

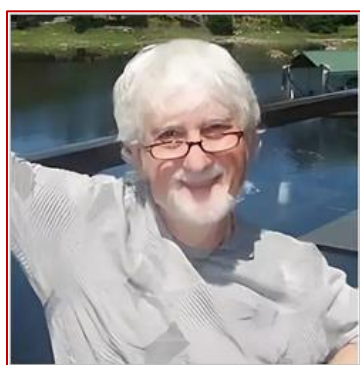


A NEWSLETTER FROM
**The Snyder Institute
for Chronic Diseases**



March 2025

In Memoriam: Dr. Morley D. Hollenberg



Professor Morley Hollenberg, a staunch supporter of the Snyder Institute, passed away peacefully on March 15, 2025, surrounded by his family. Morley had a remarkable 45-year career at CSM, starting in 1979 as Head of Pharmacology. A Rhodes Scholar and a leading expert in molecular pharmacology and endocrinology, he made major contributions to research, mentorship and medical education. In 1999, he launched the Leaders in Medicine program, shaping the careers of many physician-scientists.

He was inducted into the Royal Society of Canada in 2003 and received its highest honor, the McLaughlin Medal, in 2011. But Morley wasn't just a scientist - he was also an artist with a deep love for free-form calligraphy. Known for his curiosity, wisdom and constant support for students and colleagues, he was always ready to share advice. His impact on research, education and mentorship will last for generations. [Read more.](#)

Research News

Snyder member [Dr. Susan Kutz](#) D.V.M. is leading an expert interdisciplinary team set to revolutionize arctic wildlife conservation with the support of philanthropic funding. Partnering with Nunavut's Kitikmeot communities, this project will establish a wildlife health and pathogen surveillance network using genomic tools and community-driven monitoring. A key focus is on biting insects like mosquitoes and black flies, which are expanding due to climate change and pose emerging threats to caribou and muskoxen. The project integrates indigenous knowledge with western science to improve early detection of wildlife health risks and guide



conservation efforts. By identifying new pathogen threats and developing real-time surveillance, the team aims to protect Arctic biodiversity and create a model for broader conservation efforts. [Read more.](#)



The FDA has approved guselkumab (Tremfya) for moderate to severe Crohn's disease, allowing patients to self-inject at home with doctor approval. Snyder member [Dr. Remo Panaccione](#), a lead investigator in the clinical trials, highlighted its flexibility for patients and providers. This IL-23 drug reduces inflammation and is the first to also bind to CD64+ cells for enhanced relief. Unlike other IL-23 therapies requiring IV infusions, Tremfya comes as a prefilled pen injector for convenience. Clinical trials with over 1,300 patients showed remission rates of up to 65% at 48 weeks.

About 3 million people in the United States have Crohn's, a form of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) that leads to intestinal inflammation. The treatment is approved for those with moderate to severe cases, with symptoms such as stomach pain, diarrhea, blood in the stool, weight loss and fever. [Read more.](#)

Giving Day 2025



Giving Day is April 2-16! Funds raised will be directed to educational activities that bring added value to the trainee experience in preparing them for a career in research, healthcare and allied professions. All eligible donations will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$2,500 per gift, while matching funds last. This means your donation will go twice as far in supporting our research and education initiatives. NEW this year, for every 15 unique current faculty and staff donors to a given fund, an extra \$2,500 is unlocked for that fund. [Donate here.](#)

Publications

- Mikaeeli, Sahar, Dany Doiron, **Brandie Walker**, et al. [COPD Exacerbations, Air Pollutant Fluctuations, and Individual-Level Factors in the Pandemic Era](#) International Journal of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, 2025
- Church D, Christopher N, Maggie G, **Ranjani Somayaji**. [Evaluating the Epidemiology of Vaginitis in a Contemporary Cohort: A Population-Based Study](#) Frontiers in Public Health, 2025
- **Keane K**, Stephens M, Roizes S, Xue J, Liao S, **von der Weid P-Y**. [The spatiotemporal development of mesenteric lymphatic changes in the TNFΔARE/+ mouse model of terminal ileitis](#). Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol, 2025
- **Stephens M**, Keane K, Roizes S, Defaye M, Altier C, **von der Weid P-Y**. [The therapeutic potential of anti-tuberculoïd agent Isoniazid in a model of microbial-driven Crohn's Disease](#). Journal of Crohn's and Colitis, 2025
- **Johannson, Kerri A.**, Zhaoyu Liu, et al. [Incidence, Prevalence, and Mortality of Interstitial Lung Diseases in Alberta, Canada: A Population-Based Study](#) Annals of the American Thoracic Society, 2025

Congratulations

- Congratulations to Dr. Antoine Dufour on receiving a Strategic Operating Grant from Arthritis Society Canada to investigate a new drug that could restore joint lubrication and alleviate pain in people with osteoarthritis. His project, "Targeting HTRA1: A Novel Drug for Preventing Cartilage Degradation in Osteoarthritis," aims to preserve joint lubrication and prevent joint destruction.
- Congratulations to Dr. Nargis Khan on receiving a four-year grant from the National Sanitarium Association through their Scholar Program! This funding will support her research on the role of the bone marrow niche in tuberculosis (TB) pathogenesis.



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

April 7, Theater Four

- Sydney Perreca, MDMI MSc Graduate Student Dr. Alexei Savchenko Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases
- Hobin Seo, MDIM MSc Graduate Student, Dr. Jacquelot's Laboratory, Departments of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases

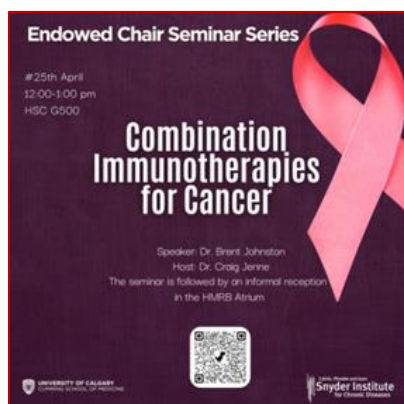
April 14, Theatre Four

- Carolyn Graham, MDIM MSc Graduate Student, Dr. Kubes' Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases Paula Brandt, MDSC PhD Graduate Student, Dr. Stys' and Dr. Muruve's Laboratories, Department of Medicine
- Matthew Penney, MDMI MSc Graduate Student, Dr. Parkins' Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases

April 28, G500

- Camila Gaio, MDIM MSc Graduate Student, Dr. Peters' Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases
- Zafran Khan, MDMI PhD Graduate Student, Dr. Nargis Khan Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases

Snyder Endowed Chair Seminar Series | April 25



Join us for the Snyder Institute's Endowed Chair Seminar Series on April 25, 2025, from 12:00 to 1:00 PM in HSC G500, Foothills Campus with [Dr. Brent Johnston](#), a professor at Dalhousie University. Dr. Johnston's research focuses on how the immune system works in cancer and inflammation. His current work looks at using NKT cell immunotherapy alongside other treatments to improve cancer care. The seminar is open to everyone and will be followed by a casual reception from 1:00 to 2:00 PM in

the HMRB Atrium. Trainees and postdocs are also invited to a roundtable discussion with Dr. Johnston from 10:45 to 11:45 AM in HRIC 4AC56. This is a great opportunity to learn from Dr. Johnston and discuss his research. [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

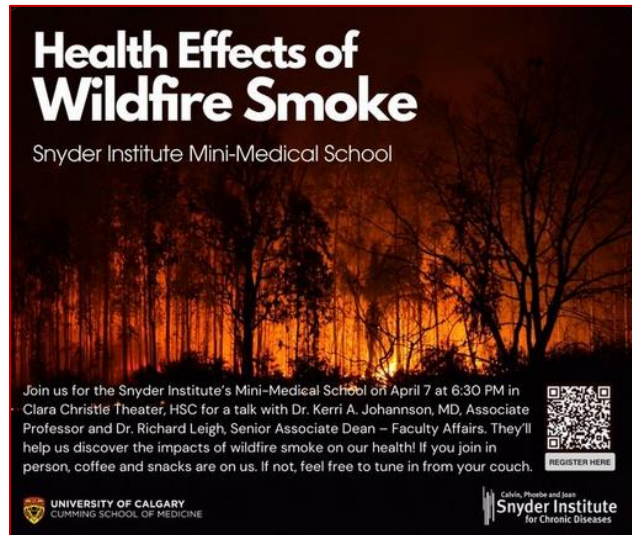


The TRIANGLE Awards provide valuable opportunities to support research in GI and liver studies across Canada at all levels of training. The Early Career Researcher (ECR) SECURE Awards offer three-year funding, with the deadline on June 1st. Postdoctoral awards are also available, with funding ranging 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

Mini-Medical School Lecture | April 7



As wildfire seasons grow longer and more intense, the impacts of wildfire smoke on our health have become a major concern. Join us for the next Mini-Medical School lecture, where Dr. Kerri Johannson (Associate Professor in the Departments of Medicine & Community Health Sciences) and Dr. Richard Leigh (physician-scientist and the Senior Associate Dean – Faculty Affairs in the Cumming School of Medicine) will dive into the latest research on how wildfire smoke affects our lungs and overall health. [Register here.](#)

Scientists Partnering for Research with Clinicians (SPARC) | April 15

The McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health invites researchers and clinicians to the SPARC (Scientists Partnering for Research with Clinicians) Event on April 15, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at The Last Defence Lounge, University of Calgary. This event provides an opportunity to connect with peers, exchange ideas, and build interdisciplinary collaborations in bone and joint health research. Participants will also have access to SPARC Ignite Grants of up to \$20,000 to support their projects. Since 2016, SPARC has played a key role in securing external funding, supporting 42 projects with \$640,000. Join us to explore new research opportunities and strengthen collaborations in the field. [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

- **Livewire Calgary, CTV News**

Calgary schools taking precautions as detected measles cases make their way into the city

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

- **BestLife, Salon**

Doctors Warn About Increasing "Sloth Fever" Infections in the U.S.—How to Stay Safe

Dr. Stephen Vaughan talks about Increasing "Sloth Fever" Infections in the U.S. [Read more](#).

- **CTV News**

Alberta doctors sound alarm over low vaccination rates amid confirmed measles cases

Dr. Craig Jenne talks about the link between our gut health and mental health. [Read more](#).

- **CBC News**

Recent Five years later, COVID-19 continues to leave its mark on Albertans

Dr. Craig Jenne talks about 5 years after COVID. [Read more](#).

- **Global News**

Influenza is hitting hard. Data shows fewer Canadians got their flu shot

Dr. Craig Jenne talks about declining flu vaccine uptake. [Read more](#).

Design Support for Advanced Imaging and Prototyping: LCI ProtoLab

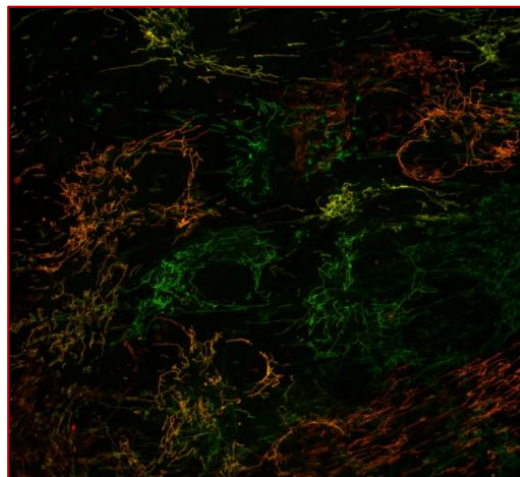


The LCI ProtoLab offers custom imaging adapters, fluidic devices, flow chambers, sample holders, and more, enabling you to concentrate on your scientific endeavors. As a comprehensive design and prototyping laboratory, we specialize in meeting the unique needs of your experiments. Our extensive capabilities 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](#).

Why Accessible Color Representations Matter?

Ever wondered how color choices in fluorescence microscopy impact data interpretation? Did you know red/green palettes can be difficult for those with color vision deficiencies? How can magenta/yellow improve visibility, and what role do colorblind simulations play? Why are some journals now requiring accessible color representations? Find out how small changes can make a big difference in scientific communication. [Read here](#).



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

Disinfectant solutions: efficacy, use and expiry?



- 70% ethanol is effective against lipid viruses and bacteria but not spore-forming bacteria, fungi, or non-enveloped viruses; good for residue removal.
- 0.15% bleach is effective against bacteria, fungi, and spores but corrosive to stainless steel; must be rinsed off after use.
- Virkon S (1%) works against bacteria, yeasts, and viruses; use 2-3% for fungi; also corrosive to metals and must be rinsed off.
- Disinfectants must stay wet on surfaces for the required contact time; reapply if the surface dries.
- Contact times: 70% ethanol, 0.15% bleach, and Virkon S all require 10 minutes.
- Always check disinfectant expiry dates before use.

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

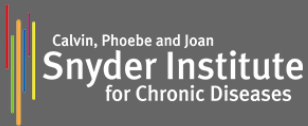
Do you want help publicizing your event/lecture/workshop? Send us the details **at least one month before the event date**. Please contact Anurag if you have any questions

(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>



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