

November 2023

BioEnergy Virtual Roundtable

BioAlberta 2024 Policy Forum

Pathways to Commercialization

Creating sustainable value: ESG in the Public Sector

SMART Network: Photon vs. Electron

Biotechgate Digital Partnering

envisAGE Call for Letters of Interest

Digital4Health Program

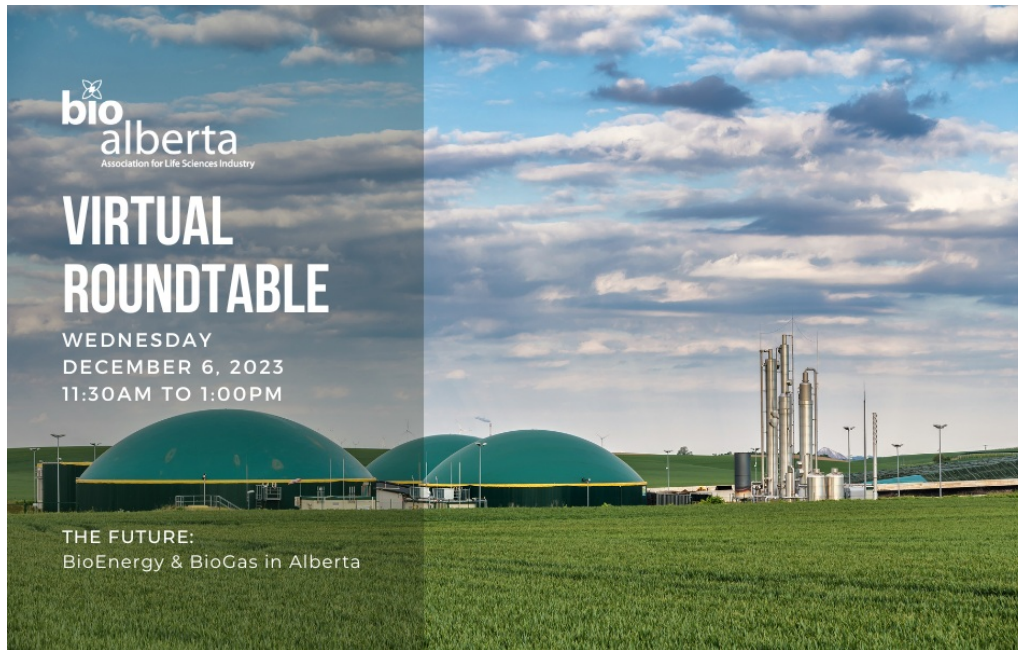
NeuroSpark Grants

Talent Hub

BioAlberta Feature

In the news...

Upcoming Life Sciences Events



December 6, 2023

BioEnergy Virtual Roundtable

On December 6, 2023, join BioAlberta for a virtual information webinar to discuss BioAlberta's efforts to enhance the bioenergy sector in Alberta . In this session, BioAlberta will update stakeholders on a number of key items:

- Advocacy initiatives and planned activities in support of new business and innovation opportunities;
- Potential demonstration projects to advance the bioenergy sector's potential;
- Partnership opportunities to create a larger voice to champion the bioenergy sector in Alberta and across Canada.

Register [here](#) now.



March 5 2023

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

On March 5th, join us for our annual Policy Forum to be held at The Westin Edmonton.

Our panel topics will include:

- Future of MRNA
- Medical Devices
- Real World Evidence

More details coming soon.



REGISTRATION OPEN!

Pathways to Commercialization:
Empowering Clinical Research for Market Preparedness

- Interactive workshop
- Presentations from industry
- Networking opportunities
- Informative panel discussion

November 9, 2023

November 9, 2023

Pathways to Commercialization

Join Biohubx and the Alberta Clinical Research Consortium (ACRC) for an exciting event aimed at helping life sciences startups navigate the challenging road from research to commercialization. Whether you're a life sciences startup founder or an aspiring researcher, this in-person event is designed to provide you with valuable insights and practical strategies.

See details [here](#).



November 9, 2023

Creating sustainable value: ESG in the Public Sector

This webinar aims to provide valuable insights into the essential role of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategies in the context of the Canadian public sector.

Key Takeaways:

- Understanding the importance of ESG strategies for Canadian public entities
- Outlining the essential components of an ESG framework
- Exploring Marsh's value-added services supporting ESG strategies

See details [here](#).



November 17, 2023

SMART Network: Photon vs. Electron

Join Dr. **Keith Fenrich** on November 17th. The SMART Talk is a hybrid event and you can join in-person or online.

See details [here](#).



November 27- December 1, 2023

Biotechgate Digital Partnering

Registrations for the next Biotechgate Digital Partnering event are open.

BioAlberta members are eligible for a discount. Please contact amrit@bioalberta.com for a discount code.

See details [here](#).

1st Call for Innovations



APPLY NOW!

Let's get AgeTech solutions into the hands of older adults!

Deadline to apply: November 21, 2023

November 21, 2023

envisAGE Call for Letters of Interest

envisAGE letters of Interest are open!

This call aims to support the integration of innovative solutions in the living environments and care settings of older adults and caregivers, while facilitating opportunities for SMEs to grow and scale their products and services across Canada.

Application Deadline: November 21, 2023

See details [here](#).



 ALBERTA INNOVATES

FUNDING PROGRAM LAUNCH
DIGITAL4HEALTH

WWW.ALBERTAINNOVATES.CA

December 6, 2023

Digital4Health Program

Alberta Innovates announced the launch of the Digital4Health (D4H) program to address priority health and wellness challenges in the province! D4H promotes the testing and adoption of digital health technologies to enhance healthcare delivery, leading to improved outcomes at a reduced cost. Results will be attained through collaboration and partnerships between health service delivery partners and technology solution providers.

Intake Deadline: December 6, 2023

See details [here](#).



NeuroSpark Grants

NeuroSpark Innovation Grants offer financial support to individual, business and/or company projects with novel ideas, technologies, or approaches that have the potential to advance the understanding and translation of neuroscience research, reducing the burden of brain disorders while driving economic growth and diversification in Alberta.

See details [here](#).

Talent Hub



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.



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

See details [here](#).



Active PROGRAMS & SUBSIDIES

Wage Subsidy programs provide financial support to bio-economy employers to reduce the risk of hiring talent.

See active programs [here](#).

Read, [Biosciences Booster](#). This document highlights Student Work Placement Program (SWPP).



Get recognized as an organization in Canada's bio-economy that embodies diverse and inclusive corporate principles. Apply today for the 2nd Annual I.D.E.A.L. Bioscience Employer Recognition program

Deadline Extended: November 17, 2023

See details [here](#).

Celebrating Alberta's Rise as a Thriving Start-Up Hub



FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS, BIOALBERTA'S MISSION HAS BEEN TO FOSTER AND NAVIGATE A NETWORK OF RESEARCHERS,

entrepreneurs, and supporters to grow Alberta's life sciences ecosystem. Today, Alberta boasts close to 900 companies in life sciences, generating 23,900 high-value jobs and contributing \$1.89 billion to the Alberta economy. We want you to join us.

Already a leader in energy, clean tech, and agriculture, Alberta has emerged as one of the most dynamic destinations in North America for biotech and health innovation startups. With a strong foundation in clinical research and a supportive ecosystem, the province is attracting entrepreneurs, investors, and researchers who see the potential of harnessing biotech for economic growth and diversification of Alberta's economy. You, too, can be part of it!

THE NEW ALBERTA ADVANTAGE

Alberta is home to Canada's largest and only provincewide, fully integrated healthcare system, serving a diverse population of nearly 4.6 million patients with a single Electronic Health Record. This unified system allows for streamlined access to high-quality, robust patient data, which, when aligned with other provincial data sources, creates an unrivaled dataset to study social and health impacts.

ALBERTA IS ATTRACTING GLOBAL INVESTMENT

Alberta's business-friendly environment has resulted in record-high venture capital (VC) investments. Since 2013, over \$2.6 billion VC dollars have been invested. Alberta is also home to the country's second most private equity firms. Additionally, initiatives like the Alberta Enterprise Corporation, a financier of funds established by the Alberta government in 2008, and UCeed, the largest university based fund of its kind in Canada, connect Alberta entrepreneurs, innovators, and inventors with funding, markets, and mentors. International investors are drawn to do business in Alberta because of its competitive tax structure. Alberta has the lowest corporate income tax rate in Canada and one of the lowest in North America at 8%, with no provincial sales tax, payroll tax, or healthcare premiums. Investor confidence in Alberta's biotech sector is high, and venture capital firms and angel investors recognize the region's potential, injecting funds into promising startups.

EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL RESEARCH

Alberta's biotech ecosystem is flourishing. The province is home to world-renowned research institutions - the University of Alberta (UofA), the University of Calgary (UofC), and the University of Lethbridge - providing a solid academic foundation for biotech startups. UofA and UofC hold two of the top 150 life sciences programs globally and are ranked 2nd and 3rd in Canada for a number of active clinical trials. Alberta has demonstrated global AI leadership for over two decades and is recognized as one of the top three international destinations for AI machine learning and research. Alberta continues to lead the way as Amii and the University of Alberta launch an introductory AI course that aims to provide fundamental AI literacy skills to all UofA students. Alberta's research capacity results from strong longterm investment in research and development (R&D). Today, Alberta Innovates, the agency that supports the commercialization of research into business opportunities, serves as a catalyst for R&D activities at the heart of the biotech revolution in Alberta. The organization fuels R&D initiatives that span from fundamental scientific research to translational projects with tangible applications by providing various funding, grants, and programs. These investments not only advance knowledge but also drive the creation of innovative technologies and solutions with the potential to transform both traditional and emerging industries. Organizations like Alberta Clinical Research Consortium (ACRC) connect researchers and their teams with the resources necessary to conduct research effectively. ACRC helps navigate the complex clinical health research environment from study start-up to finish with comprehensive resources and services.

NOTABLE LIFE SCIENCES SUCCESS STORIES FROM ALBERTA IN 2023

> Alberta's government provided the universities of Alberta and Calgary with \$27.3 million over four years under the Major Innovation Fund. This investment intends to help Alberta continue its success in being one of the fastest growing

and most innovative tech sectors in North America.

- Edmonton's Applied Pharmaceutical Innovation (API) was awarded \$80.5 million by the Government of Canada's Canadian Critical Drug Initiative manufacturing facility to be built in the Edmonton Research Park. The funding will catalyze the Edmonton Research Park into Canada's first integrated research, commercialization, and manufacturing cluster.
- Entos Pharmaceuticals has emerged as an industry leader in Alberta's life science landscape through its success in developing new genetic medicines with its leading-edge Fusogenix proteolipid vehicle (PLV) technology platform. Therapies in development have the potential to eradicate genetic diseases, block cancer and reverse aging.
- Future Fields secured \$11.2M USD to turn fruit flies into Modular Cleantech Bioreactors that fuel the biomanufacturing revolution in medical R&D, pharmaceuticals, and cultivated meat. They also announced the performance results of its first human growth factor, Recombinant Human FGF2, which marks the first human growth factor derived from a commercial fruit fly expression system.
- PanTHERA CryoSolutions developed 'ice inhibitors' to protect cells during cryopreservation, which could positively impact medical treatments to treat cancer or immune therapies.
- Pacylex Pharmaceuticals, a clinical-stage company developing PCLX-001, a first-in-class oral investigational small molecule for leukemia, lymphoma, and solid tumor cancers, announced their first patient was dosed in a Phase 2a expansion study in patients with relapsed/ refractory B-cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma.
- Providence Therapeutics announced a multi-year partnership for Northern RNA Inc. to provide plasmid DNA, mRNA Cap Analogs, and GMP-certified manufacturing support to Providence as part of a deal valued at over \$15 million, demonstrating the industry's ability to bring novel products to the global market jointly.
- Syantra announced obtaining CE marking for the Syantra DX™ Breast Cancer test. Syantra DX™ Breast Cancer is a minimally invasive blood test for the detection of an active breast cancer signature - in the earliest stages when it is easier to treat.

Alberta is proud of its history as a resource-driven economy rooted in agriculture and energy, and those traditional strengths are essential to Alberta's future economy. Diversifying has allowed the life sciences economy to emerge as a scale-up ecosystem, showcasing the power of innovation, collaboration, and strategic support. Additionally, the province's rich research landscape and an ecosystem that guides startups along the commercialization path, positions Alberta as a compelling destination for entrepreneurs in the biotechnology sector.

Read BioAlberta's Feature in BIOTECanada's Insights Fall 2023 [HERE](#).

THE ALBERTA VIRTUAL CARE COORDINATING BODY (AVCCB)



The Alberta Virtual Care Coordinating Body (AVCCB) is a non-partisan and broad collective of Alberta healthcare stakeholders, including patient and Indigenous representatives, focused on providing evidence-based strategies to support better patient care and improved health outcomes.

Read their complete press release [here](#).

ORANO MED AND 48HOUR DISCOVERY TO DEVELOP INNOVATIVE PEPTIDE RECEPTOR RADIONUCLIDE THERAPY FOR TARGETED CANCER TREATMENT



Orano Med, a pioneer in targeted alpha therapy, and 48Hour Discovery, a novel peptide discovery platform company, announce their strategic collaboration to advance cancer treatment through radioligand discovery and development.

Read their complete press release [here](#).

NEW PROCESS PRODUCES PURER, SAFER PANCREAS STEM CELLS FOR POTENTIAL TRANSPLANT



A University of Alberta team has developed a new step to improve the process for creating insulin-producing pancreatic cells from a patient's own stem cells, bringing the prospect of injection-free treatment closer for people with diabetes.

Read their complete press release [here](#).

SYANTRA EMERGES FROM STEALTH WITH AI POWERED RNA-BASED IMMUNE



RESPONSE DETECTION LIQUID BIOPSY PLATFORM AND ANNOUNCES ROB LOZUK AS CEO

Syantra, a liquid biopsy platform and innovation company that is changing the way cancer is detected, starting with Syantra DX™ Breast Cancer, announced that Rob Lozuk has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer, effective November 1, 2023.

Read their complete press release [here](#).

NEW STATISTICAL TOOL COULD MEAN CLINICAL TRIALS YIELD BETTER INFORMATION WITH FEWER PATIENTS



**UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA**

University of Alberta researchers have developed a new statistical tool to evaluate the results of clinical trials, with the aim of allowing smaller trials to ask more complex research questions and get effective treatments to patients more quickly.

Read their complete press release [here](#).

NEW PEPTIDE MOTIF CRUCIAL FOR O-GLCNAC TRANSFERASE (OGT) REGULATION DISCOVERED PROMISES FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS FOR CELL PHYSIOLOGY AND TARGETED THERAPIES



48Hour Discovery, a pioneer in the field of peptide discovery, has found a new key to understanding how our cells work. The discovery, in collaboration with Prof. David Vocadlo of Simon Fraser University, helped uncover a novel motif that plays a pivotal role in the regulation of O-GlcNAc transferase (OGT). The findings are detailed in a recent scientific paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) and promises to have far-reaching implications for cell physiology and the development of targeted therapies.

Read their complete press release [here](#).

ORCHIDS, VEGGIES AND BEER: POT PRODUCERS PIVOT IN TOUGH MARKET



Martin is CEO of Aurora Cannabis Inc. and may have seemed like an unlikely buyer for Bevo, an agriculture stalwart still run by the Dutch family that founded it in 1986. But it was a good match: the Edmonton-based pot giant already had the hulking, temperature-controlled greenhouses Bevo needed to expand, while for Aurora, Bevo's stability would provide some reprieve from the volatile weed industry.

Read their complete press release [here](#).

EDMONTON TRANSPLANTATION PHYSICIAN WINS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: CST

Dr. Ronald B. Moore, transplantation physician and University of Alberta (U of A) professor of surgery and oncology has won The Canadian Society of Transplantation Lifetime Achievement Award.



Read their complete press release [here](#).

PROGRAM IN EDMONTON HELPS TEST FOR CLEANER WATER



Clean drinking water is essential but harmful pathogens and diseases aren't always obvious. As Ciara Yaschuk explains, Edmonton's Roshan Water Solutions has a portable E. coli test they can use on water systems to ensure safety.

Watch their interview [here](#).

Our Partners

PLATINUM



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