

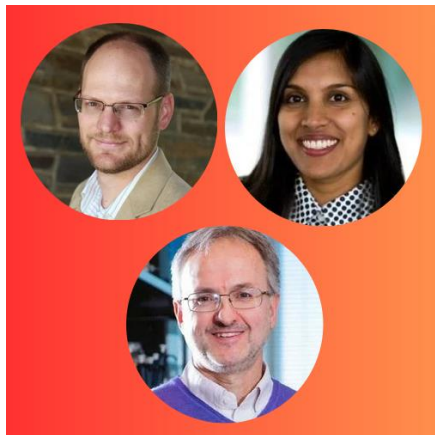


A NEWSLETTER FROM
**The Snyder Institute
for Chronic Diseases**

Calvin, Phoebe and Joan
Snyder Institute
for Chronic Diseases

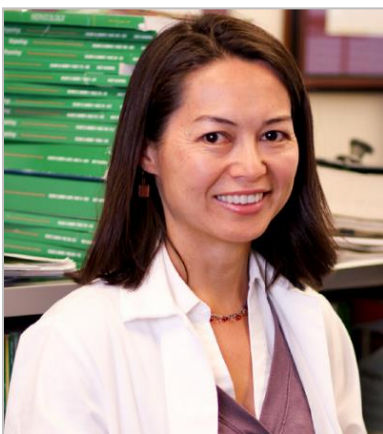
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
CALVIN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

July 2024



Congratulations to Snyder members, [Dr. Ian Lewis](#), [Dr. Pere Santamaria](#) and [Dr. Shalina Ousman](#) for being appointed as UCalgary Research Excellence Chairs (UCREC). Launched in 2023, the UCREC program is designed to highlight and support top-tier researchers who are advancing knowledge, addressing critical societal challenges and enhancing the university's research reputation on a global scale. This prestigious program is funded through the President's Strategic Initiatives Fund and overseen by the Office of the Vice-

President (Research), aligns with the objectives of the Ahead of Tomorrow strategic plan. Read more [here](#).



Congratulations to Snyder Member, [Dr. Carla Coffin](#) on receiving a prestigious Large CIHR Team Grant of \$25 million for the project titled "Canadian HIV and STBBI Clinical Trials Network." As the Principal Applicant, Dr. Coffin's research will help advance research and clinical trials in HIV, sexually transmitted, and blood-borne infections across Canada. This grant underscores Dr. Coffin's significant contributions to public health and her dedication to improving health outcomes through innovative research.



The Crohn's and Colitis Calgary chapter visited the Gastrointestinal Research Group (GIRG) labs, where students from the Snyder Institute showcased their research on Inflammatory Bowel Disease. The event was very successful, with around 30 Crohn's and Colitis Canada volunteers, individuals with IBD and their family members in

attendance. Special thanks to our guest speakers, [Dr. Yasmin Nasser](#), [Dr. Kathy McCoy](#), and [Dr. Derek McKay](#), as well as our trainees, Natalie Andonian, James Sousa, Kathryn Strayer, Parker Volk, Mahana Sabachvili, Nasser Abdullah, Shokouh Ahmadi, and Isla Skalosky, for making this event a great success!

Congrats



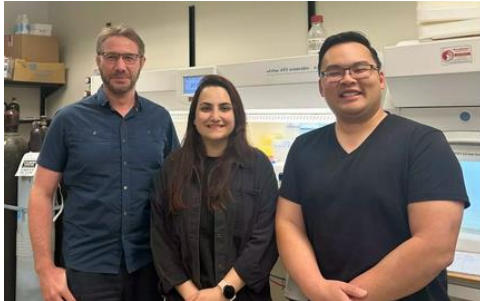
We are delighted to congratulate the NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council) Discovery Grant 2024 awardees for having won a cumulative total of \$2,873,000 for the next five years. Congratulations to Drs. [Mark Gillrie](#), [Eduardo Cobo](#), [Nargis Khan](#), [Andrew Leidal](#), [Derek McKay](#), [Alexei Savchenko](#), [Timothy Shutt](#), [Robin Yates](#), [Jeroen de Buck](#), [Ann Gregory](#), [Joe Harrison](#) and [Craig Jenne](#). This notable accomplishment highlights their outstanding research contributions and commitment to pushing the boundaries of knowledge in their specific areas of expertise.



[Amanda Grant-Orser](#) has been awarded one of the VPR Catalyst Grants for the research project "Interstitial Lung Abnormalities Care Pathway." ILAs are incidental parenchymal findings detected on computed tomography (CT) scans ordered for other reasons and are detected with high prevalence in lung cancer screening cohorts. The Alberta Lung Cancer Screening Program (ALCSP) is currently in the final stages of its pilot project with plans to expand to all eligible Albertans soon. This project aims to identify issues pertaining to the identification and management of patients with ILAs detected during lung cancer screening.



Congratulations to [Dr. Laura Sycuro](#) for receiving the NFRF Exploration grant. The NFRF Exploration grant, which supports high-risk, high-reward interdisciplinary research, is part of the \$92 million in funding to support Canadian-led research. Dr. Sycuro's research explores the role of the vaginal microbiome in pathological tissue remodeling linked to pelvic organ prolapse. This important study promises significant advancements in women's health.



We are proud to celebrate Snyder Member [Dr. Markus Geuking](#) for being awarded the prestigious Azrieli Accelerator Catalyst Grant. Dr. Geuking's research project, titled *The Impact of Viral Maternal Immune Activation-Induced Changes in Microbiota Composition, Metabolite Profile, and Intestinal Permeability on Neurodevelopment in the Offspring*, is set to explore the critical connections between maternal health and fetal neurodevelopment. This award recognizes Dr. Geuking's dedication and contribution to advancing our understanding of neurodevelopment.

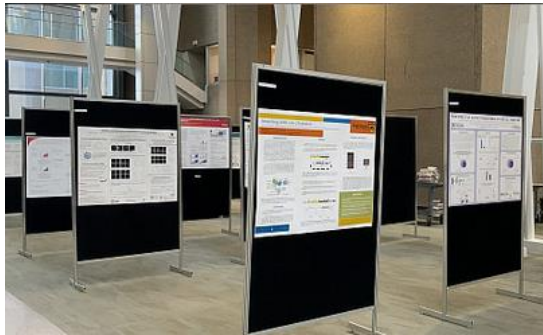
Congratulations to Nabil Royez for receiving the "Elizabeth Cannon Graduate Scholarship in Entrepreneurial Thinking" award. This distinguished award is valued at \$40,000. Nabil's research focuses on developing a novel multiplex LAMP-based diagnostic platform for infectious diseases. With over six years of experience in point-of-care molecular diagnostics, he also chairs the Council of Foothills DGAs and the GSA's Mental Health and Wellness Committee. Well done, Nabil, on this remarkable achievement!

We are excited to share that Natalie Andonian, an MSc student in GIRG, received the Cartier Family Award in IBD Research. This award celebrates Natalie's exceptional application which stood out among several other outstanding entries. We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Cartier family for their generous donation, enabling groundbreaking research and fostering innovations that significantly enhance patient care and outcomes.

Congratulations to Snyder Institute members Drs. J. Corcoran, G. Kaplan, S. Liao, B. McDonald, M. Parkins, N. Peters, R. Somayaji, and L. Sycuro, along with their co-applicants and collaborators, for being awarded CIHR Spring 2024 Grant.

Upcoming Events

Snyder Summer Student Research Day



Join us in person on August 20th, from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, for a day of science, social, and networking activities and prizes for attendees and presenters. This event is held in Theatre One and the HRIC Atrium and showcases research conducted by Snyder undergraduate researchers. All Snyder members are encouraged to join and support the 2024 Snyder undergraduate researchers. Attendees are asked to [RSVP](#) for this event by August 13th.

Discovery Day 2024



Discovery Day 2024 is calling for trainees, researchers, and faculty members to lead small, interactive workshops for high school students from **10:00-11:30 am** and **12:30-2:00 pm** on **October 23rd, 2024**.

Presenters can sign up for one or both sessions and are responsible for their own room and AV bookings, with assistance available upon request.

Additionally, interested individuals can sign up for the "Health Pros Tell All" career panel discussion featuring five healthcare professionals who will each share their career journeys in a three-minute presentation, followed by a Q&A session. This panel will take place from 2:30 to 3:25 pm in the Libin Theatre. The submission deadline is September 9th, 2024. If interested, please contact Juliana Aguero, Program Manager, at jaguero@cdnmedhall.ca. For more information, [click here](#).

In The News

- **Winnipeg Free Press**

How to protect yourself from bad air quality due to wildfire smoke

Snyder member Dr. Alex Chee discusses the health risks posed by wildfires, which release harmful particles and gases that can affect the lungs and heart. He also offers advice on how people can protect themselves from poor air quality caused by wildfire smoke. Read more [here](#).

- **Winnipeg Sun**

Leaders in health: Dr. Pere Santamaria and 'finding new pathways' to treat autoimmune diseases

Dr. Pere Santamaria paved the way for immunology research and continues to work toward finding new ways to treat autoimmune diseases. His work in the immunology field led to him discovering Navacims, nanoparticles thought to protect against autoimmune activity in the body. This is a great leap forward in the treatment of autoimmune diseases. Read more [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



Is your equipment calibration up to date?

- Calibration of lab equipment (i.e., balances, pipettes, calipers, etc.) ensures the collection of accurate and reproducible results.
- Regular calibration can also prolong the lifespan of lab equipment and can help reduce costs in the long run.

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:

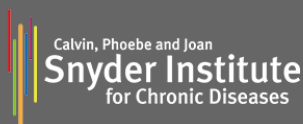
- [Snyder Newsletter](#)
- [Snyder Website](#) (as long as your news fits the site's guidelines)
- Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook channels

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). 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>



snyder.ucalgary.ca/



Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases
Cumming School of Medicine

University of Calgary
3280 Hospital Drive NW
Calgary, Alberta, T2N 4N1

© University of Calgary 2024
Privacy Policy

