



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



February 2026

Snyder Researchers Advance Understanding of Fasting in Crohn's Disease



Researchers at the University of Calgary and the University of British Columbia Okanagan have found that time-restricted eating may benefit people with Crohn's disease who are overweight. In a 12-week study led by Snyder member Dr. Maitreyi Raman and published in *Gastroenterology*, participants who fasted for 16 hours a day, six days a week, lost weight and visceral fat and reported fewer symptoms compared to controls who maintained their usual diets. The fasting group also showed reduced inflammation, improved metabolic markers, and favourable changes in gut microbiome diversity and short-chain fatty acid production, despite consuming a similar number of calories. Researchers emphasize that intermittent fasting is not a replacement for medication but may serve as a low-cost strategy to complement existing treatments and potentially improve outcomes for patients who do not fully respond to current therapies. [Read more.](#)

Snyder Deputy Director Dr. Craig Jenne Featured in Radio-Canada Documentary on Measles



We are proud to share Dr. Craig Jenne, Deputy Director, who is featured in the Radio-Canada documentary "Measles: How Doubt Allowed the Virus to Return to Canada." Dr. Jenne continues to demonstrate how scientific research can extend beyond academic journals to inform public understanding. Many will recognize him from his regular appearances on local television, where he helps explain complex immunology and infectious disease issues in clear, accessible terms. His participation in

this documentary reflects his ongoing commitment to science communication and public engagement. You can [watch the documentary here](#).

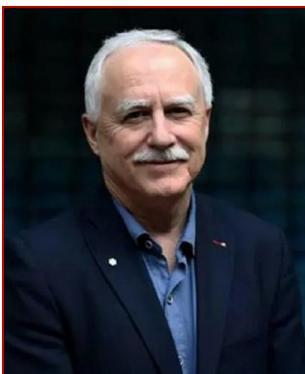
How Philanthropy Transformed Calgary's Liver Research Program



What began as a two-person team has grown into one of the largest liver units in a non-transplant centre in North America. Reflecting on 15 years as lead of the Cal Wenzel Family Foundation Chair in Hepatology, Snyder member and liver researcher Dr. Mark Swain says philanthropy “changed everything.” When he first arrived in Calgary, the hepatology program consisted of just two physicians. Support from the Wenzel family endowed chair provided sustained, flexible

funding to recruit specialists, support trainees, invest in technologies such as FibroScan, and establish a liver biobank. Today, the program has grown to 13 hepatologists and is one of the largest liver units in a non-transplant centre in North America. The chair has also enabled professional education programs, the TAILOR Conference, and community outreach initiatives aimed at raising awareness and reducing stigma around liver disease. Dr. Swain credits donor support with building a nationally recognized program and strengthening liver research and care across Alberta. [Learn more](#).

W21C Marks 21 Years of Health Innovation at UCalgary



Co-founded by Snyder member Dr. John Conly, the W21C Research and Innovation Centre is marking 21 years of advancing health innovation at UCalgary. Launched in 2004 with the creation of the “Medical Ward of the 21st Century” at Foothills Medical Centre, W21C began as a redesigned hospital ward integrating research, education, and technology to improve patient care. The unit introduced enhanced infection control and single-patient rooms, while fostering a culture of clinician-led innovation. Now based in the Cal Wenzel Precision Health Building, W21C operates as a “living laboratory,” testing models of care and health

technologies through simulation and real-world design projects, from ambulance safety to aging-in-place initiatives. Its transdisciplinary team collaborates across academia, industry, and government, including through the provincially funded Health Everywhere digital health initiative, and is working to expand its embedded innovation model into new care settings. [Learn more.](#)

Snyder Mini-Medical School | March 2



Mini-Medical School
For the general public

**BEYOND STANDARD TREATMENT:
PRECISION MEDICINE AND THE
NEXT ERA OF NEPHROLOGY**

Theatre 4, Health Sciences Centre,
UCalgary Foothills Campus and via Zoom
6:30 to 8:00 PM MST
Presented by Dr. Dan Muruve and Dr. Nathan Bracey

Monday, March 2, 2026

Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases AstraZeneca UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY CLUMPING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Join us for the upcoming Mini-Medical School session on March 2, 2026 (today), featuring presenter Dr. Dan Muruve & Dr. Nathan Bracey, who will deliver a talk titled "Beyond Standard Treatment: Precision Medicine and the Next Era of Nephrology." Dr. Daniel Muruve, MD, is a Professor of Medicine in the Department of Medicine at the University of Calgary and a member of the Immunology Research Group in the Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases. Dr. Muruve is a practicing nephrologist in the Calgary Zone of Alberta Health Services. Dr. Muruve's research expertise is in the areas of innate immunity, inflammation and kidney disease. Currently, his research program is focused on basic immune

mechanisms in the kidney and how they contribute to acute and chronic diseases. Dr. Muruve also leads a precision medicine and translational research program for kidney and glomerular diseases. Dr. Nathan Bracey, MD, PhD, FRCPC, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Calgary and a clinician-scientist whose work focuses on understanding variation in the human immune system. He completed the combined MD/PhD program at the University of Calgary, followed by residency training in Internal Medicine at the University of Toronto and subspecialty training in Nephrology at the University of Calgary. [Register here.](#)

Publications

- Quinn Goddard, Ante Markovinović, Paul Ronksley, Cynthia Seow, Christopher Ma, Abdel-Aziz Shaheen, Gilaad Kaplan. [Meta-Analysis: Prevalence of Eating Disorders in Inflammatory Bowel Disease](#). *Alimentary Pharmacology & Therapeutics*, 2026

Education News

Grad Seminar Series Schedule (March)



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

March 2 | Theater Four

- Kenzie Birse, MDMI PhD Graduate Student Dr. Sycuro's Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases
- Taye Louie, MDIM MSc Graduate Student Dr. Mahoney's and Zemp's Laboratories Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases & Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

March 9 | Theater Four

- Zafran Khan, MDMI PhD Graduate Student Dr. Nargis Khan Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases
- Archie Shchemialiou, MDMI MSc Graduate Student Dr. Parkins' Laboratory, Department of Microbiology & Infectious Diseases

March 16 | Theater Four

- Ramyar Azizi, MDMI PhD Candidate, Dr. Pillai's Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Infectious Diseases
- Kathryn Strayer, MDIM PhD Graduate Student Dr. McDonald and Dr. Thornton's Laboratories, Departments of Critical Care Medicine and Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases

March 23 | Theater Four

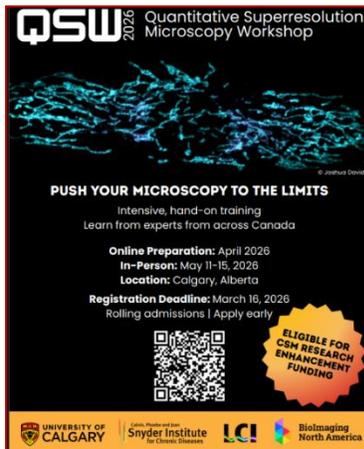
- Mitchell Bulluss, MDIM MSc Graduate Student Dr. Dufour's Laboratory, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology

- Md Deen Islam, MDMI PhD Graduate Student, Dr. Coffin's Laboratory, Department of Medicine and Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Infectious Diseases

March 30 | Theater Four

- Grace Yoon, MDIM PhD Graduate Student, Dr. Yipp's Laboratories, Departments of Critical Care Medicine and Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases
- Cathy Le, MDMI MSc Graduate Student Dr. Savchenko's Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Disease

Quantitative Superresolution Microscopy Workshop (QSW)



The Quantitative Superresolution Microscopy Workshop (QSW) will take place May 11–15 at the Cumming School of Medicine. This intensive, hands-on workshop offers comprehensive training in state-of-the-art superresolution imaging, guiding participants through experimental design, rigorous data acquisition, quantitative analysis, and evidence-based decision-making throughout the imaging process. QSW provides an interactive and collaborative learning environment, welcoming instructors and participants from across Canada and internationally. Faculty interested in advancing their technical skills may be eligible

for up to \$4,000 in support through Stream 1 of the Cumming School of Medicine's Research Enhancement Program. [Learn more and register.](#)

Bioinformatics Crash Course

Registration is now open for a “Back-to-the-Basics” Bioinformatics Crash Course taking place March 9–12 from 2:30 to 5 p.m. on main campus. Led by postdoctoral researchers, the course will focus on processing short-read shotgun metagenomic data and will cover the full workflow from raw reads through assembly, genome binning, and taxonomic assignment. Trainees who wish to participate must register by Friday, February 27 at 9 a.m. using the [form](#). Participants will receive access to a TALC HPC account for the course, and PIs are encouraged to register for ARC HPC accounts to support continued use of these skills.

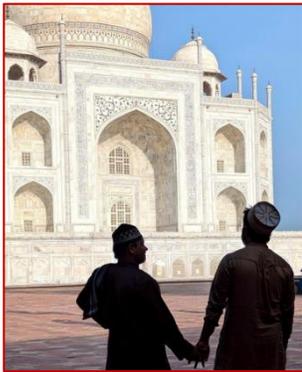
Funding Opportunity: Research Enhancement Program (REP)

The Cumming School of Medicine's Research Enhancement Program (REP) supports primary faculty at all career stages in strengthening research capacity and grant competitiveness. Stream 1 offers up to \$4,000 per year for advanced training in new techniques and methodologies, including workshops and research visits, and may also support trainee development. Stream 2 provides up to \$2,000 for grant writing or design support and up to \$7,500 for project management for complex or unique funding opportunities. Stream 3 funds an external scientific peer review of grant applications. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

Congratulations

- Congratulations to Dr. Justin Chun on being recognized by CIHR as an Outstanding Peer Reviewer in three or more consecutive Project Grant competitions. We also congratulate Snyder members Dr. Andrew Braun, Dr. Deborah Dewey, Dr. Richard Leigh, Dr. Derek McKay, Dr. Timothy Shutt, and Dr. Laura Sycuro, who, as members of CIHR's College of Reviewers, were named Outstanding Reviewers in the Spring 2024 and/or Fall 2024 Project Grant competitions.
- Congratulations to Snyder member Dr. Kerri Johansson on her promotion to Deputy Editor of *Annals of the American Thoracic Society*. This appointment reflects her leadership and contributions to respiratory research. We are proud to see her step into this role.
- Congratulations to Dr. Katharina Lahl and Dr. Simon Hirota on their success in the 2025 Snyder Catalyst Grant competition. Their application, "*Exploiting Natural Adjuvant Capacity of Breastmilk Antibodies as a Novel Oral Vaccine Efficiency-Boosting Modality*," was selected for funding. On behalf of the Snyder Institute, we extend our sincere congratulations on this achievement and look forward to the impact of this work.
- Congratulations to Snyder members recognized at the Cumming School of Medicine Celebration of Excellence 2026. Dr. Valerie Taylor was named a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. Dr. Braedon McDonald received the

Canadian Institutes of Health Research Bhagirath Singh Early Career Prize in Infection and Immunity, Dr. Antoine Dufour was honoured with the Oswego Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award, and Dr. Richard Leigh received the Canadian Thoracic Society Distinguished Lecture Award in Respiratory Sciences. Marvin Fritzler was recognized with Avenue Magazine's Calgary Top 7 Over 70 Award, and Bronwen Parry received the Operational Excellence Award. We congratulate them on these well-deserved honours and their contributions to research, education, and community impact.



- Congratulations to Anurag on receiving the 2025–26 Images of Research Award for his image titled *Intimacy as Counter-Hegemonic Performance*. At the University of Calgary's annual Images of Research competition, graduate students submit photographs that bring their research to life in creative and accessible ways. Alongside his work as Communications Specialist at the Snyder Institute, Anurag is pursuing a PhD in the Department of Communication, Media and Film. The winning images are on display at the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning Gallery (Room 100) until March 6, 2026. [Learn more.](#)

Upcoming Events

Snyder Invited Speaker Seminar | March 5

INVITED SPEAKER SEMINAR SERIES
Hosted by Derek M. McKay
Sutherland Professor in IBD/GI Research

Still Working on the Barrier -- Intestinal Permeability: Past, Present and Future

Theatre 4
11 AM - 12 PM
Thursday, March 5, 2026

Dr. Johan Söderholm, MD, PhD
Professor of Surgery,
Linköping University

Join us on March 5, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Theatre 4 for the next lecture in the Snyder Invited Speaker Seminar Series. Hosted by Dr. Derek McKay, holder of the Loyd Sutherland Professorship in IBD/GI Research, this session will feature Dr. Johan Söderholm presenting “Still Working on the Barrier – Intestinal Permeability: Past, Present and Future.” Dr. Söderholm, MD, PhD, is a clinician-scientist whose research focuses on the pathogenesis of inflammatory bowel disease. His work has advanced understanding of intestinal barrier function, including bacterial–epithelial interactions in Crohn’s disease and neuro-immune-epithelial signaling in ulcerative colitis.

Trainees and postdocs are invited to attend lunch with Dr. Söderholm from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. [RSVP here](#). The Snyder Invited Speaker Seminar Series is a biweekly lecture series featuring invited speakers hosted by Snyder endowed chairs, research groups, and journal clubs.

Hope for Hypermobility 2026



The Better Mobility Lab and the Connective Tissue Disorders Rehabilitation Clinic are hosting their annual education day, Hope for Hypermobility 2026, on Saturday, April 25, 2026. This hybrid, patient-centered event brings together individuals living with Hypermobility Spectrum Disorders (HSD) and hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (hEDS), along with clinicians, researchers, allies, and community members. This year's theme is "Advocating for Care," featuring three guest speakers from across North

America. Registration is now open. The in-person registration deadline is April 15, 2026, and the online registration deadline is April 24, 2026. [Learn more](#).

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. [Learn more and Register](#).

International Conference on Innate Lymphoid Cells | June 2-4



Registration and abstract submission are now open for the 6th International Conference on Innate Lymphoid Cells (ILC6), taking place June 2-4, 2026, in Vancouver, Canada. Join leading scientists and emerging researchers to share advances in ILC biology and immunology, foster collaborations and drive innovation. Visit ilc6vancouver.com for details.

Welcome to Ryan Eng, Scientific Grant Writer



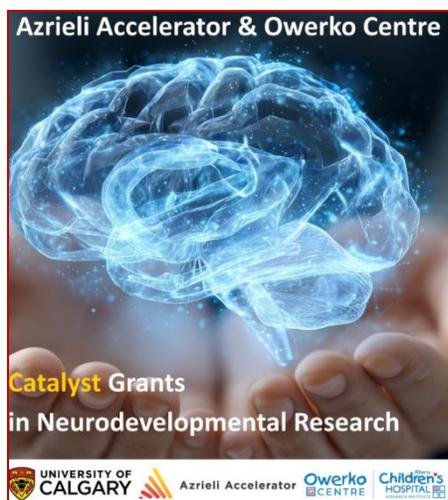
Welcome to our Scientific Grant Writer, Ryan Eng. Ryan Eng joins the Snyder Institute from Vancouver, where he completed his training as a plant cell and developmental biologist at the University of British Columbia. He went on to spend seven years as a postdoctoral researcher at two Max Planck Institutes, pursuing his passion for microscopy, microtubules, and the cell wall. Ryan is passionate about open science, EDI in research and education, as well as science communication. Ryan also brings a personal perspective on neurodiversity, living with Tourette syndrome, which informs his commitment to fostering inclusive and supportive research environments. He is excited to be part of the Snyder community and to support researchers in securing funding to advance their work. He enjoys a good Fika so feel free to drop him a line!

Opportunities

CAPTURE Funding Opportunity

UCalgary and Providence Therapeutics United for Translational Research Excellence (CAPTURE) is inviting UCalgary faculty members to propose disease targets for vaccine development through a streamlined process; if selected, researchers will co-develop vaccines with Providence for preclinical testing. Eligible target areas include oncology (personalized and off-the-shelf approaches for cancer therapies and prevention), infectious diseases (viral, bacterial, fungal, and parasitic agents) and veterinary medicine. The next expression of interest (EOI) deadline is 17 March 2026; for details, contact [Carmen Rieder](#).

Call for Applications: Catalyst Grants in Neurodevelopmental Research



Applications are now open for Catalyst Grants in Neurodevelopmental Research, presented through a partnership between the Azrieli Accelerator and the Owerko Centre. Grants of up to \$50,000 each will support innovative research across neurodevelopment and neurodevelopmental conditions, spanning developmental stages from prenatal through older adulthood, with streams aligned to each program's focus areas and eligibility requirements. The application deadline is Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 11:59 pm (MT); full details and instructions are available on the [Azrieli Accelerator and Owerko Centre websites](#), and questions can be directed to azrieli.accelerator@ucalgary.ca.

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
Snyder Institute
for Chronic Diseases

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