



## A NEWSLETTER FROM The Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases



**May 2025**

### **Snyder Member Recognized with King Charles III Coronation Medal**



Congratulations to Snyder member Dr. Samuel S. Lee on receiving the King Charles III Coronation Medal for his service to the Canadian Liver community. He earned his MD from Memorial University, Canada, and completed residency training in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology at the University of Toronto from 1978 to 1983. Dr. Lee is an Emeritus Professor of Medicine (Hepatology), with research interests in cardiovascular complications of cirrhosis and viral hepatitis. He has published over 230 peer-reviewed papers, more than 30 book chapters, and edited a textbook on managing complications of cirrhosis. Congratulations Dr. Lee!

### **Publications**

- **Nguyen, Rita H.**, Michelle Newton, **Rachel M. Kratofil**, Brittney N.V. Scott, Fernanda Castanheira, Jung-seok Kim, Florent Ginhoux, Steffen Jung, and **Paul Kubes**. "[Imaging a Concussion and the Ensuing Immune Response at the Blood–Brain Barrier](#)." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 2025
- Chung H, **Waleed Rahmani**, **Sarthak Sinha**, **Aysa Imanzadeh**, Alexander Pun, Rohit Arora, Arzina Jaffer, Jeff Biernaskie, and **Justin Chun**. "[Nephron Progenitor Fate Is Modulated by Angiotensin Type 1 Receptor Signaling in Human Kidney Organoids](#)." *Stem Cells*, 2025

- **Karimullina, Elina**, Yirui Guo, Hanif M. Khan, Tabitha Emde, Bradley Quade, Rosa Di Leo, Zbyszek Otwinowski, D. Peter Tieleman, Dominika Borek, and **Alexei Savchenko**. “[Structural Architecture of TolQ-TolR Inner Membrane Protein Complex from Opportunistic Pathogen Acinetobacter Baumannii](#)” *Science Advances*, 2025

## Science In the Cinema | June 24

**CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE** **UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**

**science in the cinema** Ask a health researcher, is it science or fiction?

**Philadelphia**

June 24, 2025, 6:00 pm  
Calgary Public Library,  
Patricia A. Whelan Performance Hall

When Andrew Beckett is seemingly unjustly fired after being diagnosed with Kaposi's Sarcoma - a cancer linked to HIV/AIDS, he teams up with a reluctant attorney to fight a powerful law firm in a landmark discrimination case.

Join us for a discussion and Q&A with experts from the CSM's Charbonneau Cancer Institute and Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases on Kaposi's sarcoma, its link to HIV/AIDS, the stigma surrounding the disease, and recent advancements.

[cumming.ucalgary.ca/about/events/science-cinema](http://cumming.ucalgary.ca/about/events/science-cinema)

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Join us for *Science in Cinema* on June 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Calgary Public Library's Patricia A. Whelan Performance Hall for a screening of *Philadelphia*. The film follows Andrew Beckett, a lawyer who is fired after being diagnosed with Kaposi's Sarcoma, a cancer linked to HIV/AIDS, and who teams up with a reluctant attorney to challenge the injustice in court. Following the screening, experts from the Charbonneau Cancer Institute and the Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases will lead a discussion and Q&A on Kaposi's Sarcoma, its connection to HIV/AIDS, the stigma surrounding the disease, and recent medical advancements. Speakers include Dr. Jennifer Corcoran, an Associate Professor studying cancer's molecular roots; Dr. Mariel Kleer, a postdoctoral researcher focusing on the Kaposi's

sarcoma-associated herpesvirus; and Dr. Raynell Lang, an Infectious Diseases specialist and HIV care expert. Learn more at [cumming.ucalgary.ca/about/events/science-cinema](http://cumming.ucalgary.ca/about/events/science-cinema).

## Congrats

- Congratulations to Drs. Kathy McCoy, Maximilien Evrard, and Laura Cook, recipients of the Melbourne-Calgary Enabling Capabilities Seed Grants, jointly funded by the Cumming Global Centre and the Cumming School of Medicine's Snyder Institute. They recently met with inaugural donor Mr. Geoffrey Cumming, his business partner Jesse Marble, and Nobel Laureate Professor Peter Doherty at the Doherty Institute to share their pioneering work on pre-clinical mouse models and human organoids. These technologies will form a critical foundation for accelerating the development of pandemic therapeutics.
- Congratulations to Nabil Royez, a PhD candidate in the MDMI program, for receiving the "Faculty of Graduate Studies Doctoral Scholarship". Additionally, he is also a recipient of the prestigious "Elizabeth Cannon Graduate Scholarship in Entrepreneurial Thinking" award. With over six years of experience in advanced molecular diagnostics, Nabil's research focuses on developing a novel multiplex LAMP-based diagnostic platform for infectious diseases. Well done, Nabil, on this remarkable achievement!
- Congratulations to Snyder member Dr. Herman Barkema who has been honoured by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges for his outstanding work on the interconnectedness of animal and human health with the environment. This recognition highlights his leadership in veterinary research and his commitment to addressing critical health challenges through the integration of agriculture, veterinary medicine, and epidemiology.
- Congratulations to Parker Volk, PhD student in the McKay Lab, on winning the UCalgary Graduate Student 3-Minute Thesis Competition, placing 2nd in the Western Finals, and advancing to the Canadian Final in Ottawa this fall. Well done and best of luck at the national level!
- Congratulations to Justin Chun for being recognized by CIHR for outstanding contributions to the peer review process in five consecutive Project Grant Competitions. We are proud to celebrate this well-deserved recognition

- Congratulations to Kieran Meadows, PhD candidate supervised by Dr. Justin Chun and co-supervised by Dr. Keekyoung Kim, for receiving the Achievers in Medical Science Doctoral Scholarship.
- We are proud to share that Dr. Susan Kutz has been named a Killam Annual Professor, recognizing her exceptional achievements in research, teaching, and community engagement. This prestigious professorship is awarded to individuals with a sustained record—typically over a decade—of nationally and internationally recognized scholarship and educational leadership in their field.

## Education News

### Schedule for Grad Seminar Series for June



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

### June 2, Theater One

- Samantha Cortez, MDIM MSc Graduate Student, Drs. Cobo & McKay Laboratories, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology

- Amy Shupe, MDIM MSc Graduate Student, Dr. McCoy's Laboratory, Department of Physiology & Pharmacology

#### **June 9 , Theatre One**

- Parker Volk, MDGI MSc Graduate Student, Dr. McKay's Laboratory, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology
- Megan Kinzel, MDIM MSc Graduate Student, Dr. Jacquelot's Laboratory, Departments of Biochemistry & Molecular and Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases

#### **June 16, Theater One**

- Ana D'Aubeterre, MDMI MSc Graduate Student, Drs. Sycuro & Dufour Laboratories, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases
- Aisha Almsoud, MDCV MSc Graduate Student, Dr. Kai and Newton's Laboratories, Department of Physiology & Pharmacology

#### **June 23, Theater One**

- Natalie Andonian, MDGI MSc Graduate Student, Dr. McKay's Laboratory, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology
- Paula Forneris, MDMI MSc Graduate Student, Dr. Cobo's Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases

#### **June 30, Theater One**

- Jenna Buragina, MDMI MSc Graduate Student, Dr. De Buck's Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases
- Raffay Ilyas, MDIM MSc Graduate Student, Dr. Liao's Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases



## Upcoming Events

### Brewhouse Night to Support Colton's Crusaders | June 18



Attend Brewhouse Night to Support Colton's Crusaders on Tuesday, June 18 at 6:00 p.m. at the Canadian Brewhouse – University District (220–3953 University Ave NW). This fundraiser supports Snyder trainees Liam (Canton Lab) and Lorenzo (Hay Lab) as they prepare for the Tour Alberta for Cancer—a two-day, 200+ km ride. They are riding as part of Colton's Crusaders, a team inspired by Colton Yau, a courageous 9-year-old battling acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Funds raised will support cancer immunotherapy research at the Riddell Centre for Cancer Immunotherapy through the Alberta

Cancer Foundation. Tickets (\$15) go on sale next week. You can register by scanning the QR code on the attached poster or [clicking the registration link](#). Can't attend? You can still support the cause by donating directly to Liam and Lorenzo as they aim to raise \$2,500 each.

### Foundations of Health Policy | June 19



Attend "Foundations of Health Policy: Where Science Meets Systems & Stethoscopes Meet Strategy." This workshop is designed for researchers and clinicians who want to turn their insights into real-world impact. Learn how to define policy problems, identify key audiences, and move evidence into action. The session will offer guidance on writing op-eds, crafting policy briefs, and engaging strategically with decision-makers—using real case examples. The workshop takes place on June 19, 2025, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at the Foothills Campus. [Click here to register](#).

## In The News

- **The Guardian**

### **‘Inverse vaccines’: the promise of a ‘holy grail’ treatment for autoimmune diseases**

Dr. Pere Santamaria talks about “inverse vaccines” discovery. [Read more.](#)

- **CBC News**

### **Management board urges hunters to watch for parasites in harvested caribou**

Dr. Susan Kutz talks about the levels of parasitic infections detected in the Beverly caribou herd. [Read more.](#)

- **Yahoo Finance**

### **A global study led by CUHK and the University of Calgary charts four-stage evolution of Inflammatory Bowel Disease**

Dr. Gilaad Kaplan talks about rising burdens in industrializing regions and guide future healthcare strategies. [Read more.](#)

- **Global News**

### **Measles cases show signs of exponential growth in western Canada, say health experts**

Dr. Craig Jenne talks about the increasing measles cases in Western Canada, with over 1,800 confirmed since October 2024. [Read more.](#)

- **Health**

### **Can Probiotics for Gut Health Help Boost Your Mood, Too? Here's What New Research Says**

Dr. Valerie Taylor talks probiotics that may reduce day-to-day negative feelings. [Read more.](#)

- **CBC News**

### **London man among thousands who've rolled up their sleeves to trial Lyme disease vaccine**

Dr. George Chaconas talks about the clinical trial for VLA15, the first potential Lyme disease vaccine in over two decades. [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)
- Twitter, 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](mailto:anurag1@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 Anurag: [anurag1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:anurag1@ucalgary.ca)

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