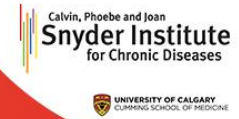




A NEWSLETTER FROM  
**The Snyder Institute  
for Chronic Diseases**



October 2022

## **A Celebration of Life: Joan Snyder**

### **Snyder Institute to uncover new treatments and safer testing thanks to \$35M legacy gift from Dr. Joan Snyder**



A new \$35-million gift left to the Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases at the Cumming School of Medicine by longstanding donor Dr. Joan Snyder, Hon. LLD'11, CM, will both sustain the Institute in perpetuity and spark new discoveries that build on its world-leading strengths in microbiome research and organoid development research. [Read more.](#)

#### **Joan Snyder: Sparking a stronger community**

Video and photos of an exceptional philanthropist whose legacy will last generations. [See the video and photos.](#)

#### **Joan Snyder's tremendous legacy lives on at UCalgary with \$67.5M gift**

Innovative and industrious as a business leader, Joan Snyder, Hon. LLD'11, CM, brought those same qualities to her philanthropy, seeking to not only improve the lives of others, but also to elevate the community and inspire the same passion in others.

"Whenever I've taken on a project, it's because I see a need and thoroughly believe in it," she once said. "It's done from my heart."

That dedication made her one of the University of Calgary's most impactful and ardent supporters during her lifetime — and, in true Snyder fashion, she continues to drive positive change even after her passing earlier this year in April. In a final act of generosity, she left an exceptional legacy gift of more than \$100 million to community organizations — including \$67.5 million that will boost research, student learning and athletics at UCalgary. [Read more.](#)

## Research news

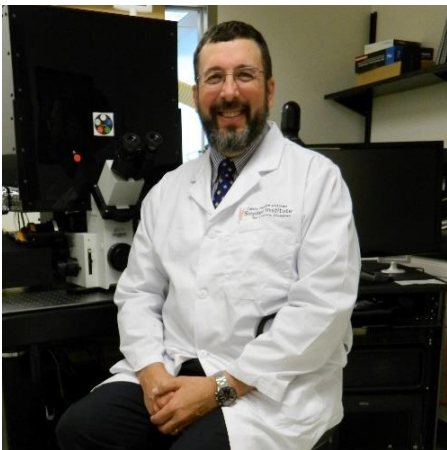
### Respirologist Dr. Brandie Walker says that while vaping poses significant health risks, it can help smokers quit



Smokers and non-smokers alike agree: smoking is bad for your health. In fact, most smokers are trying, or have tried, to kick the habit. But it's not easy. Some stats claim nicotine is as addictive as heroin and cocaine, and many people try and fail multiple times, whether through cold turkey, smoking cessation medication, nicotine gum or patches, or by switching to e-cigarettes — or vaping — as a transitional tool. According to the Canadian Vaping Association, while patches and gum have an eight to ten per cent success rate for smokers who want to quit, vaping works 20 per cent of the time.

Although vaping might be an effective cessation tool, it is also attractive – and risky – for young people. Snyder Institute member [Dr. Brandie Walker](#) would like to see e-cigarette products sold without packaging that appeals to youth. She'd also like to see the product accessible by prescription or at least via a pharmacist, just as other smoking cessation products are, and regulated in the same way. [Read more.](#)

### How will the COVID-19 pandemic end? Dr. Chris Mody shares his expertise with CBC News

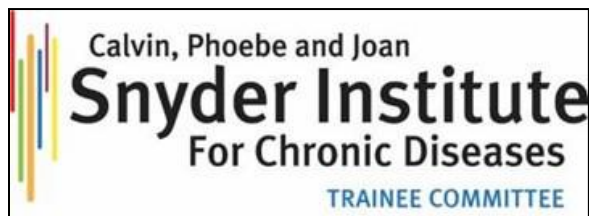


[Dr. Christopher Mody](#), MD, of UCalgary's Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Infectious Diseases and member of the Snyder Institute, says that until we stop the virus that causes COVID-19 from mutating, there will continue to be variants.

Mody says the virus is built to continue to mutate and generate variants of concern. Every time a new variant is introduced, incidents of COVID-19 increase and we see a wave. But until we stop the virus from mutating, there will be another variant after this one, and another one after that. How do we stop the virus from mutating? We must eliminate the large pools of people who are becoming infected. This means people must get vaccinated – not just in Canada – but throughout the entire world. We must reach a state of vaccination where there aren't millions of people in one particular geographic area transmitting the virus to others. Every time the virus transmits



## Education news



### The Beverley Phillips Rising Star Program is now open for applications

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 resumes

The Snyder Institute, in conjunction with the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) office, is offering workshops to deliver knowledge and competencies that will empower you to become an EDI leader. November workshops (via zoom) are:

- **Anti-discrimination Response Training, November 1, 2022 1:00 pm - 2:30pm**, Trainees, Faculty, Staff [register](#)
- **Anti-racism or Difficult Dialogues, November 15, 2022 1:00 pm - 2:30pm**, Trainees and Staff only [register](#)
- **Anti-racism or Difficult Dialogues, November 29, 2022 1:00 pm - 2:30pm**, Faculty only [register](#)

### Snyder Institute Science Communication Workshop Series – weekly until November 23



Do you remember those times when you were preparing a presentation and had to fit so much content into only 10 slides, while making sure the information flowed well? Or the time you were asked by a friend with no scientific background, or an individual with the condition

you study, “What is your research about?” and you weren’t sure how to talk about it in a language that was accessible to your audience?

If you’re answering yes, you will likely be interested in what’s coming!

We're happy to announce that the first series of the **Snyder Institute Science Communication Workshops** will run until November 23. [Learn more.](#)



## Living Pictures: The Art of Microscopy, November 18, 4 – 7 pm, HRIC Atrium

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 Cumming School of Medicine and guest speaker, Pathologist's Assistant Lorraine Royall, MSc, on November 18 in the HRIC Atrium 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. Sign up for the event [here](#).

If you would like your microscopy images to be featured at the event, please send them to [sitc@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sitc@ucalgary.ca) by 11:59pm on November 13 with a brief description of the image and your brief biography. Please use the subject line "Living Pictures Photo Submission".

## Save the date! Mark your calendar for Snyder Trainee Research Day – December 8

This year, the Snyder Institute Trainee Committee (SITC) will be hosting 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 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. The abstract submission deadline is **Thursday, November 17** at 6 pm and presenters will be notified of abstract acceptance by

Thursday November 24. **Please submit your abstracts [here](#).**

More details about Trainee Research Day and the Snyder Institute Holiday Celebration will be shared in the coming weeks.

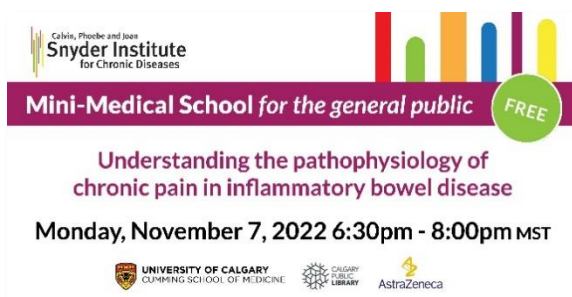
## Hello and Goodbye

We are pleased to welcome new member, [Dr. Raynell Lang](#), MD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine to the Snyder Institute. We look forward to working with you Raynell !

And we are sad to say goodbye to Elizabeth Saquibal, Community Engagement and Outreach Coordinator on the Snyder Business Team since 2015. Elizabeth was instrumental in developing our Mini-Medical School outreach program, and helped our Snyder Institute Trainee Committee become a strong and thriving key component of our Institute. Thank you for all you have accomplished over the years Elizabeth, you will be missed. We wish you the very best in the next chapter of your career journey!

## Upcoming events

### The Snyder Institute presents Mini-Medical School: *Understanding the Pathophysiology of Chronic Pain in Inflammatory Bowel Disease*, November 7, in person and online



Join us for the Snyder Institute's Mini-Medical School: *Understanding the pathophysiology of chronic pain in inflammatory bowel disease*, presented in person and also online by Drs. Yasmin Nasser, MD, and Manon Defaye, PhD. Come and learn about some of the underlying causes of chronic pain in inflammatory bowel disease. **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.](#)

### Science in the Cinema: *Dallas Buyers Club*, November 23 in person at The Plaza Theatre, 6 pm



Join us on November 23 for Dallas Buyers Club, presented by the Cumming School of Medicine, the Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases and the O'Brien Institute for Public Health. Watch a film with a health science theme – in this case HIV/AIDS – and then listen as experts explain the science behind the movie. An interactive question and answer period will follow each movie.

**Admission and popcorn are free for all attendees.** All screenings take place at The Plaza Theatre in Kensington. Doors open at 5:45 pm and screenings begin at 6 pm. [Find out more and register.](#)

### 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 Halls 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](#).

## 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](#).

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

On our website, our [Contact us page](#) has some useful contacts. And if you want to connect with any of our members directly, please visit our [membership page](#).

## 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](http://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/](http://snyder.ucalgary.ca/)

This message was sent to you because you have requested to receive information from the Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases.

To unsubscribe, please reply "unsubscribe".

Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases  
Cumming School of Medicine

University of Calgary  
3280 Hospital Drive NW  
Calgary, Alberta, T2N 4N1

© University of Calgary 2022