



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



March 2026

Snyder Researcher Leads Canada's New Biofilm Research Hub to Combat Antibiotic Resistance



Snyder member Dr. Joe Harrison has received \$5.8 million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation to establish the Canadian Centre for Biofilm Research (CCBR), the only facility of its kind in the country. The new state of the art centre will harness cutting edge microbial molecular biology and advanced microscopy to study biofilms, which are slime encased bacterial clusters responsible for drug resistant infections, industrial infrastructure damage and even healthy gut function. Harrison aims to leverage this

knowledge to combat antibiotic resistance, a global crisis claiming 4.71 million lives annually, without necessarily developing new antibiotics. Building on a 50 year legacy of biofilm microbiology at UCalgary pioneered by the late Dr. Bill Costerton, the CCBR will bring together physicists, psychologists, engineers and clinicians to explore how bacterial communities self assemble and even influence brain function. [Read more.](#)

Snyder researchers expand nation-leading wastewater monitoring program into an integrated 'living laboratory' network



Snyder member Dr. Michael Parkins and Dr. Casey Hubert have expanded their nation leading wastewater monitoring program into an integrated living laboratory network, thanks to new support from the Canada Foundation for Innovation. The team, which first gained recognition for tracking COVID-19 through wastewater, has since expanded across Alberta to monitor dozens of bacteria, viruses and chemicals including antibiotic resistant genes. A \$4 million innovation investment will upgrade equipment to generate

and mobilize real time data faster, allowing health care providers and citizens to make

evidence-informed decisions. Parkins and Hubert envision secure apps that share granular data to tailor interventions for specific scenarios, from hospitals to First Nations communities and neighbourhood shelters. A key focus is tackling antimicrobial resistance, a growing public health threat where patients infected with drug resistant pathogens face disproportionately higher rates of harm and death. [Read more.](#)

Snyder Researcher Explores Faecal Transplants as Potential Treatment for Bipolar Disorder



Snyder member Dr. Valerie Taylor has published promising results from a pilot trial exploring whether faecal microbiota transplants (FMT) could benefit people with bipolar disorder, a severe mental illness affecting an estimated 37 million people worldwide. The double blind randomized controlled trial involved 35 patients with depressive phase bipolar disorder. While almost every participant saw their symptoms improve after six months, there was no significant difference between those who received donor FMT and those who received their own stool as a control, suggesting the benefits may be partly explained by the procedure itself rather than donor microbes. Importantly, the trial demonstrated that FMT for bipolar disorder is safe and tolerable with no adverse effects reported. Dr. Taylor has now set up a spin out company called Taylored Biotherapeutics and is working to develop those beneficial bacteria into a probiotic pill, with ongoing trials for depression, obsessive compulsive disorder and ADHD. [Read more.](#)

Science In The Cinema | April 28

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

Silent Pandemic
April 28, 2026, 5:30pm
Calgary Public Library
Patricia A. Whelan Performance Hall

For the first time in modern medicine, we're facing the reality that antibiotic resistance is outpacing the development of new treatments, with implications for all areas of medicine. Silent Pandemic explores the "antibiotic gap," highlighting how countries are working together to curb antibiotic resistance. After the film, join UCalgary experts for a discussion and Q&A on this growing global health issue.

FREE ADMISSION AND SNACK
cumming.ucalgary.ca/about/events/science-cinema

Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases
CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Join us for Science in Cinema on April 28, 2026, at 5:30 pm at the Calgary Public Library for a free screening of Silent Pandemic, a documentary about the global fight against antimicrobial resistance. The film investigates how antibiotic resistance is outpacing new treatments, threatening surgery,

cancer care and more. After the film, Snyder Institute experts will discuss this growing crisis and how researchers are working to outpace drug-resistant infections. Free admission and popcorn available. [Register here](#).

Publications

- Kerri Johannson, . A., Barnes, H., Peters, C. D., Gandhi, S. A., Knaub, M., Jackson, P. D., Salisbury, M. L., Barber, C., Feary, J., & Lee, C. T [An Evidence-Based Exposure Questionnaire for Interstitial Lung Disease: EXPO-ILD](#). *CHEST Pulmonary*, 2026
- Singh, S., Sharma, A., Pilia, K., Singh, P., Sharma, A. K., Dhooria, S., Hadda, V., Gupta, N., Gupta, M., Rathnapala, A., Agarwal, A., Singh, N., Joshi, M., Mondal, A., Bairwa, J., Layek, A., Mohan, S., Goyal, C., Bhattacharyya, P., ... Kerri Johannson [Development and validation of the Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis South Asian Questionnaire for Exposure \(HP-SAQE\): A novel, qualitative and quantitative tool](#). *Thorax*. 2026

Education News

Grad Seminar Series Schedule (April)



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

April 13 | Theater Four

- Xuan Uyen Le, MDIM MSc Graduate Student Dr. Cobo's Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Infectious Diseases
- Naomi Chege, BISI PhD Graduate Student Dr. Finney's Laboratory, Department of Biological Sciences

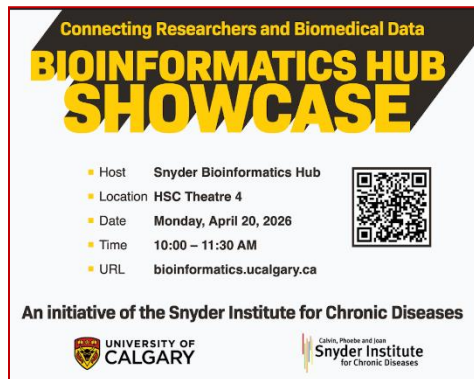
April 20 | Theater Four

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

April 27 | Theater Four

- Carolyn Graham, MDIM MSc Graduate Student Dr. Kubes' Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases
- David Cruces-Gonzalez, BISI PhD Graduate student Dr. Finney's laboratory, Department of Biological Sciences


New Bioinformatics Hub at Snyder Institute Launch | April 20



Connecting Researchers and Biomedical Data

BIOINFORMATICS HUB SHOWCASE

- Host Snyder Bioinformatics Hub
- Location HSC Theatre 4
- Date Monday, April 20, 2026
- Time 10:00 – 11:30 AM
- URL bioinformatics.ucalgary.ca



An initiative of the Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases

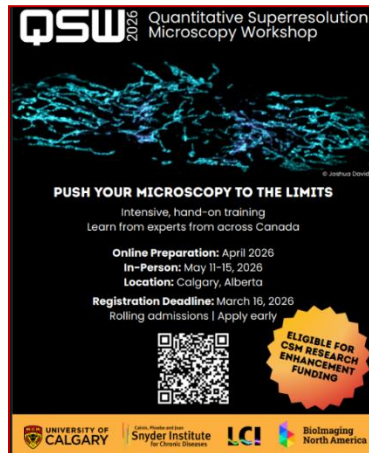
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Colin, Phoebe and Joan Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases

Join us on April 20th for the official launch of the [Bioinformatics Hub at the Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases](#). This new core program offers practical bioinformatics solutions to help researchers accelerate discovery. The kick-off Showcase will take place on Monday, April 20, 2026, from 10:00 to 11:30 am at HSC Theatre 4, where attendees can learn about the Hub's capabilities, meet the team and get a preview of the upcoming HUB Workshop

on Linux and HPC skills. Early access to workshop registration will be provided to Showcase attendees. The Bioinformatics Hub will also organize the first HUB Workshop, High-performance Computing for Bioinformatics, on May 8th. This hands-on workshop covers Linux essentials and HPC fundamentals using ARC and Slurm. [Register here](#).

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.](#)

Congratulations

- Congratulations to Snyder Institute member Dr. Gilaad Kaplan, MD, recipient of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) 2026 Research Excellence Award. Dr. Kaplan is an internationally renowned gastroenterologist whose work is focused on the global epidemiology of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). The CAG Award honours those who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to research, education, clinical excellence and leadership in the field of gastroenterology and digestive health in Canada. Dr. Kaplan's dedication is helping to improve treatment and patient care for those with IBD.
- Join us in congratulating Wallace Cássio Pinto Barra, recipient of the 2025 Beverley Phillips Rising Star Award.
- Congratulations to Dr. Luke Brown on winning a prestigious international Human Frontiers Science Program Long-term Postdoctoral Fellowship, to be pursued at Yale School of Medicine. Luke was ranked in the top seven percent of applicants, an exceptional achievement in this highly competitive program.

Upcoming Events

SPARC 2026: Turn Your Ideas into Research – \$270K in Grants | April 21



SPARC
Scientists Partnering for
Research with Clinicians
Food - Drink - Camaraderie - Collaboration

Register by April 14

Connect with fellow clinicians and scientists passionate about bone and joint health to share your ideas, create research teams, and apply for SPARC Ignite Grants.

All attendees are eligible to apply for SPARC Ignite seed grants (up to \$20,000) to support new collaborations arising from the event.

Tuesday, April 21
5pm - 8pm
Best of Kin

MCCAIGINSTITUTE
FOR BONE AND JOINT HEALTH

Snyder members are invited to attend SPARC 2026, a rapid networking event hosted by the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health on April 21, 2026, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM at Best of Kin. Attendees will be eligible for 12 SPARC Ignite Grants of \$20,000 each, plus a \$30,000 collaboration opportunity with the Snyder Institute. You must attend to be eligible. Since 2016, \$870,000 has been awarded to 53 projects. This year, it could be your turn. Connect with top clinicians and researchers, turn your ideas into real projects and fast track your research.

[Learn more.](#)

ISSI 2026 in Banff



ISSI
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON STAPHYLOCOCCI AND STAPHYLOCOCCAL INFECTIONS
2026
BANFF • ALBERTA • CANADA
SEPTEMBER 20 - 24, 2026

SUBMIT ABSTRACT
Deadline: May 15

REGISTER NOW
Early Bird: June 12

Registration is now open for the 20th International Symposium on Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Infections (ISSI 2026), taking place September 20-24, 2026, at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in Banff, Canada. The global Staphylococcus research community is heading to the Canadian Rockies, where researchers, clinicians and trainees from around the world will come together to share the latest discoveries in Staphylococcus biology, pathogenesis and host interactions, epidemiology and antimicrobial resistance,

and diagnostics, prevention and treatment. Attendees can expect cutting edge science, inspiring discussions and valuable networking, all set in the stunning landscape of the Canadian Rockies. [Learn more.](#)

Join Us for Insights in Cancer Research



Arnie Charbonneau
Cancer Institute

Insights in Cancer Research

Computational discovery and clinical translation of cancer neoantigens.

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 | 8:00 - 9:00 am
Arthur Child Auditorium - Room 217 (YC021161)

Presented by the Riddell Centre for Cancer Immunotherapy

Attend Insights in Cancer Research on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, from 8:00 to 9:00 AM at the Arthur Child Auditorium, Room 217, presented by the Riddell Centre for Cancer Immunotherapy. Dr. Malachi Griffith, PhD, Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Genetics at Washington University and Assistant Director of the McDonnell Genome Institute, will present on computational discovery and clinical translation of cancer neoantigens.

Hope for Hypermobility 2026



EDUCATION DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026
9 AM - 1:30 PM MOUNTAIN TIME
HYBRID - ONLINE & FOOTHILLS HOSPITAL,
CALGARY

CLICK THE REGISTRATION
LINK IN BIO TO RSVP

Better Mobility Lab
MCAIG INSTITUTE FOR BONE AND JOINT HEALTH
CANERECTO FOUNDATION

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

International Conference on Innate Lymphoid Cells | June 2-4



6th International Conference on Innate Lymphoid Cells

ILC6

Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada

Save the date!
June 2nd - 4th, 2026

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.

Grant Support

Grant support services are now available through the Snyder Institute to help researchers develop competitive funding applications, with current priority given to larger, collaborative grant opportunities across the Institute. A short document outlining the service scope and request prioritization is now available on the [website](#).

The service also aims to facilitate new collaborative funding opportunities by engaging with research groups to better understand their priorities, upcoming plans and areas of research activity across the Institute. Researchers are encouraged to directly reach out to [Ryan Eng](#), Scientific Grant Writer, to arrange a meeting or start a conversation.

Need help with your individual funding opportunities?

The CSM Grant Development Office offers dedicated support throughout the grant development and submission process. Whether you're applying to CIHR, Horizon Europe or other major funding agencies, their experienced team can provide guidance at every stage. [Contact them](#) to get started! Be sure to explore their [website](#) for helpful resources, including application guidance and examples of previously funded proposals.

Other News

BD S8 Cell Sorter Now Available



The Nicole Perkins Microbial Communities Core Labs (NPMCCL) flow cytometry core facility of the Snyder Institute has acquired a BD S8 real-time image-enabled cell sorter. The BD S8 is now available for acquisition, sorting and training. If interested, please contact [Dr. Karen Poon](#).

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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