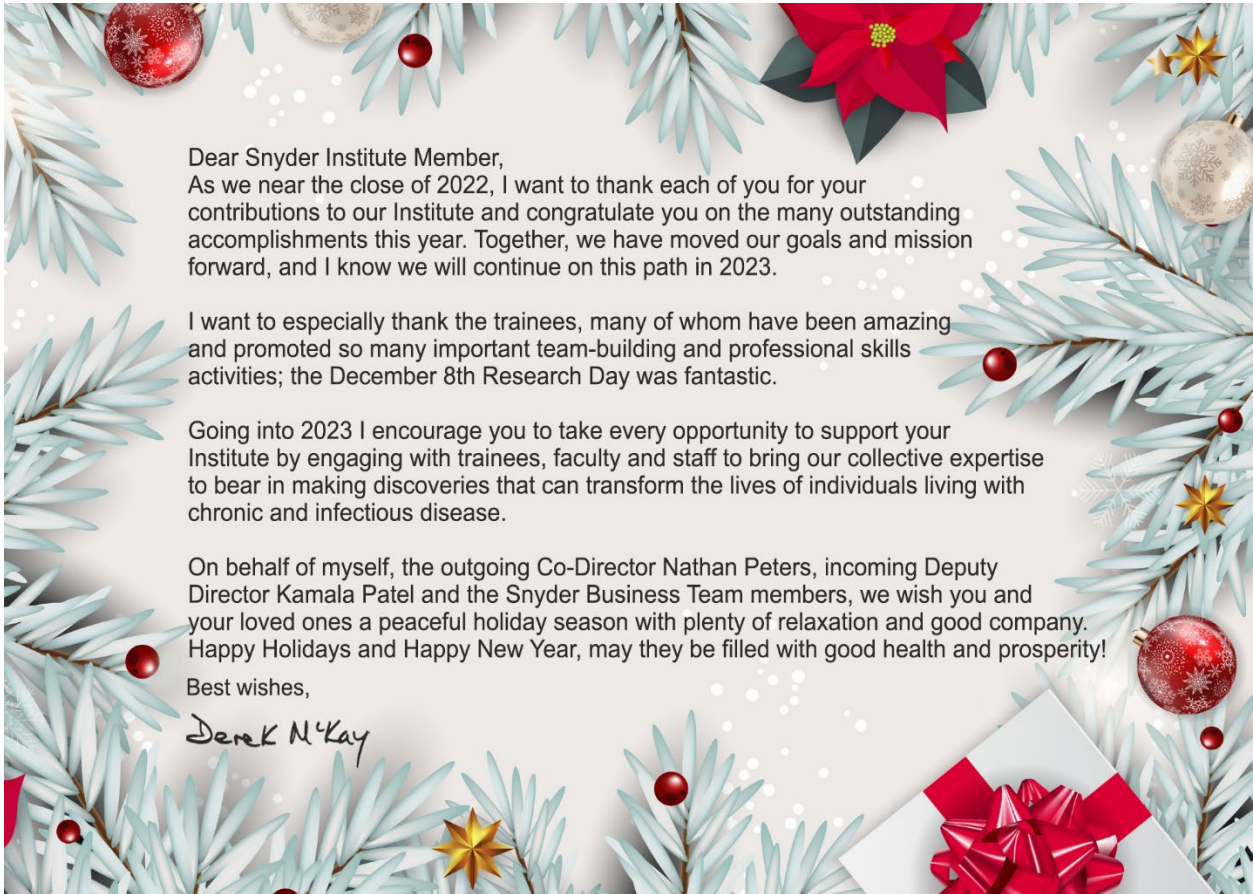
I want to especially thank the trainees, many of whom have been amazing and promoted so many important team-building and professional skills activities; the December 8th Research Day was fantastic.

Going into 2023 I encourage you to take every opportunity to support your Institute by engaging with trainees, faculty and staff to bring our collective expertise to bear in making discoveries that can transform the lives of individuals living with chronic and infectious disease.

On behalf of myself, the outgoing Co-Director Nathan Peters, incoming Deputy Director Kamala Patel and the Snyder Business Team members, we wish you and your loved ones a peaceful holiday season with plenty of relaxation and good company. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year, may they be filled with good health and prosperity!

Best wishes,

*Derek McKay*



## Research news

### Experts calling for delay to MAiD legislation that will add mental disorders as options for assessment



Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) was legalized in Canada in 2016 for people suffering from physical illness.

Now in March 2023, that legislation is going to be taken a step further to allow those who are suffering from a mental disorder to have MAiD as an option available to them.

It's a step that [Dr. Valerie Taylor, MD, PhD](#), supports coming into effect, but she and other psychiatrists are calling for the legislation to be delayed so they can be more prepared for its eventual role out. She said they aren't wanting to block the legislation that is slated to come next year, but they do want more time.

Taylor is the department head of psychiatry at UCalgary, and is a member of the Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases, the Hotchkiss Brain Institute and Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute at UCalgary's Cumming School of Medicine. She is also the chair of the Association of Chairs of Psychiatry in Canada (ACPC). [Read the full story.](#)

## Congrats

Congratulations to [Dr. Karen Lithgow, PhD](#), recently [awarded a Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship](#) for her project *Proteolytic remodelling of uterine tissues as a trigger of infection-induced preterm labour*. [The Bantings](#) are awarded to scholars who are the next generation of top-tier doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers in health, natural sciences and engineering, and social sciences and humanities. They are administered by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, together with Canada's federal granting agencies, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

[Dr. Christina Thornton, MD, PhD](#) recently received several awards:

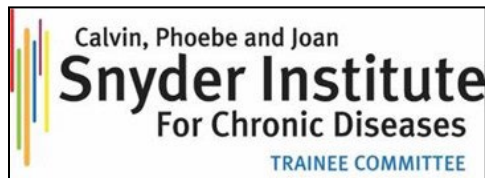
- Awarded a [CHEST foundation](#) entitled *Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension: When Good Bugs go Bad?* Collaborators were Dr. Braedon McDonald and Dr. Jason Weatherald
- Awarded the 2022 Cumming School of Medicine [Peter Lougheed Research Award](#) for her project entitled *Acute Pulmonary Exacerbation Phenotypes in Non-*

*Cystic Fibrosis Bronchiectasis*. Collaborators were Dr. Ranjani Somayaji and Dr. Margaret Kelly

- Named a top-five finalist at the North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference in November, 2022 for the Junior Investigator best abstract in clinical research.  
**Way to go Christina!**

In last month's Snyder Institute newsletter, we missed congratulating [Dr. Kathy McCoy, PhD](#), who was also named one of [Clarivate's Highly Cited Researchers 2022](#). Sorry we missed you Kathy, and heartfelt congratulations to you!

## Education news



### The Paul Kubes Trainee Award of Excellence – deadline January 20, 2023

The Paul Kubes award was created through philanthropic donations with the intention of supporting the success and careers of emerging infectious disease and chronic disease researchers. **Application deadline is January 20, 4 pm.** [Find out more here.](#)

## Survey: Snyder Institute Equity Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Action Group

**Purpose:** Collect demographic and experiential data from Snyder Institute members. This is part of the Dimensions: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Canada program funded by the Tri-Council Agency featuring 17 participating Universities.

**Data Usage:** All responses will be anonymous. Demographic and experiential information is recorded in separate surveys embedded within the link. Data will be compiled and shared with Snyder members and the Office of Professionalism, Equity and Diversity (OPED), and reported as part of the Tri-Council Dimensions initiative.

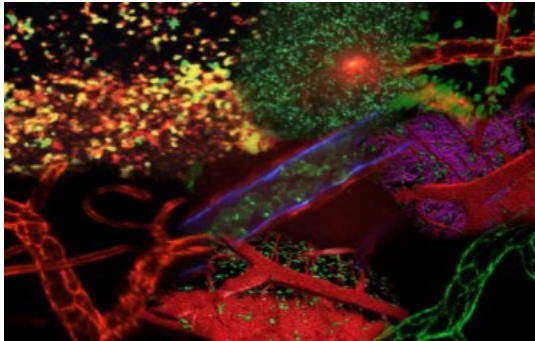
**Incentive:** We will be conducting draws for a \$25 gift card for survey respondents.



Once the survey is completed you have the option to enter this draw by accessing a separate survey and entering your e-mail address. This is optional and the e-mail address will not be linked to your survey responses. Scan the QR code to access the survey. Or visit [this link](#).



## Living Pictures: The Art of Microscopy – January 20, 2023



Microscopy is oftentimes viewed as the canvas of the biologist. Through this, creativity and artistry serve as powerful skills in the production and analysis of vivid microscopic images.

Join the Snyder Institute and Cumming School of Medicine and guest speaker, Pathologist's Assistant Lorraine Royall, MSc, on January 20 for an evening of fun microscopy activities that will encourage you to recognize, and exercise your artistic skills in working with the microscope. Event attendance is free, and open to all members of the CSM. If you would like your microscopy images to be featured at the event, please send them to [sitc@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sitc@ucalgary.ca) as soon as possible with a brief description of the image and your brief biography. Please use the subject line "**Living Pictures Photo Submission**". Registration information coming soon.

### Snyder Institute Distinguished Lecture Series January 26, 1 – 3 pm, Libin Theatre

Speaker: [Dr. Ninan Abraham, PhD](#). Dr. Abraham will host a trainee roundtable following his presentation. More details to follow.

**Coming soon: Snyder Institute Endowed Lecture Series**, early February. Watch for updates, coming soon.

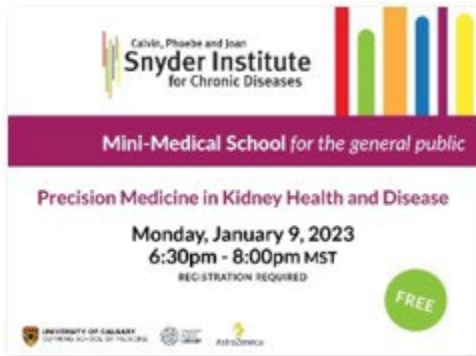
## Welcome



Please join us in welcoming new staff member, [Kelly Li](#), who joins the Snyder Business Team as Administrative Assistant. Kelly brings six years of administration experience to the team, working most recently for an Austrian medical company. She recently moved to Canada from Hainan China to begin a new chapter in life and career. When not working, Kelly enjoys reading, movies and travel. She is keen to “give her all” for the great people at the Snyder Institute. We look forward to working with you, Kelly!

Cont'd...

## Upcoming events



### The Snyder Institute presents Mini-Medical School: Precision Medicine in Kidney Health and Disease, January 9, 6:30 – 8 pm, in-person and online

Join us for the Snyder Institute's Mini-Medical School: Precision Medicine in Kidney Health and Disease, presented in person and also online by [Drs. Justin Chun, MD, PhD](#) and [Daniel Muruve, MD](#). Come and learn about the impact of precision

medicine in promoting kidney health. **This interactive lecture will be presented in person at the Libin Theatre at UCalgary's Foothills campus, and also online via zoom.** Mini-Medical School lectures are free, but you must register to attend. [Register here.](#)

### CSM Socials are back!



The next CSM Socials (formerly TGIF) will be:

- January 6, 13, 20, 27: 3 – 5 pm, HRIC Atrium South
- February 3, 10, 17, 24: 3 – 5 pm, HRIC Atrium South
- March 3, 10, 24, 31: 3 – 5 pm, HRIC Atrium South

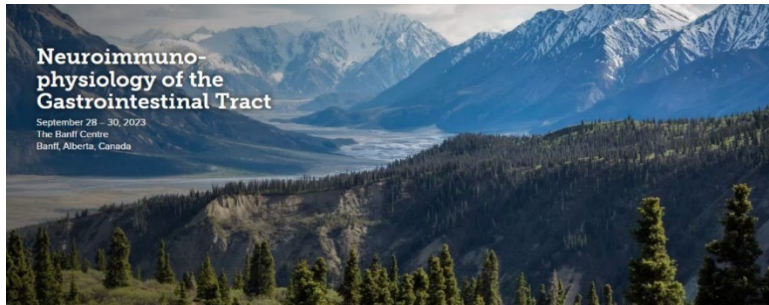
All students, faculty and staff are welcome.



### Save the Date: Lymphatic Forum 2023 June 13 – 17 registration now open

The **Lymphatic Forum, June 13 – 17, 2023 in Banff, Alberta** is a biennial event that brings together researchers from around the world to present and discuss studies on the lymphatic system in health and disease. Under the sponsorship of LE&RN and NAVBO and the Lymphatic Research and Education Program, the Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases is organizing the **Lymphatic Forum 2023 (LF2023)**, the fifth iteration of this meeting. For more information, including the program, registration, and abstract submission, please visit <http://lymphaticforum.org>. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Save the Date: Neuroimmunophysiology of the Gastrointestinal Tract 2023 conference, Sept 28 – 30, 2023



Held in Banff, Alberta, the **Neuroimmunophysiology of the GI Tract 2023 conference** will focus attention on the complex interrelationships that exist among and between the regulatory systems that contribute to normal intestinal

homeostasis. The meeting will also explore the ways in which deviations from this norm can lead to gastrointestinal disease states. The breadth and diversity of the program will challenge and inspire you. The concepts that will be developed over the two days of the meeting will broaden your thinking and can provide a new impetus to your research.

The meeting will be a success if lasting friendships are formed, and new collaborations emerge. We hope that you will enjoy some great science surrounded by the awe-inspiring Rocky Mountains. For more information, including the program, registration, and abstract submission, please visit

<https://snyder.ucalgary.ca/neuroimmunophysiology-conference>.

### Other news

#### The Snyder Institute Live Cell Imaging Lab is hiring

The Live Cell Imaging Lab at the Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases invites applications for a **Research Operations Assistant**. This Full-time OR Part-time Fixed Term position is for approximately 1 year (based on length of grant funding), with the possibility of extension. [Find out more and apply here](#) by **January 6, 2023**.

#### Clinical Trials Database

We have compiled a brief and simple confidential clinical trials database, for Snyder Institute members only, with information on clinical trials that are led by Snyder Institute faculty members or based in the Institute. Our main goal is to promote greater interaction between our clinician and basic scientist members, and to facilitate opportunities for complementary discovery research. Our vision is for basic researchers to search for ongoing trials from the spreadsheet we provide and reach out to the leading PI to discuss possible collaboration that would be mutually beneficial. If you are interested in accessing this database, please contact us at [snyderadmin@ucalgary.ca](mailto:snyderadmin@ucalgary.ca) and we'll provide you with more information.

## Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine and Health

Did you know that along with 75 other esteemed institutions, UCalgary is a member of the Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine and Health (<https://imconsortium.org/>)? The mission of ACIMH is to advance integrative medicine and health through academic institutions and health systems, with a vision of a transformed healthcare system offering integrative medicine and health for all.

So what is integrative medicine, you may wonder? IM is a patient-centred, evidence-based field of medicine that utilizes mind and body practices, natural products and/or lifestyle modification from different traditions alongside conventional medical treatments. Therapies often studied include mindfulness meditation, yoga, acupuncture, massage, exercise, nutrition and diet, creative therapies, supplements and herbal products, among others.

As an institutional member, everyone working or studying at UCalgary can join the consortium for free, and take advantage of member benefits including an academic journal, special interest groups, educational programs with CMEs, and a library of resources related to integrative medicine training and practice. They also host a well-attended annual conference with the latest cutting-edge research. For more information, [visit the website](#), or contact our local Institutional Representative, Dr. Linda Carlson ([l.carlson@ucalgary.ca](mailto:l.carlson@ucalgary.ca)).

## Do you want to contact someone at the Snyder Institute?

On our website, our [Contact us page](#) has some useful contacts.

## We want to hear from you! Send us your news

We invite all Snyder members, trainees and staff to send us your news about successes, lectures, workshops... anything that you would like us to share with the membership. We will make every effort to post it, and the best ways for us to share your news are through our:

- [Snyder newsletter](#)
- [Snyder website](#) (as long as your news fits the site's guidelines)
- Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook channels

To ensure your event receives the highest level of exposure, we ask that you please send your event information for website and social media **no less than one week before the event date; (two weeks is even better)**. For the newsletter, please send your news by the **third Monday of each month**, and it will be distributed in the current or following month. Please contact Holly if you have any questions ([holly.kerr@ucalgary.ca](mailto:holly.kerr@ucalgary.ca)). Thank you.

For the latest news and information, visit us at [snyder.ucalgary.ca](https://snyder.ucalgary.ca),  
and at



If you have news to share, please send it to Holly Kerr,  
[holly.kerr@ucalgary.ca](mailto:holly.kerr@ucalgary.ca)

[snyder.ucalgary.ca/](https://snyder.ucalgary.ca/)

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