BioBrief



June 2023

Prairie Bioeconomy Guild

HLSS BioAlberta Achievement Award Nominations

Health Canada Inspectorate Meeting

Finance for Startups

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Member Focal Point: BioBenefits

In the news...

New Members

BioAlberta Upcoming Events



June 14, 2023

Prairie Bioeconomy Guild

Join Matthew Labine, Senior Manager of Business Development (Ag and Food) at **Edmonton Global** to learn more about - Plant Protein and Fermentation Technology, the Opportunities in the Regional Agrifood Sector.

Register here now.



September 28, 2023

HLSS BioAlberta Achievement Award Nominations

BioAlberta is thrilled to be celebrating our 25th anniversary this year at our Annual Health and Life Sciences Showcase and Awards Dinner! More event details coming soon.

Nominations are now open for the Company of the Year, Technology Innovation, and Vista Award. The Vista Award is a new category, and is presented to an individual or a team for their achievements in contributing to the Alberta life science cluster.

Deadline August 15, 2023

For more information on BioAlberta Achievement Awards see here.

2023 Nomination Forms:

Company of the Year Technology Innovation Vista Award

Upcoming Life Sciences Events



CLINICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF CANADA PRESENTS

Health Canada Inspectorate Meeting Inspections and Trends from 2022 Updated Guidelines: GUI-0043 & POL-0030

> JOIN US IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY ON JUNE 8, 2022 AT 530 PM EST

Speaker: Inspector Adil Nashed BVSC, DHMS, Compliance Specialist, Clinical Trial Compliance Program, Health Canada, Regulatory Operations and Enforcement Branch.

TO REGISTER: WWW.CRACONLINE.CA

June 8, 2023

Health Canada Inspectorate Meeting

Join Clinical Research Association of Canada in person or virtually to learn about inspections and trends from 2022 and the two updated guidelines: GUI-0043 & POL-0030.

See details here.



June 21, 2023

Finance for Startups

Join OKR Financial and Deloitte's CFO for Operate Finance, Alia Lee, in an enlightening webinar that will transform your understanding of strategic finance in startups.

See details here.

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| innovation.canada.ca | |
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Business Benefits Finder

Find the right programs and services using the Business Benefits Finder

In two minutes, get a tailored list of government programs and services for your business. From funding to advice, everything you need. All in one place.

See details here.

Novo Nordisk Alberta Diabetes Funding Competition:



July 14, 2023

NOVAD Funding Competition

NOVAD funding partners are inviting Letters of Intent (LOI) from Alberta-based investigators, and/or Alberta-based investigators working with entrepreneurs/small and medium enterprises as a team to support research within the health care system and commercial oppurtunties.

On June 15th a virtual information session on the LOI components will be held for interested proponents.

See details here.



NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

September 15, 2023

2023 Diversity and Equity in Research Award

Health Research Foundation Launches Call For Nominations for New Diversity And Equity In Research Award

Nominate an individual who is advancing diversity and equity in health research by September 15.

See details here.

Talent Hub



Funding Oppurtunity: Apply NOW for Summer 2023!

Receive \$5000 in wage support to hire an Alberta student to help your business move forward.

Contact **jamie@bioalberta.com** or visit **WIL** for more information.

The PetriDish[™] Le PetriDish[™]

BioAlberta members have access to BioTalent Canada's job board, The PetriDish. Members can post five FREE jobs annually.



BioTalent Canada has funding opportunities open, which include:

- Student Work Placement Program with up to \$7000 wage subsidy.
- Skilled Newcomer Internships Program with up to \$20,000 wage subsidy.

View all Wage Subsidy programs here.

Member Focal Point: BioBenefits



Company Overview

Established in 2017, **BioBenefits** is the first national employee benefits program designed for life sciences in Canada.

BioBenefits offers access to a national pool of healthcare claims, helping employers spread their employee healthcare costs and risk across similar company profiles. The pool has helped Canada's growing life science sector realize more predictable and sustainable benefit plan costs, without sacrificing plan design flexibility and coverage.

They offer a comprehensive multi-provider package, giving employers more choice when designing their total rewards strategy, and helping them attract and retain the industry's top talent. With almost 400 insured lives being served by the program, BioBenefits is quickly

becoming the provider of choice for employee benefit plan design and management within the sector.

Major Developments

BioBenefits has recently launched Canada's first Portable Insurance Plan ("PiP") for independent Canadian workers. This fully portable insurance coverage is designed to mirror traditional employee benefits but without any costs or admin obligations for employers.

The plan allows independent workers (contractors) to choose from two unique designs, both with no underwriting, no waiting period, and no lifetime maximums. Many contractors are not eligible for traditional group insurance and are at risk of not receiving the healthcare services they require. The PiP gives contractors the peace of mind of knowing they can get care when they need it, while also guaranteeing access to cash flow when faced with catastrophic injury or critical illness. This innovative contractor-compensation platform is helping life science companies scale their workforce faster with zero impact on their bottom-line.

Upcoming Events

BioBenefits offers free, no obligation employee benefit quotes. Whether you have an existing benefits program or are looking at implementing one for the first time.

Overcoming Challenges

BioBenefits has helped their clients continue to realize predictable claims experience and affordable renewals since the program's inception. This has become even more important following the pandemic and the current economic challenges the sector and Canadians face.

To help address these financial challenges, BioBenefits has recently introduced financial wellness as a key pillar of its mental health support and plan designs.

To learn more about how BioBenefits can serve you, visit their website at biobenefits.ca.

In the news...

Aegis Life Awarded Grant to Develop DNAencoded Antibodies Against Infectious Diseases

Aegis Life, Inc., and its parent company Entos Pharmaceuticals, a clinical-stage biotechnology company developing genetic medicines with its Fusogenix PLV delivery platform, today announced entering into a grant agreement with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. As part of the agreement, the Foundation will provide funding support to develop the Fusogenix PLV platform for the delivery of DNAencoded monoclonal antibodies for the treatment of infectious diseases.



Read their complete press release here.

PACYLEX PHARMACEUTICALS ANNOUNCES FIRST PATIENT DOSED IN A PHASE 2A STUDY OF PCLX-001 IN PATIENTS WITH RELAPSED/REFRACTORY NON-HODGKIN



LYMPHOMA

Pacylex Pharmaceuticals, a clinical-stage company developing PCLX-001, a first-in-class oral investigational small molecule for leukemia, lymphoma, and solid tumor cancers, today announced the first patient has been dosed in a Phase 2a expansion study in patients with relapsed/refractory B-cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (R/R NHL).

Read their complete press release here.

KASTX LIFE SCIENCES FUND I CLOSES FIRST FUNDING ROUND

KASTX VENTURES

KASTx Life Science Fund I announces the first closing of its inaugural fund with a target size of CA\$5M. Focusing on pre-seed and seed life sciences companies, the fund aims to support commercially scalable ventures sharing a common goal to improve societal outcomes in health and technology. Leveraging the seasoned leadership team of KASTx Ventures, a biotech-focused venture capital firm, the fund invests in companies based in Canada or the United States in three investment areas: therapeutic development, medical devices, and digital health technologies.

Read their complete press release here.

Pfizer Canada Launches National Initiative to Propel Startup Solutions for Key Challenges in Healthcare

Pfizer Canada ULC announces the launch of its Healthcare Hub, an initiative with Canadian tech and innovation startups to scale up health solutions, with the goal of enhancing outcomes and the patient experience in important areas of need in Canadian healthcare.

Read their complete press release here.



New Members



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