



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



October 2025

Snyder Member Lead Study Reveals How HIV Hides in Different Parts of Body



A new study led by Snyder member Dr. Guido van Marle and his research group has uncovered how HIV hides in different parts of the body by embedding itself into the DNA of cells in a tissue-specific way. This discovery provides important insight into why the virus remains so difficult to eliminate and cure, even decades after infection and treatment. The researchers found that HIV cloaks itself in the DNA of infected cells by using distinct DNA patterns in the brain, blood and digestive tract. In the brain, for instance, the virus avoids active genes and conceals itself in less active regions of the DNA, helping it stay undetected. “We found that HIV doesn’t integrate randomly. Instead, it follows unique patterns in different tissues, possibly shaped by the local environment and immune responses,” said Dr. Stephen Barr, the study’s co-lead researcher at Western University. [Read here.](#)

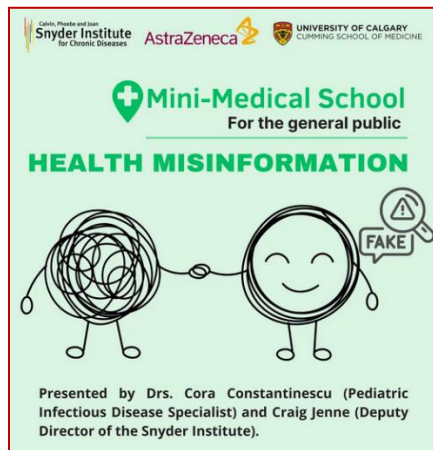
Snyder Trainee Parker Volk Represents UCalgary at National Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition



PhD student Parker Volk, whose fascination with parasites earned him national recognition, represented UCalgary at the 2025 Three Minute Thesis national showcase. Volk’s work is part of UCalgary’s Host-Parasite Interactions (HPI) program, the largest parasitology research group in Canada. He studies the rat tapeworm *Hymenolepis diminuta*, a parasite that has evolved remarkable strategies to survive inside its host, at the McKay Lab. Over millions of years, these worms have developed ways to calm the immune system and avoid being expelled. Volk’s research focuses on how the parasite’s vesicles interact with macrophages, the immune system’s “first responders.” By understanding this interaction, he aims to

uncover mechanisms that could be adapted to treat autoimmune diseases such as Crohn's, where inflammation spirals out of control. His talk, "Friend and Foe? Looking for New Anti-Inflammatories from Parasitic Worms," secured second place at the Western Regional 3MT in Victoria, B.C., and he went on to compete at the National 3MT Showcase in Ottawa. [Read here.](#)

Mini Medical School | Nov 3



Join us on November 3 for an eye-opening hybrid public lecture that explores health misinformation. Learn how false or misleading health claims spread, why people fall for them and how you can tell credible science from clever marketing. This lecture features Dr. Craig Jenne & Dr. Cora Constantinescu, leading researchers from UCalgary's Cumming School of Medicine and Snyder Institute. Dr. Craig Jenne, PhD, is the Deputy Director of the Snyder Institute and the Scientific Director of the Snyder Institute Translational Lab in Critical Care Medicine, a position that allows him to work directly with clinicians and researchers on human clinical studies. Dr. Cora Constantinescu, MD, is a pediatric infectious disease specialist with the Vaccine Hesitancy Clinic at the Alberta Children's Hospital and is a full member of the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI). [Learn more and register.](#)

Publications

- Garnica, J., **Jun Yamanouchi**, **Shari Thiessen**, Moro, J., Canut, E., Palou, M., **Debajyoti Mondal**, Serra, P., & **Pere Santamaria**. [Contextual regulation of T follicular helper cell expansion and differentiation into T regulatory type 1 cells by multiple transcription factors](#). Cell Reports, 2025
- Muts, R. M., Hendriks, A., **Josefien Hommes**, Grönloh, M. L. B., Dijkstra, D. J., De Haas, C. J. C., Aerts, P. C., Ebberink, E. H. T. M., Heck, A. J. R., Wang, Z., Zhuang, H., Codée, J. D. C., **Bas Surewaard**, Heesterbeek, D. A. C., Van Sorge, N. M., & Rooijackers, S. H. M. (2025). [Isotype conversion of Staphylococcal-specific IgG](#)

[into IgM broadens the reactivity to other bacterial pathogens](#). Cell Reports Medicine, 2025

- Kohio, H. P., Ajoge, H. O., Barua, E. A., Vajaria, N. R., Wu, I. K. F., Coleman, M. D., Tom, S. K., **Frank van der Meer, John Gill, Deirde Church, Paul Beck, Power, C., Guido van Marle, & Barr, S. D.** (2025). [Early pandemic HIV-1 integration site preferences differ across anatomical sites](#). Communications Medicine, 2025
- Pimentel, E., Banoei, M. M., Lee, C. H., & **Brent Winston.** (2025). [Comparative plasma metabolomics of Delta and Omicron SARS-CoV-2 variants: insights into variant-specific pathogenesis and therapeutic implications](#). Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology, 2025

Education News

Grad Seminar Series Schedule (November)



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

November 3 Theater One

- Liam Wilkinson, MDMI PhD Graduate Student, Dr. Canton's Laboratory, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Laura Godin, MDIM PhD Graduate Student, Dr. Jenne's Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases

November 10 Theater One

- Tashi Rastogi, MDIM MSc Graduate Student, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases
- Stephanie Hindle, MDIM PhD Graduate Student, Dr. Jenne's Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases

November 17 Theater One

- Anjali Kapilan, MDSC PhD Graduate Student, Dr. Dufour Laboratory, Department of Pharmacology & Physiology
- Dorian Rojas Villalta, BMB PhD Graduate Student, Dr. Arrieta and Dufour Laboratories, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology

November 24 Theater One

- Guilherme Marinho, MDMI MSc Student, Dr. Lahl's Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases
- Spencer Abbott, MDIM MSc Student, Dr. McCoy's Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases

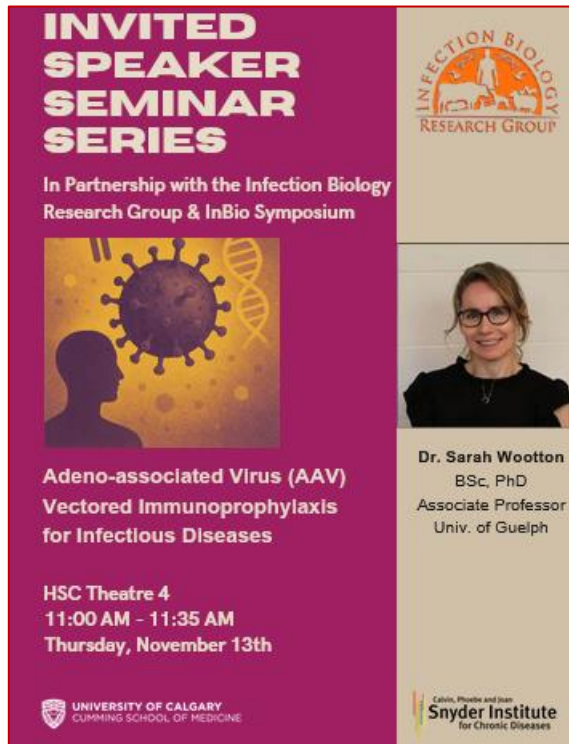
Striking Image Competition 2025



The Advanced Imaging and Microscopy (AIM) Network invites submissions for the Striking Image Competition 2025, celebrating microscopy excellence and promoting colour blind friendly images. This competition provides an opportunity to showcase your research by submitting biology-related images captured on any optical microscope across the University of


Calgary. To submit an entry, you must be a member of the University of Calgary with a valid @ucalgary.ca email address. The submission form is open from September 15th to November 7th. [Register here.](#)

Snyder Invited Speaker Seminar Series | Nov 13





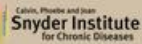

**INVITED
SPEAKER
SEMINAR
SERIES**

In Partnership with the Infection Biology
Research Group & InBio Symposium



**Adeno-associated Virus (AAV)
Vectored Immunoprophylaxis
for Infectious Diseases**

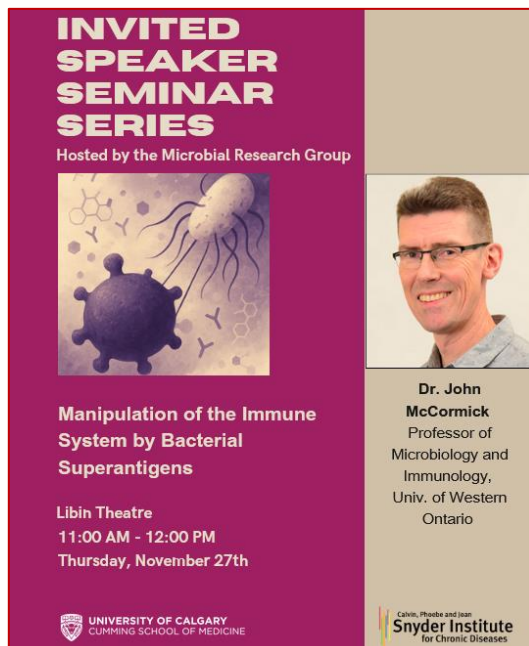
HSC Theatre 4
11:00 AM - 11:35 AM
Thursday, November 13th



Dr. Sarah Wootton
BSc, PhD
Associate Professor
Univ. of Guelph


Join us for the next lecture of the Invited Speaker Seminar Series on Thursday, November 13th, from 11:00 to 11:35 am, HSC Theater 4, as we host Dr. Sarah Wootton, Associate Professor, Department of Pathobiology, University of Guelph, Ontario Veterinary College, who will present her talk on "Adeno-associated Virus (AAV) Vectored Immunoprophylaxis for Infectious Diseases." This seminar is presented in partnership with the Infection Biology Research Group & InBio Symposium, and we look forward to your participation.

Snyder Invited Speaker Seminar Series | Nov 27





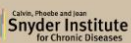

**INVITED
SPEAKER
SEMINAR
SERIES**

Hosted by the Microbial Research Group



**Manipulation of the Immune
System by Bacterial
Superantigens**

Libin Theatre
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Thursday, November 27th



**Dr. John
McCormick**
Professor of
Microbiology and
Immunology,
Univ. of Western
Ontario

Join us for the Snyder Invited Speaker Seminar Series on Thursday, November 27th, from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Libin Theatre, as we host Dr. John McCormick, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Western Ontario, who will present his talk on "Manipulation of the Immune System by Bacterial Superantigens." This seminar, hosted by the Microbial Research Group, promises to be a fascinating exploration of bacterial immunology, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Learn more about CSM Innovation and Commercialization Office

The CSM Innovation and Commercialization Office is launching a quarterly newsletter designed for CSM students, faculty and staff. This new resource will guide you in translating research into viable startups, help you discover commercialization opportunities and support services, and celebrate the breakthroughs from our community that are being translated into real-world solutions. [Learn more here.](#)

Congratulations

- Congratulations to Marvin Fritzler on being honoured by Calgary's Top 7 Over 70 awards. These awards celebrate the new work and successes achieved by individuals after the age of 70. [Read more.](#)
- Congratulations to the Snyder Institute researchers who received funding from the John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF). Funding through JELF helps institutions recruit and retain outstanding researchers, acquire the tools needed for innovative work and provide research support. The recipients include Dr. Ejaife Agbani, PhD (Department of Physiology and Pharmacology), Dr. Hedwich Kuipers, PhD (Department of Clinical Neurosciences and Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy), Dr. Ann Gregory, PhD (Department of Biological Sciences) and Dr. Jackie Lebenzon, PhD (Department of Biological Sciences).

Welcome to our New Members

- **Dr. Alyson Kelvin**, Associate Professor. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and a virologist and vaccinologist working on emerging respiratory viruses.
- **Dr. Erik Bakkeren**, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, works on the evolution of bacterial pathogens in the gut, using Salmonella Typhimurium as a model system.
- **Dr. Daniel Vis** is a Respiriologist and Clinical Lecturer at the University of Calgary.
- **Dr. Srijak Bhatnagar**, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Calgary. His research lies at the intersection of

Microbiology and Bioinformatics, leveraging microbial insights to understand and remediate the impact of humans on the environment.

We're excited to have you join the Snyder family!

Upcoming Events

McCaig International Research Conference: Advancements in Osteoarthritis – From Discovery to Treatment | March 11-13



Don't miss the McCaig International Research Conference: Advancements in Osteoarthritis – From Discovery to Treatment, taking place March 11-13, 2026, at the Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge in Alberta's Canadian Rockies. This international meeting will bring together leading researchers, clinicians, trainees and industry partners to explore the latest advances in osteoarthritis research and care.

The conference will highlight emerging therapies, innovative imaging techniques, chemical and biochemical approaches and evolving clinical practices. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in discussions, share insights and network

with experts from around the world, bridging the gap between discovery and patient care. Trainee abstract submissions are open until Nov 12, 2025. [Learn more and Register.](#)

In The News

- [The Walrus](#)

[Dr. Craig Jenne: How Alberta Became the Epicentre of Canada's Measles Outbreak](#)

- **CBC**
Dr. Craig Jenne: [AHS testing people in relation to bird flu outbreak at petting farm, Calgary Zoo taking precautions](#)

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: anurag1@ucalgary.ca

Calvin, Phoebe and Joan
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