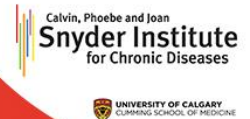




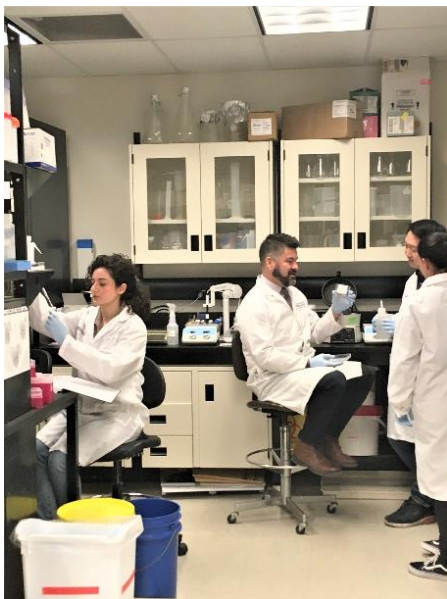
A NEWSLETTER FROM
**The Snyder Institute
for Chronic Diseases**



November 2022

Research news

UCalgary/Snyder study points to potential new treatment for inflammatory bowel disease

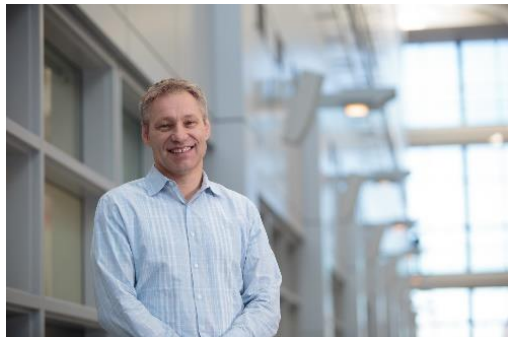


People with inflammatory bowel diseases develop inflammation of the intestine that can cause thickening of the gut wall and life-threatening blockage of the intestinal tube. Twenty to 50 per cent of people with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are affected over their lifetime by this poorly understood condition, called "fibrosis."

"Currently there are no approved treatments for this condition, beyond surgery, to remove the blocked section of intestine," says Dr. Simon Hirota, PhD, Canada Research Chair in Host-Microbe Interactions and Chronic Disease, and member of the Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases at the University of Calgary's Cumming School of Medicine.

A new study led by Hirota and published in the journal *Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology* details a natural repair process in the human gut that opens the door to developing a potential treatment for fibrosis. The study involved researchers at the University of Calgary and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. [Read more.](#)

Canada Foundation for Innovation awards UCalgary close to \$10M for CL3 lab upgrade to study pathogens



The University of Calgary has been awarded a \$9.82-million Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) grant to upgrade the containment level three (CL3) lab where researchers will study SARS-CoV-2, tuberculosis and other pathogens, inside live animal models. The lab, one of only a few CL3 facilities in Canada, requires stringent containment equipment and protocols.

“We are very grateful to receive this funding. This is going to revolutionize what we can do,” says [Dr. Paul Kubes, PhD](#), member of the Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases and professor in the Cumming School of Medicine. UCalgary’s will be the only CL3 in North America with capacity to visualize pathogens inside the body and cells. [Read more.](#)

Congrats

Congratulations to [Clarivate’s Highly Cited Researchers 2022!](#) Five Snyder Institute members are part of this esteemed group this year. Great rounds of applause for

- [Dr. Craig Jenne](#), PhD
- [Dr. Gilaad Kaplan](#), MD
- [Dr. Paul Kubes](#), PhD
- [Dr. Remo Panacione](#), MD
- [Dr. Johann Pitout](#), PhD

Dr. Nathan Peters, PhD has been [appointed department head, Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases](#), effective January 1 2023. Kudos to you Nathan and thank you for all your terrific work as Co-Director over the past few years!

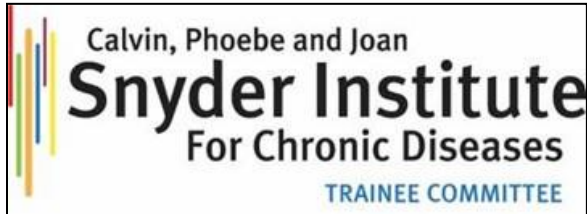
Dr. Kamala Patel, PhD has been [appointed Co-Director, Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases](#), effective January 1, 2023. Congratulations and a warm welcome to you, Kamala!

Congratulations to Postdoctoral Fellow **Dr. Marie Siwicki, PhD** (Dr. Paul Kubes, PhD) on receiving the [Damon Runyon Fellowship Award](#), “supporting the training of the brightest postdoctoral scientists as they embark upon their research careers.” Dr. Siwicki has also been a recipient of the [Beverly Phillips Rising Star Program](#) award.

Congratulations to Master’s student [Julianna Svishchuk](#) (Dr. Michael Parkins, MD), recipient of the UCalgary [Graduate Students’ Association Graduate Citizenship Award](#),

recognizing graduate students who have demonstrated outstanding dedication and leadership in their community.

Education news



The Beverley Phillips Rising Star Program – deadline Dec. 2

This award aims to recruit outstanding PhD students and postdoctoral fellows to innovative basic science and translational

research training within the Snyder Institute through the offer of highly competitive scholarships/fellowships. **Application deadline is December 2, 4 pm.** [Find out more here.](#)

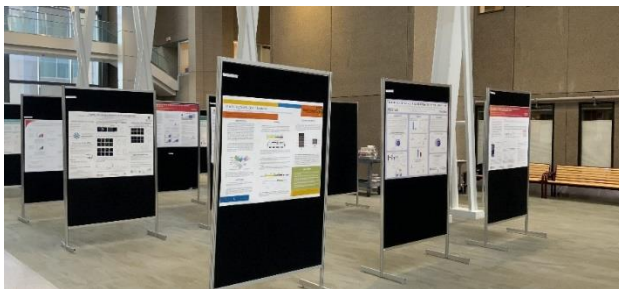
SITC Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Workshop Series on hold until further notice

The current EDI Workshop series is temporarily discontinued due to persistent scheduling conflicts. These sessions will be replaced when instructors and dates are set. Information regarding the new sessions will be provided as soon as possible. Your progress made towards the EDI certificate has been documented and new sessions you take once sessions resume will count towards the certificate as well. Thanks to everyone for your understanding.

~ Diana Changirwa and Karen Lithgow, on behalf of the Snyder Institute EDI Action Group

Mark your calendar for Snyder Trainee Research Day – December 8

This year, the Snyder Institute Trainee Committee (SITC) will host the **2022 December Trainee Research Day** in-person on Thursday, **December 8**, from 9 am – 3 pm in the Libin Theatre and the HRIC Atrium. All Snyder members and trainees are invited and encouraged to attend. (Trainee Research Day will be followed by the Snyder Institute Holiday Party starting at 3 pm, the first one since 2019! All are welcome.)



Trainee Research Day will feature oral presentations from Snyder students, chalk talks from Snyder postdocs as well as a trainee poster session.

Volunteers needed! The SITC are looking for Snyder trainees to assist in planning Trainee Research Day.

Interested volunteers should be available to meet via Zoom in November to assist with planning. Various volunteer positions are available and include: abstract selection

committee, coordinating presentation prizes and door prizes, planning social events and coordinating volunteers (judges, session chairs) for Research Day. Please complete [this form](#) if you are interested in volunteering.

Upcoming events

Snyder Institute Town Hall For All, November 25, 11 am - noon

All Snyder members, trainees and staff are invited to join us for a Town Hall on November 25 from 11 am to noon via Zoom to discuss updates within the Snyder Institute and to hear feedback from each of you. The Snyder Institute Town Hall meetings are held to inform you about updates on our strategic research plans, educational opportunities, personnel changes and future plans for the Snyder Institute. We also want to hear your ideas and address any questions you may have. [Find out more.](#)

CSM's United Way campaign is in full swing!

Let's help support local kids and communities in need. Here's how you can help:

- Come to CSM events:
 - **Market Day:** Monday Nov. 28 in the HRIC Atrium, 9am to 3 pm.
 - **Book Sale:** Nov. 29 + 30 in the HMRB atrium, 9 to 3 both days.
- Put your donation toward a 50/50 draw running until Dec. 13. This is a collaborative effort with donations from CSM staying within the faculty: [University of Calgary - Human Resources 2022 50/50 Raffle | Rafflebox](#)
- Consider **Give 'n' Thanks** stars for your colleagues! Virtual stars make it easy to pay forward. Purchase unlimited stars for a minimum \$20 donation: <https://www.philanthropycloud.com/view/2136251/Give-'n'-Thanks-2022>
- Share this link to donate or make a donation yourself using your UCalgary email. **Donate now to CSM's United Way campaign:** <https://www.philanthropycloud.com/>



The Snyder Institute presents Mini-Medical School: *COVID-19 and the effectiveness of vaccines and treatments*, December 5, in-person and online

Join us for the Snyder Institute's Mini-Medical School: *COVID-19 and the effectiveness of vaccines and treatments*, presented in person and also online by Drs. [Craig Jenne, PhD](#) and [Dan Gregson, MD](#). Come and learn about the effectiveness of COVID tests, treatments, vaccines and boosters. **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.](#)

Discover the possibilities of spatial biology! UCalgary and NanoString Technologies present *NanoString Single Cell and Spatial Transcriptomics* – December 6, 11 am – noon, in-person and via Zoom



[Dr. Justin Chun, MD, PhD](#) and Chad Dodds from NanoString Technologies will present an introduction to NanoString's CosMx™ Spatial Molecular Imager (SMI) and GeoMx® Digital Spatial Profiler (DSP). Please join us to learn about applications and technology beyond NanoString's Spatial Transcriptomics ecosystem.

In person at HSC G500. [Zoom link here.](#)

The following will be covered throughout the seminar:

- High-level overview of CosMx SMI and GeoMx DSP platform highlighting key technology features
- Case studies across multiple applications and areas of interest
- GeoMx for Kidney Disease, presented by Dr. Justin Chun

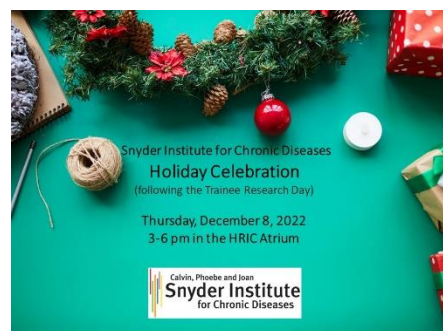
CSM Socials are back!



The next CSM Socials (formerly TGIF) will be:

- November 25 and December 2, 3:30 – 5:30 pm, HMRB West
- December 9, 3:30 – 5:30 HRIC Atrium South
- December 16, 3:30 – 5:30 HMRB West

All students, faculty and staff are welcome.



Snyder Institute Holiday Celebration, December 8, 3 – 6 pm in person, HRIC Atrium

Come one come all! You're invited to the first Snyder Institute annual Holiday Celebration since 2019, taking place **Thursday, December 8, from 3 to 6 pm in the HRIC Atrium following Trainee Research Day.** We can't wait to see you in person! Stop by for a drink,

appetizers, and great company to celebrate the Holidays! Registration is required, [please register here](#).

Shotgun Metagenomics Analysis Dec. 12 – 14

IMC bioinformatics platform is offering “Shotgun metagenomics analysis” December 12-14. This is a three-day in-person workshop to give participants a taste of shotgun metagenomics data analysis. Starting from raw fastq files, we will take participants through quality control, host DNA removal, taxonomic assignment and functional analysis. Basic Unix knowledge is required for this workshop. (Fees \$400 CAD) [Register here](#).

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

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 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).

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). Thank you.

**For the latest news and information, visit us at snyder.ucalgary.ca,
and at**



If you have news to share, please send it to Holly Kerr, holly.kerr@ucalgary.ca

snyder.ucalgary.ca/

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Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases
Cumming School of Medicine

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