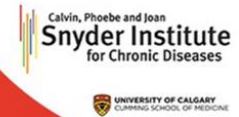




A NEWSLETTER FROM
**The Snyder Institute
for Chronic Diseases**



May - June 2024

Farewell



Paul Kubes

As Dr. Paul Kubes is moving on to an exciting new role at Queen's University, where he will serve as the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Immunophysiology and Immunotherapy. We extend our deepest gratitude for his unparalleled contributions, enthusiasm, and leadership. His legacy will continue to inspire us, and we eagerly anticipate his future successes and continued partnership.

When Paul came to Calgary, immunology as an independent subdiscipline was nascent, with only a handful of individuals. Alongside John Reynolds and Dean Befus, Paul played a pivotal role in founding the Immunology Research Group. Serving as its chair from 1996 to 2003, he then went on to become the inaugural Director of the Calvin, Phoebe and Joan Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases. Over the span of 16 years, from 2004 to 2020, Paul led the Snyder Institute, guiding it through substantial growth and success. Under his guidance since the mid-1990s, the Immunology Research Group has flourished, now boasting over 25 members engaged in vibrant research and teaching endeavors. Paul's leadership transcends mere administrative roles, leaving a legacy that resonates throughout the research community. To read more, click [here](#).



[Kamala Patel](#)

Kamala is taking emeritus and adjunct status in the months to come to continue some research projects and embark on a new phase of her career. She is stepping down from her role as Deputy Director effective June 30th, 2024. Over the last 18 months, Dr. Kamala Patel has brought her passion and enthusiasm to the role of Institute Deputy Director. Working with the core facilities and operations leads, she has made innumerable contributions to our Institute's vision and mission.

Kamala has been doing this throughout her distinguished career in Calgary, where she advanced through the ranks and championed the Live Cell Imaging Suite, serving as the Director for many years. It has been a delight to work with her in the Snyder Institute Leadership. Thank you, Kamala, for all that you have done, are doing, and undoubtedly will continue to do for our Institute.



[Marv Fritzler](#)

Dr. Marv Fritzler, who transitioned to emeritus status last year, has made the decision to conclude his term on the Institutes' Strategic Advisory Board (SAB) following the June 18 meeting. Professor Fritzler has been an unwavering supporter and champion of the Snyder Institute, having served on our Executive Council and maintaining a longstanding role on the SAB. His wise counsel has consistently provided valuable insights and guidance. Marv's contributions to shaping the strategic

direction of the Institute since its inception in 2004 have been invaluable. While we will miss his input, we are confident in his continued support and advocacy. On behalf of the Institute's membership, we express our deepest gratitude for his dedication and service. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors!

Welcome



The Snyder Institute is pleased to announce the appointment of [Dr. Craig Jenne](#) as Deputy Director, effective July 1st, 2024. Craig is one of the University of Calgary's 'homegrown' stars, having completed his PhD here. After post-doctoral training in Australia, he returned to establish an outstanding research program, being one of the top cited researchers at the University of Calgary in 2023, and built the undergraduate introductory immunology course. An accomplished researcher and educator, Craig has on many occasions been the Institute's trusted source of commentary on the pandemic for Calgarians. Dr. Jenne, co-lead on the Institute's education portfolio, continually shows his commitment to the graduate students' education and academic experience. Welcome aboard, Craig.

Welcome to our new SAB members, Ms. C. Daly Sanderson and [Dr. C. Mody](#). Thank you for joining the Snyder Institute team in this important capacity and we look forward to your support, advice and contributions to our vision and mission.

We look forward to working with you!

Published Papers

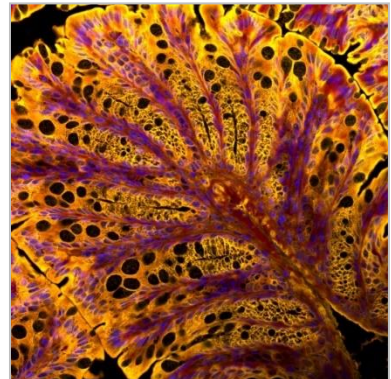
- **Dr. Larissa Périco** and co-authors had their paper published recently in the American Journal of Physiology: Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology. Périco, L.L., A.J. Vegso, C.H. Baggio, W.K. MacNaughton. 2024. Protease-activated receptor 2 drives migration in a colon cancer cell line but not in non-cancerous human epithelial cells. [American Journal of Physiology: Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology. 326: G525-542.](#)
- [Dr. Manon Defaye](#) and [Dr. Amyaouch Bradaia](#) are sharing co-first authorship on a paper accepted in the Journal of Clinical Investigation. The research reveals that this molecule responsible for detecting bacteria and viruses is present in the nervous system and can alter our perception of pain following an injury or infection. These findings open new possibilities for treatment, suggesting that

antiviral medications could be repurposed for pain management. [JCI - Induction of antiviral interferon-stimulated genes by neuronal STING promotes the resolution of pain in mice.](#)

Congrats



- We are excited to announce that [Dr. Ian Lewis](#) has received a grant of \$799,989 from [Alberta Innovates' AI-Better Health Program](#) for his project, "Stopping hospital-transmitted infection outbreaks by equipping infection prevention and control teams with automated AI-enabled genomic analysis technology."
- Snyder Institute member [Dr. Ann Gregory](#), an assistant professor in biological sciences has been selected by the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research as one of 10 emerging research leaders. Dr. Gregory has joined the 2024-2026 cohort of CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars and will receive two years of funding to address critical scientific and humanitarian challenges. This research group includes scholars from Canada, the US, Chile, and the UK, chosen from 285 applicants across 38 countries. Congratulations Dr. Gregory.
- [Shokouh Ahmadi](#), a postdoc associate from Dr Markus Geuking's lab, has been awarded a [CIHR Fellowship](#) (2023-2024) - Postdoctoral Funding! This scholarship will support the research exploring the effects of gut microbial and viral shared epitopes in Inflammatory Bowel Disease.
- Congratulations to [James Sousa](#) for being selected as a finalist in the NSERC Science Exposed contest. The image submitted for the competition was from when he was an MSc student supervised by Dr. Derek McKay and Dr. Maitreyi Raman, supported by the Live Cell Imaging Laboratory. Click [here](#) to vote for him for the People's Choice Award.



- Golasa Samadi Kochaksaraei has been accepted into the CanHepC PDF training program. She joined the Canadian Network on Hepatitis C training program as a participant, with Dr. Carla Coffin and Dr. Az Shaheen as mentors. This is a new program from 2023 that allows applicants to join and gain all the benefits of the CanHepC training program as unfunded trainees until they graduate.
- Md Deen Islam also has been invited to join the Canadian Network on Hepatitis C (CanHepC) training program as a participant, under the supervision of Dr. Carla Coffin. Deen will benefit from the CanHepC training program activities, becoming a member of the Canadian Association for the Study of Liver Disease (CASL) and attendance to the Canadian Symposium on HCV (CSHCV) with expenses covered for registration.

Shaffer Davison Research Day



Natalie Andonian (Masters – 1st Prize) | **Alexandria Bartlett** (Masters – 2nd Prize) | **Simmons D'souza** (PhD – 1st Prize) | **Hayley Gorman** (Postdoc – 1st Prize) | **Yasaman Habibyan** (Audience Choice Award) | **Igor Stukalin** (Peter Mauro Award) (Clinical Fellow/Translational)

Congratulations, well done everyone!

Education News



Snyder Graduate Seminar Series – June

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

June 17, Theatre One

- Natalie Andonian, MDGI MSc Graduate Student

Dr. McKay's Laboratory Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases

- Paula Forneris, MDMI MSc Graduate Student

Dr. Cobo's Laboratory Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases

June 24, Theatre 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 Disease

Upcoming Events

Interstitial Lung Disease Research Presentation

Join us on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, from 12:00 to 1:00 PM at the W21C – CWPH Building for a meeting in support of an Academic Respirology position. Lunch will be served at

11:45 AM. For those unable to attend in person, the meeting will also be held online via [Zoom](#) (Meeting ID: 994 8205 7819, Passcode: 716488). Please RSVP to Dianne Aronyk at dianne.aronyk@ucalgary.ca to confirm your attendance.

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



Did you know a biosafety cabinet (BSC) uses the same energy as an Albertan house?

- Close your BSC and fume hood immediately when not in use! This allows the BSC to safely decontaminate while also cutting the energy spend in half.
- Spend less time in BSC and fume hood when possible! Plan your experiments to use the BSC and fume hood for as short a time as possible and close immediately after use.

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, anurag1@ucalgary.ca

snyder.ucalgary.ca/

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