



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

Calvin, Phoebe and Joan  
**Snyder Institute**  
for Chronic Diseases

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

February/March 2022

## Research news

### UCalgary researchers at the Snyder Institute identify key inflammation pathway that causes acute kidney injury



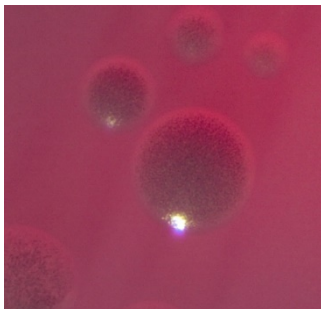
Many people suffering from shock due to blood loss, severe infection like sepsis, those undergoing major surgery or having a kidney transplant are at risk of acute kidney injury (AKI). The debilitating condition affects up to seven per cent of all patients who are hospitalized — that adds up to more than 200,000 people in Canada at any given time.

AKI occurs in approximately 30 per cent of patients who undergo cardiac bypass surgery, with about five per cent of patients requiring dialysis. Currently there are no specific therapies to prevent AKI.

AKI occurs in approximately 30 per cent of patients who undergo cardiac bypass

A new study published in *Science Advances*, by a research team headed by Dr. Daniel Muruve, MD, and Dr. Justin Chun, MD, PhD, with the Cumming School of Medicine's (CSM) Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases, opens the door to the first potential therapy for AKI. [Read more.](#)

### New research by Snyder Institute investigators Drs. Laura Sycuro and Karen Lithgow and their study team uncovers promising therapeutic targets to prevent infection-induced preterm birth



Preterm birth affects 8% of pregnancies in Canada and is a leading cause of infant and child mortality worldwide. Although preterm births have many different causes, up to 60% of spontaneous preterm labour cases arise from bacterial infection in the uterus. In particular, the presence of bacteria associated with the common vaginal affliction bacterial vaginosis (BV) correlates with increased risk of preterm birth.

The ability of select BV bacteria to reach the uterus and infect pregnancy tissues has been linked to premature rupture of membranes, spontaneous abortion and preterm labour. However, understanding of how these bacteria affect the uterine environment and causally contribute to pregnancy complications is lacking. [Read more.](#)

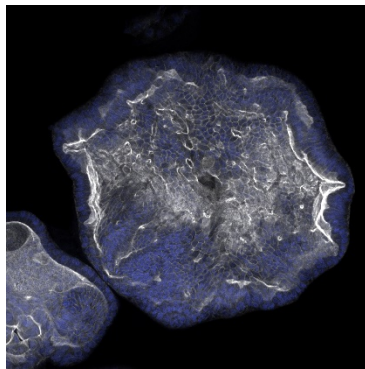
## Congrats to our members recently awarded CIHR Project Grants



Nine Snyder Institute members have been awarded Fall 2021 CIHR Project Grants, giving the Institute a 50% success rate. Congratulations! We are so proud of you.

[Read more.](#)

## Human Organ on-a-Chip Initiative



The **Human Organoid Innovation Hub (HOIH)** has acquired the Emulate organ-on-a-chip system for the 2022 year and has started an equipment evaluation program to evaluate its functionality and support pilot projects. As part of this, we are sending out a request for proposals. If you are interested in using the Emulate system for your pilot project, please submit a one-page document following the guidelines in the document [attached here](#). For any questions, please feel free to contact Grace Baruta ([gmludson@ucalgary.ca](mailto:gmludson@ucalgary.ca)). Visit our new website [here](#).

## Snyder Institute internal reagent/in vivo research model repository

The Snyder institute is planning to gather information to establish a new internal repository list for reagents and protocols used in immune cell characterization as well as to expand and update our *in vivo* research model database.

Further information will be communicated in the future directly to the laboratories. If you have any questions or suggestions, or if you are interested in support and help with new as well as established *in vivo* models and related screening opportunities please feel free to contact [Dr. Bjoern Petri \(bjpetri@ucalgary.ca\)](mailto:bjpetri@ucalgary.ca).

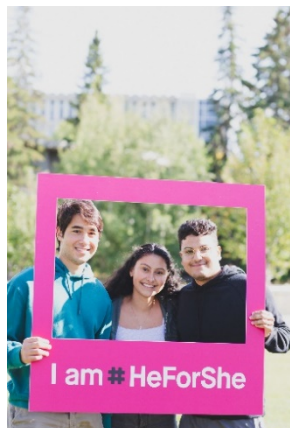
## New deadlines for the Spring 2022 CIHR Project Grant Competition

In light of the disruptions caused by the Omicron variant of COVID-19, CIHR has extended the registration and application deadlines for the Spring 2022 Project Grant Competition.

- Research Services' final internal deadline for the full application is now **9:00 a.m.** on **Monday, March 14, 2022.** [More information here.](#)

## Education news

### For Trainees, Faculty and Staff: Snyder Institute Trainee Committee presents Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Workshop Series



*In partnership with the UCalgary Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, the Snyder Institute Trainee Committee is pleased to offer a virtual workshop series, beginning with an introductory session offered on two different dates in February. The remainder of the series will feature two different workshops each month. Upon completing 11 of the 14 courses, workshop participants will be eligible to receive an **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Education Certificate presented by the Snyder Institute.** A description of each workshop can be found [here](#).*

- Tuesday March 15, 1 to 2:30 PM – Introduction to Intercultural Competence. [Register here.](#)
- Tuesday March 29, 1 to 2:30 PM – Microaggressions in the work, learning and teaching environments. [Register here.](#)

### Important change to Postdoctoral Fellowship application process

As of **February 1, 2022** the process for applying for Postdoctoral Fellowships internally will be changing. Previously the Research Funding Application Approvals form for all Postdoctoral Fellowship applications in the Cumming School of Medicine were provided faculty-level signature by the Graduate Science Education (GSE) office. As of February 1, this signature, provided as soon as the fellow, supervisor and Department Head have signed, will be provided via the Grant Development Office. More information [here](#).



### The Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey

The **Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS)** is a Canada-wide survey run by the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) that is administered to grad students every three years.

UCalgary has participated in CGPSS for nearly 20 years and it has been an invaluable source of feedback to help steer improvements in students services and programming. The 2022 CGPSS began a roll out on Monday, January 31. Grad students are being emailed a personal link to the survey and will have until April 15 to complete.

Participants will be entered to win 1 of 6 \$150 bookstore gift cards. More information [here](#).

## Community outreach and upcoming events



### IMPACTT Ethics Webinars: Translational Research Ethics

IMPACTT is hosting a live webinar on Translational Research Ethics on **Thursday, 3 March 2022 at 2:00PM MST**, moderated by [Dr. Diego Silva](#) (University of Sydney) and featuring bioethics researcher [Dr. Daniel Strech](#) (Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin). Registration is free, and we invite you to attend. Please forward this invite to anyone you think would be interested.

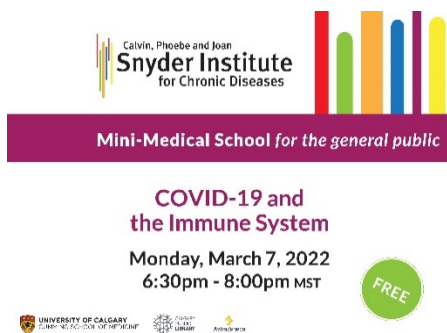
Registration for the webinar can be found [here](#). Please contact [Sydney C. Morgan](#), Ph.D. *IMPACTT Education & Communication Coordinator*, if you have any questions.

### Correlative Electron Microscopy and Intravital Microscopy Seminar Invitation March 4, 8 – 9AM

In this online seminar via Zoom, Dr. Matthia Karreman, PhD will explain how to use in vivo fluorescence microscopy and correlate this with 3D electron microscopy to efficiently target single tumor cells translocating into the brain. All are welcome. [Join here](#).

### Mini-Medical School presents COVID-19 and the Immune System, March 7, 6:30 – 8 pm

Learn about COVID -19 and the immune system at this interactive, free lecture. Please join Dr. Paul Kubes, PhD, and Dr. Chip Doig, MD, to learn about COVID-19 and the resiliency of the human immune system in this online webinar. No pre-requisites required! Open to the public, from high school students to retirees. This event is FREE to attend and requires registration, but you do not need a Calgary Public Library card to register. Thank you to the Cumming School of Medicine, the Calgary Public Library and Astra Zeneca for their support of Mini-Medical School. [Register for free here](#).



## Having IMPACCT 2: Advancing Microbiome Research: Registration and call for abstracts now open

IMPACTT (Integrated Microbiome Platforms for Advancing Causation Testing and Translation) and the IMC (International Microbiome Centre) are organizing a symposium on **June 2 & 3, 2022** of interest to microbiome researchers, clinicians, and trainees. The goal for this symposium is to bring together leading minds and highlight the latest findings and new discoveries from microbiome research teams across Canada and around the world. From causation testing to translational studies, world-class researchers will share their findings on how our microbiome shapes our health, and how we can harness the power of our microbes to improve global wellbeing. **Abstract submission deadline is April 15, 2022.** [More information here.](#)

## 4th Symposium of the Canadian Society for Virology: Registration and call for abstracts now open



CSV2022 Meeting, 5-7 juin 2022  
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

CSV2022 Meeting, June 5-7, UAlberta, Edmonton, AB.

[More information here.](#)

## 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 us 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 and Facebook channels

To ensure your event receives the highest level of exposure, we ask that you please send your event information for website and social media **no less than one week before the event date; (two weeks is even better)**. For the newsletter, please send your news by the **third Monday of each month**, and it will be distributed near the beginning of the following month. Please contact Holly if you have any questions ([holly.kerr@ucalgary.ca](mailto:holly.kerr@ucalgary.ca)) Thank you.

For the latest news and information, visit us at [snyder.ucalgary.ca](http://snyder.ucalgary.ca), and at



If you have news to share, please send it to Holly Kerr, [holly.kerr@ucalgary.ca](mailto:holly.kerr@ucalgary.ca)

[snyder.ucalgary.ca/](http://snyder.ucalgary.ca/)

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