



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



April 2025

Thank **You** for supporting us this
Giving Day!

UCalgary Giving Day

Thank you for supporting us this Giving Day. Giving Day funds not only support life-saving research but also help our trainees at the Snyder Institute grow as future scientists and clinicians. Over the years, philanthropic donations have enabled us to offer world-class research opportunities, host academic workshops, fund trainee-led initiatives, and create spaces where trainees can engage with peers and mentors. These experiences are essential to building their skills, deepening their knowledge, and preparing them to take on complex health challenges. Your support directly shapes their journey and the future of chronic, infectious, and inflammatory disease research. [Read more about how philanthropy strengthens research and trainee success at the Snyder Institute.](#)

Congratulations to Snyder trainee Parker Volk for winning this year's 3MT competition



Congratulations to Snyder trainee Parker Volk for winning both First Place and the People's Choice Award at the University of Calgary's 2025 Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. Parker's presentation, *"Friend and foe? Looking for new anti-inflammatories from parasitic worms,"* impressed judges and the audience alike with its creativity, clarity, and impact. His work explores how molecules from parasitic worms might help calm the immune system and lead to new treatments for chronic inflammatory diseases like Crohn's. We are proud to

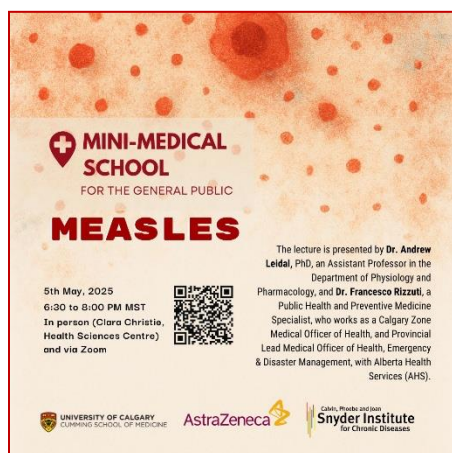
celebrate Parker's achievement and wish him the best as he represents UCalgary at the Western Regional 3MT competition at the University of Victoria. [Read more.](#)

Snyder Members Recognized with King Charles III Coronation Medal



Congratulations to Snyder members Dr. Carla S. Coffin and Dr. Richard Leigh on receiving the King Charles III Coronation Medal. This medal honors individuals who have made significant contributions to Canada and its communities. Dr. Coffin is a Professor in the Department of Medicine (Gastroenterology), Cumming School of Medicine, and an internationally recognized expert on hepatitis B and hepatitis Delta. Dr. Leigh is a Professor in the Office of the Dean (Faculty Affairs), Cumming School of Medicine. His research focuses on the basic mechanisms of airway remodeling in asthma, particularly the role of human rhinovirus, as well as the pharmacological treatment of airway inflammation through early-phase clinical trials in asthma and COPD. [Read more.](#)

Mini-Medical School Lecture | May 5



The WHO reports that the European region is seeing the highest number of measles cases in years, with Canada also experiencing a rise. Join us to learn more at the final lecture of this year's Mini Medical School on Monday, May 5, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. The session will feature Dr. Andrew Leidal, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology and full member of the Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases at the University of Calgary, and Dr. Francesco (Franco) A. Rizzuti, B.Sc., MD, FRCPC, Public Health and Preventive Medicine Specialist, Calgary

Zone Medical Officer of Health, and Provincial Lead Medical Officer of Health, Emergency and Disaster Management, with Alberta Health Services (AHS). [Register here.](#)

Publications

- **Wongkrasant, Preedajit**, Laurie E. Wallace, **Wallace K. MacNaughton**, and **Keith A. Sharkey**. "[Fructooligosaccharides Slow Colonic Motility and Activate Myenteric Neurons via Calcium Sensing and 5-HT3 Receptors in the Proximal Colon.](#)" American Journal of Physiology-Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology, 2025
- Munroe, S, Alexandra S, Andrea C, **Ann Zalucky**, Jose Dianti, Emma Graham Linck, Victor Talisa, et al. "[Evidence-Based Personalised Medicine in Critical Care: A Framework for Quantifying and Applying Individualised Treatment Effects in Patients Who Are Critically Ill.](#)" The Lancet Respiratory Medicine, April 2025
- **Johannson, Kerri A.**, Ayodeji Adegunsoye, Jürgen Behr, Vincent Cottin, Allan R. Glanville, Marilyn K. Glassberg, Gillian C. Goobie, et al. "[Impact of Environmental Exposures on the Development and Progression of Fibrotic Interstitial Lung Disease.](#)" American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, 2025
- **Ariel Kim**, Hayley G, France M, Mackenzie M, **Antoine Dufour**, and **Kris Chadee**. "[Human Mucin-2 Mucin-Producing Colonic Goblet-Like Cells Secrete the Chemokine CXCL8 by Activating Multiple Proinflammatory Pathways in Response to Entamoeba Histolytica.](#)" The American Journal of Pathology, 2025
- Kapilan, A, Mitchell B, Alexander Z, Mohamed D, Afshin D, Anthonia A, Victoria A, et al. "[N-terminomics and Proteomics Analysis of Calpain-2 Reveal Key Proteolytic Processing of Metabolic and Cell Adhesion Proteins.](#)" Protein Science, 2025
- **Callejas, Blanca E.**, **James A. Sousa**, Kyle L. Flannigan, Arthur Wang, Eve Higgins, Aydin I. Herik, Shuhua Li, **Derek M McKay**. "Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide Promotes Epithelial Reparative and Anticolic Functions of IL-4 Educated Human Macrophages." American Journal of Physiology-Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology, 2025

Congratulations

- Congratulations to Dr. Christina Thornton for receiving the Cystic Fibrosis Canada Marsha Morton Early Career Investigator Award. Her project, *Evaluation of Airway Colonization by Candida in People with Cystic Fibrosis*, was ranked as the top early career investigator project by the scientific review panel.

- Congratulations to Dr. Braedon McDonald for receiving the Bhagirath Singh Early Career Prize in Infection and Immunity from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for his project, *"Mechanisms of sex-biased illness severity in sepsis and implications for treatment."*
- Congratulations to Dr. Kruthika Iyer on receiving this year's Beverly Phillips Award. Thanks to the generosity of Gordon and Beverley Phillips, this award has supported promising researchers at the Snyder Institute since 2014 in the field of immune-related and infectious diseases.
- Congratulations to Dr. Daiana Alvarez Olmedo on receiving a CIHR Postdoctoral Fellowship. Daiana's research focuses on how *B. burgdorferi*, the bacterium that causes Lyme disease, spreads through the bloodstream to invade distant tissues.
- Congratulations to the 2025 NSERC Awardees from the Snyder Institute!
 - Dr. Marie Claire Arrieta Mendez — *Influence of fungal symbionts in early-life microbiome establishment and host metabolism*
 - Dr. Khrisendath Chadee — *Modeling Entamoeba histolytica host-parasite interactions*
 - Dr. Nicolas Jacquelot — *Cell reprogramming and adaptation to tissue ecosystems*
 - Dr. Katharina Lahl — *Maternal and offspring-derived antibodies in shaping the intestinal microbial ecosystem*
 - Dr. Cameron Semper — *Addressing cost drivers in cultured meat production*
 - Dr. Bas Surewaard — *Rewilded mouse models to study the impact of the wild microbiome on immune responses*
 - Dr. Pierre-Yves von der Weid — *TRPV4 and cyclooxygenase-derived metabolites as central players in the mechanoregulation of lymphatic contractility*
 - Dr. Bryan Yipp — *Using behavioromics to study dynamic inflammatory neutrophil migration in vivo*

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- A photograph of three women standing on a stage. The woman on the left is wearing a dark blue dress. The woman in the center is wearing a light green dress and is holding a small trophy. The woman on the right is wearing a light-colored, patterned dress. Behind them is a large screen displaying the GSA logo, which consists of the letters 'GSA' in a stylized, overlapping font with green, yellow, and purple colors. A podium is visible on the right side of the stage.

Education News

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All lectures begin at noon. Pizza (2 pcs. per person please) provided first-come first-served; best to arrive by 11:50 am.

May 5, Theater One

- Nabil Royez, MDMI PhD Graduate Student Dr. Pillai and Dr. Kim's Laboratories, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases
- Kathryn Strayer, MDIM MSc Graduate Student Dr. McDonald and Dr. Thornton's Laboratories, Departments of Critical Care Medicine and Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases

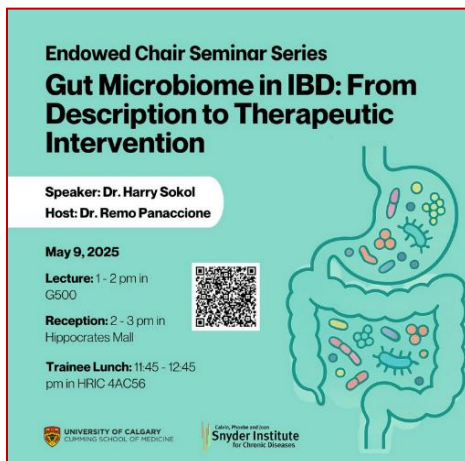
May 12, Theatre One

- Jared Schlechte, MDIM MSc Graduate Student Dr. McDonald's Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases
- Cathy Le, MDMI MSc Graduate Student, Dr. Savchenko's Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases

May 26, Theater One

- Mitchell Bulluss, MDIM MSc Graduate Student Dr. Dufour's Laboratory, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology Infectious
- Md Deen Islam, MDMI PhD Graduate Student, Dr. Carla Coffin's Laboratory, Department of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

Snyder Endowed Chair Seminar Series | May 09



Endowed Chair Seminar Series
Gut Microbiome in IBD: From Description to Therapeutic Intervention

Speaker: Dr. Harry Sokol
Host: Dr. Remo Panaccione

May 9, 2025
Lecture: 1 - 2 pm in G500
Reception: 2 - 3 pm in Hippocrates Mall
Trainee Lunch: 11:45 - 12:45 pm in HRIC 4AC56

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Snyder Institute
for Chronic Diseases

Join us for the next lecture in the 2024–2025 Snyder Endowed Chair Seminar Series on May 9, 2025, from 1:00–2:00 p.m. in HSC G500. Dr. Harry Sokol will present “Gut Microbiome in IBD: From Description to Therapeutic Intervention.” Dr. Sokol is a Professor of Gastroenterology at Saint-Antoine Hospital (APHP, Sorbonne Université, Paris), co-director of the Microbiota, Gut & Inflammation team (INSERM CRSA UMRs 938), group leader at the Micalis Institute (INRAE), and coordinator of the GLIMMER Hospital-

University Federation. Following the lecture, an informal reception will be held in the Hippocrates Mall from 2:00–3:00 p.m., and all members, including trainees and postdocs, are encouraged to attend. Snyder trainees and postdocs are also invited to a roundtable discussion with Dr. Sokol from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in HRIC 4AC56. [Register here.](#)

Paul Kubes Trainee Award of Excellence



Applications for the Paul Kubes Trainee Award of Excellence are now open. This award aims to encourage a multidisciplinary approach by involving Principal Investigators (PIs) from within or outside the Snyder Institute, who bring complementary but distinct perspectives and methodologies to the proposed research project. The award is open to trainees who have been accepted into a full-time graduate program at the University of Calgary under the supervision of a full member of the Snyder Institute. Successful applicants will receive an annual stipend of \$10,000 per year, along with a \$2,500 research allowance annually. The application deadline is May 16, 2025, at 5:00 pm MST. For more information and to apply, [click here.](#)

TRIANGLE Awards



The TRIANGLE Awards provide valuable opportunities to support research in GI and liver studies across Canada at all levels of training. The Early Career Researcher (ECR) SECURE Awards offer three-year funding, with the deadline on June 1st. Postdoctoral awards are also available, with funding ranging from AMPLIFY Research Fellows to AMPLIFY Clinical Research Fellows and ENRICH Fellows. For doctoral candidates, there is an AMPLIFY award and an ENRICH award, both for a three-year period. The CONNECT Summer Student Award offers a stipend for four months, with a deadline of February 28th. Additionally, the Experiential Learning Opportunity offers variable funding on a rolling basis. For more details and to apply, [click here.](#)

Upcoming Events

Clinical Research Fund Info Session | May 5

Join for the Clinical Research Fund Program Info Session to learn about new funding opportunities designed to better support the evolving needs of researchers. The Clinical Research Fund has introduced three updated streams - the Ignite Grant, the Research Enhancement Program, and the Transdisciplinary Connector Grant along with a broader, more inclusive definition of clinical research. This session will provide details on each funding stream, application procedures, eligibility requirements, and recent program changes. The Info Session will be held on May 5, 2025, from 10 to 11 a.m. on Zoom. [Register here.](#)

Banff Conference on Infectious Diseases | May 21 – 25



The Banff Conference on Infectious Diseases (BCID) will take place from May 21 to May 25, 2025, at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in Banff, Alberta, Canada. Since 1982, this biennial conference has served as a unique platform for internationally recognized experts to present their research on pathogenesis and various aspects of infectious diseases and host defenses. The event will feature symposium-based sessions with four invited speakers in each of the six different research areas. Abstract submissions are due by April 23, 2025. [Click here for more details.](#)

Pandemic Evidence Collaboration International Conference | May 14-16, Banff Centre



We are pleased to share an exciting opportunity to participate in the Pandemic Evidence Collaboration 2025 Conference, taking place from May 14 to 16, 2025, at the Centre for Arts and Creativity in Banff. The conference's theme is "Looking at the Pandemic in the Rearview Mirror: Successes, Failures and Unintended Consequences," to identify, develop and implement strategies for generating high-quality evidence on non-pharmacological interventions (NPIs) during

public health emergencies to inform future policy and care decisions. The call for

abstracts is now open, and submissions include posters, poster elevator pitches, oral presentations, workshops and seminars. [Learn more and register here](#). For questions, please contact [John Conly](#).

Juicebox Junkies Children's Choir: A Music Program for Kids with Type 1 Diabetes



Noted Music Studio's Juicebox Junkies Children's Choir invites kids aged 6 - 16 with Type 1 Diabetes to join a supportive, inclusive music program! Created by a T1D parent, this program includes mid-session health checks and snacks. Participants will learn Disney, Pop and Musical Theatre songs in 2-part harmony, develop vocal skills through games and prepare for a mini-performance. Sessions will be held on Sundays from May 4 to June 1, 6:30–7:30 PM at Citadel Community Association in Calgary. For

more information, [click here](#).

In The News

- **CBC News**

Alberta in the midst of worst measles outbreak since 1997 as doctors call for action

Dr. Jim Kellner talks worst measles outbreak in AB since 1997. [Read more](#).

- **CBC News**

The 'good news' and 'bad news' on Alberta's measles situation as cases continue to climb

Dr. Craig Jenne talks about the growing number of measles cases in Calgary. [Read more](#).

Design Support for Advanced Imaging and Prototyping: LCI ProtoLab



The LCI ProtoLab offers custom imaging adapters, fluidic devices, flow chambers, sample holders, and more, enabling you to concentrate on your scientific endeavors. As a comprehensive design and prototyping laboratory, we specialize in meeting the unique needs of your experiments. Our extensive capabilities include adapters for various lab equipment, imaging flow chambers, Transwell insert tools, patterned substrate molds, custom culture inserts, flow and shear stress chambers,

bubble traps, custom sample chambers, and pumping devices. Allow us to provide the design advice and technical support necessary to help you achieve your experimental goals. For more information, contact [Nicholas Pittner](#).

Other News

Snyder Institute Funding Reminder

- Snyder internal funding opportunities can be found on our website under [Membership & Funding](#)
- Snyder internal scholarship opportunities can be found on our website under [Education & Scholarships](#)

Awareness Information

Freezer Efficiency Matters: What You Need to Know



- A new ultra-low temperature (ULT) freezer uses as much energy as an average household.
- Too many ULT freezers increase building heat load and strain HVAC systems.
- Freezer management helps cut costs, prevent failures, and improve performance.

- Try “Freezer Fridays” to clear out expired or unusable samples.
- Label all samples and keep an inventory—less time searching means less time with the door open.
- ULTs take ~10 minutes to recover for every 1 minute the door is open.
- Test older freezers (10–15+ years); some use 2–4x more energy and pose a risk to stored samples.

Would you like 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 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:

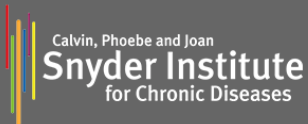
- [Snyder Newsletter](#)
- [Snyder Website](#) (as long as your news fits the site’s guidelines)
- X, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook channels

Do you want help publicizing your event/lecture/workshop? Send us the details **at least one month before the event date**. Please contact Anurag if you have any questions (anurag1@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 Anurag, <mailto:anurag1@ucalgary.ca>



snyder.ucalgary.ca/



Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases
Cumming School of Medicine

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

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