

# ALBERTA @ BIO 2024

San Diego, CA • June 3-6, 2024

[www.bioalberta.com](http://www.bioalberta.com)



#AlbertaBIO2024

# CONTENTS

---

- 3 BioAlberta**
- 4 Alberta at a Glance**
- 5 Alberta Life Sciences at a Glance**
- 8 Alberta @BIO Events**
- 10 Government of Alberta- Ministry of Health**
- 11 Government of Alberta- Ministry of Technology and Innovation**
- 12 Alberta Cancer Foundation**
- 13 Alberta Diagnostics Ecosystem Platform for Translation- ADEPT**
- 14 Alberta Innovates**
- 15 Alberta Real World Evidence Consortium**
- 16 AltaML**
- 17 Amii**
- 18 Applied Pharmaceutical Innovation- API**
- 19 BioAro**
- 20 Biohubx**
- 21 Calgary Economic Development**
- 22 Clinical Trials Alberta**
- 23 Edmonton Global**
- 24 Entos Pharmaceuticals**
- 25 Explore Edmonton**
- 26 48Hour Discovery**
- 27 Future Fields**
- 28 Global Public Affairs**
- 29 GlycoNet**
- 30 Hermay Labs Corporation**
- 31 Institute of Health Economics**
- 32 Northern RNA**
- 33 Pacylex**
- 34 Sinoveda**
- 35 University Hospital Foundation**
- 36 University of Alberta**
- 37 University of Calgary**
- 38 Xortex Therapeutics Inc.**
- 39 A History of Life Science Achievement in Alberta**

## **BioAlberta**

BioAlberta is a private, not-for-profit industry association representing the growing life sciences sector in the province. Our vision is to build a thriving and globally competitive life sciences industry that fuels key sectors of Alberta's economy. The organization serves as a central voice and organizing hub and champion for the industry, providing leadership through focused activities that promote and enable sector development in Alberta. Bio Alberta represents over 230 members of Alberta's growing life sciences sector, including researchers, producers, and suppliers in specialized sectors.

BioAlberta's focus is to:

- Encourage policies that foster innovation, support modernization of Alberta's economy, and increase investor confidence and attraction of capital.
- Work with founders and entrepreneurs to highlight success factors to grow new and emerging sectors of the economy.
- Increase the network of contacts and sources of capital through participation in member activities and events leading to a strong ecosystem of life science producers and consumers.
- Promote the success, capacity, and potential of Alberta's vibrant life sciences ecosystem to celebrate the success in life sciences.

BioAlberta is proud to be the voice of life sciences in Alberta, championing a thriving and competitive industry. BioAlberta is committed to facilitating and accelerating economic diversification, investment attraction, and job growth in Alberta.

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

BioAlberta's primary goal is to assist companies with a successful BIO event, including obtaining meaningful meetings and networking. Secondary to this, BioAlberta is looking to connect with potential companies looking to invest in Alberta, mentors and accelerator programs.

## **CONTACT**

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# ALBERTA AT A GLANCE

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## Fast Facts

- Alberta Population: 4.8 million (January 2024)
- GDP in 2023: \$336.3 billion

## Competitive taxes

- Albertans pay the lowest overall taxes in Canada.
- We have a competitive tax system with low personal and corporate income tax rates, no payroll tax, no provincial sales tax and no health premiums.

## Population facts in Alberta:

- The largest population is found in these Alberta cities: Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, Lethbridge and Airdrie.
- Airdrie is the fastest growing city in Alberta with a current population of 108,304.
- As of Jan 1 2024 the Alberta population was 4,800,768.
- Between January 1, 2023 and January 1, 2024 Alberta experienced Canada's largest population growth at 4.4%.
- Calgary and Edmonton house more than 55% of Alberta's population.

## Academic Research Capacity in Alberta

- The University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, the University of Lethbridge and Athabasca University are four comprehensive academic and research universities in Alberta.
- Alberta is also home to 9 comprehensive community colleges, 4 polytechnic institutions, 6 independent academic institutions and 3 undergraduate universities.

# ALBERTA LIFE SCIENCES AT A GLANCE

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## Alberta's Life Science Ecosystem

Alberta's life sciences sector was responsible for close to \$2 billion in revenue in 2023. The sector accounted for 23,000 jobs in Alberta.

### Industry Makeup:

- 43.6% of life sciences companies identify as manufacturers.
- 25.5% of life sciences companies identify as service providers.
- 54.4% of life sciences companies identify as being research and development-focused.

### Subsectors:

- 33.8% of life sciences companies operate in medical technology, diagnostics, and devices.
- 22.1% of life sciences companies operate in health biotechnology and pharmaceuticals.
- 22.1% of life sciences companies operate in digital health.

### Geography:

- 43.6% of life sciences companies are located in Calgary.
- 38.7% of life sciences companies are located in Edmonton.
- 9.8% of life sciences companies are located in Southern Alberta, primarily in Lethbridge.

### Growth:

- From 2020 to 2022, there has been an increase of 32.2% in research and development spending. Research and development spending reached \$327.3 million in 2022.
- Small enterprises are dominating the life sciences industry, with 51% of companies employing 8 people or less. Small enterprises plan to add 1,800 new positions in Alberta this year; this is a 44.3% increase in direct industry employment over 2022.

### Revenue:

- There is 55.5% of revenue growth expected forecasted for 2024.
- In 2022, 38.9% of life sciences companies reported revenue below \$1 million.
- In 2022, 15.4% of life sciences companies recorded revenue between \$1 million to \$50 million.

## Alberta's Life Science Ecosystem

- In 2022, 2.6% of life sciences companies recorded revenues exceeding \$50 million.

### **Moving Forward:**

- AI is at the forefront.
  - Aiding in the development of new therapeutics, devices, diagnostics, modalities, and indications.
  - A global industry need meets Alberta's innovation ecosystem. The Government of Alberta and Alberta Innovates has invested \$30 million into Amii (Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute).
  - Digital health pathways in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic
    - The University of Alberta has received a \$55 million research grant to invest in research for prevention and treatment methods.

### **Alberta's Advantage:**

- 100% of provincial medical records and administrative data are electronic, including NetCare, MyHealth Records, and ConnectCare.
- Alberta has a strong population and willingness to participate in clinical trials with public campaigns like Be the Cure.
- Alberta's public health system is the largest integrated healthcare system in Canada and the fifth largest in the world.

### **Clinical Trials Alberta**

- There are over 1,400 active clinical trials in Alberta and over 850 principal investigators.
- 24% of current Canadian clinical trials are being conducted in Alberta, the third most active province in Canada.
- 35% of industry revenue and investment comes from US and international markets.
- Top therapeutic areas of study include cancer, the nervous system, cardiology, digestive health, blood and lymph disorders, nutrition and metabolic, immune system, and brain and mental health.
- Alberta Real World Evidence (RWE) Consortium enables access to administrative data, including incidence and prevalence, treatment patterns, persistence, safety monitoring, comparative effectiveness, and cost-effectiveness.

## Alberta's Life Science Ecosystem

### Life Sciences Labour Market:

- Approximately 1,900 establishments, including companies, hospitals, and universities, are engaged in life sciences activities.

Job Function	Size in industry
Research and Development	29%
Manufacturing and Production (includes skilled trades, equipment operations, and select engineering)	20%
Management and administrative	13%

Subsector	Size in industry
Bio-health	46%, approximately 10,580 jobs
Agri-biotech	30%, approximately 6,900 jobs
Bio-industrial	17%, approximately 3,910 jobs
<u>Bio-energy</u>	7%, approximately 1,1610 jobs

# ALBERTA EVENTS

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## BioAlberta Events

To register for BioAlberta events, please visit [bioalberta.com](http://bioalberta.com)

### Monday, June 3rd, 7am: Alberta's Advantage in AI/ML and Real World Evidence

**Location:** [Rancho Santa Fe Room, Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina](#)

Alberta is a global leader in artificial intelligence and machine learning, driving Alberta's technology and life sciences sectors. Come learn how Alberta is using AI/ML to drive real world evidence, precision analytics, and health innovation, and why global companies are taking notice.

#### Opening Remarks:



**Hon. Adriana LaGrange**  
Alberta Minister of Health

#### Moderator:



**Kimberley Simmonds**  
Assistant Deputy Minister,  
Alberta Health

#### Panelists:



**Hon. Nate Glubish**  
Alberta Minister of  
Technology and Innovation



**Cory Janssen**  
CEO and Founder,  
AltaML



**Cam Linke**  
CEO, Amii



**Peter Shen**  
Head of Digital and Automation,  
Siemens Healthineers

### Tuesday, June 4th, 8pm: Alberta Reception

**Location:** [Garden Terrace, Westin San Diego Gaslamp Quarter Hotel](#)

Join BioAlberta, Alberta companies and supporters at the traditional Alberta Reception, a can't miss networking event at BIO. Network with life sciences leaders to understand why Alberta is a leader in technology and innovation, and how Alberta uses industry partnerships to impact health innovation.

# ALBERTA EVENTS

## Alberta Related Events

### Tuesday, June 4th, 11:30 am: Government of Alberta and Alberta Cancer Foundation Announcement

**Location: Canada Pavilion**

Join the Government of Alberta and Alberta Cancer Foundation in the Canada Pavilion for an announcement regarding Alberta's capacity in research partnerships and precision analytics and health innovation.

### Tuesday, June 4th, 4:30 pm: ENTOS Pharmaceuticals, Aegis Life, Oisín Biotechnologies, and OncoSenX BIO 2024 Reception and Tour



**You're Invited! June 4, 2024 at 4:30 - 7 pm**

We cordially invite you to our BIO 2024 reception at our office and laboratory space on the Muse campus near the legendary Torrey Pines golf course!

**Welcome Remarks:** 5:30 pm

**Offering:** Drinks and light hors d'oeuvres

**Tours:** On-demand

**Address:** 3040 Science Park Rd. San Diego, CA 92121

**RSVP:** Email [rsvp@entospharma.com](mailto:rsvp@entospharma.com) by May 28th with your name, company affiliation, and if you plan to take the shuttle transport.

**Please note:** your name must be on the guest list to attend due to limited capacity.

Complimentary shuttle transport to the Muse Campus will be available at 4:15 pm and 4:30 pm from the Marriott Marquis located next to the Convention Center, and will depart from the reception at 6:15 pm and 6:30 pm, stopping at the Westin Gaslamp and the Convention Center. Complimentary parking on-site will also be available. Additional details regarding transportation will be provided at RSVP.

 **Questions? Email [natanya.nguyen@entospharma.com](mailto:natanya.nguyen@entospharma.com)** 

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### **Government of Alberta: Ministry of Health**

Alberta's Ministry of Health works to ensure Albertans receive the highest quality, comprehensive health care when and where they need it most.

The Alberta government is currently working to refocus Alberta's health care system to improve outcomes and empower health care workers to deliver quality care across the province. A refocused health care system will enhance government's ability to provide system-wide oversight, set system priorities and ensure accountability on behalf of Albertans.

The ministry supports the health and well-being of Albertans by protecting public health and promoting wellness; coordinating and delivering safe, person-centered, quality health care services; planning capital infrastructure; supporting innovative information management and technologies; regulating health care; and funding the health system.

### **Honourable Minister Adriana LaGrange**

Adriana LaGrange was sworn in as Minister of Health on June 9, 2023. She previously served as the Minister of Education.

Prior to her service as an elected official at the provincial level, Mrs. LaGrange also has a pedigree as an entrepreneur, owning a trucking company, as well as running a family farm. She also served as a Trustee of the Red Deer Catholic Regional School Division for more than 11 years.

A wife, mother of 7, and proud grandmother of 7, Mrs. LaGrange understands the importance of the role that parents play in the development of children. She has an extensive career in helping those Albertans who face physical and mental disabilities, earning her Diploma in Rehabilitative Studies from Humber College in 1981.

Adriana LaGrange was first elected as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Red Deer-North on April 16, 2019 and was re-elected on May 29, 2023.

### **CONTACT**

**<https://www.alberta.ca/minister-of-health>**



## **Government of Alberta: Ministry of Technology and Innovation**

The Ministry of Technology and Innovation was created in October of 2022, and has a wide reaching mandate that actively collaborates with other ministries across Alberta. Technology and Innovation is dedicated to fostering technological advancement and digital transformation within the province. With a focus on innovation, it aims to support businesses, entrepreneurs, and researchers in developing and adopting cutting-edge technologies to drive economic growth and competitiveness. Through strategic partnerships and initiatives, the ministry works to position Alberta as a leader in technology innovation on both national and global scales.

### **Honourable Minister Nate Glubish**

Nate Glubish was first elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for Strathcona-Sherwood Park on April 16, 2019 and re-elected on May 29, 2023.

Nate was sworn in as Minister of Service Alberta on April 30, 2019. In that role he led the Government of Alberta's efforts to apply technology to deliver better, faster, and smarter services to Albertans. He also developed the Alberta Broadband Strategy and negotiated a \$780 million partnership with the federal government to deliver reliable, high-speed internet to every Albertan by 2027.

On October 21, 2022, Nate Glubish was sworn in to lead the newly created Ministry of Technology and Innovation where he continued to lead the modernization of government services and led efforts to attract more investment in Alberta's technology sector. On June 9, 2023, Nate was sworn in again as Minister of Technology and Innovation.

Prior to his political career, Nate Glubish dedicated his professional life to building and investing in Alberta technology companies. He spent most of his 15-year career before politics as a venture capital investor, most recently with Vancouver-based Yaletown Partners, where he oversaw investments into Alberta-based technology companies.

He is passionate about helping Alberta companies raise investment capital to commercialize innovative new technologies and to export their expertise around the world.

Nate Glubish has a Bachelor of Commerce degree, majoring in Finance. He is married to Allison, who is a junior high teacher with Elk Island Public Schools. They have a son, Max.

### **CONTACT**

**<https://www.alberta.ca/technology-and-innovation>**



## **Alberta Cancer Foundation**

Our very purpose comes from our desire to create more moments for all Albertans facing cancer, no matter where they live or the type of cancer they are facing. As the fundraising partner for every cancer centre in Alberta, we make life better for Albertans facing cancer by supporting world-class research and patient care, right here in our own backyard.

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

At the Alberta Cancer Foundation, we are driven by our vision of a cancer-free future and our mission to create more moments for Albertans facing cancer.

We can't do this alone. We bring together global partners, donors, patients, health-care providers and researchers, because we know this is the fastest way to close the gap between diagnosis and a cure. We support the most promising research and care programs happening in Alberta that will create more moments for patients facing cancer.

## **CONTACT**

**Christy Holtby, VP**, Philanthropy  
[christy.holtby@albertacancer.ca](mailto:christy.holtby@albertacancer.ca)

<https://albertacancer.ca/>



## **ADEPT: Alberta Diagnostics Ecosystem Platform for Translation**

ADEPT leverages Alberta's unique integrated healthcare system which serves over 4 million patients and houses all electronic medical record data for the province. As an entry portal to Alberta's diagnostics ecosystem, ADEPT can provide innovators with access to these valuable assets and real world samples to evaluate promising new technologies, guide innovators through comprehensive beta testing, and advise on prototype refinement and validation to advance commercialization and adoption.

### **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

We are interested in partnering with companies and innovators to evaluate new diagnostic technologies with an emphasis on clinical mass spectrometry, point-of-care and automation.

### **CONTACT**

**Jennifer Reid**, Director  
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(403)-501-8091

**<https://www.albertalabdiagnostics.ca/>**

## Alberta Innovates

Alberta Innovates is the provincial innovation engine, providing funding, business advice and connections, applied research, and industrial testing facilities to accelerate research and innovations across Alberta. We advance innovations that benefit people, protect the environment, and help diversify our economy. Spanning across sectors, Alberta Innovates' programs and activities build on Alberta's strengths while creating new opportunities in emerging technology areas. We are uniquely positioned to catalyze and accelerate research and innovation to keep Alberta relevant and competitive in the global marketplace, contribute to a sustainable and diversified economy, and keep Alberta healthy through the advancement of medical knowledge, treatment, and best clinical practices. Our strategic foci in health and life sciences include helping patients have better outcomes, improving health systems, and facilitating medical research and collaboration with other organizations.

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

- Promote Alberta's research and innovation environment in collaboration with provincial delegates.
- Highlight Alberta's unique resources for organizations operating in the province.
- Identify potential partnerships and collaborations that would benefit the economy and health outcomes of Albertans.

## **CONTACT**

**Tim Murphy**, Vice President, Health  
[tim.murphy@albertainnovates.ca](mailto:tim.murphy@albertainnovates.ca)

**Ryan Mercer**, Director, Clinical Research Innovation  
[ryan.mercer@albertainnovates.ca](mailto:ryan.mercer@albertainnovates.ca)

<https://albertainnovates.ca/>



alberta RWE consortium

## **Alberta Real World Evidence Consortium**

The province of Alberta stands out as a global leader in real-world health system data, housing one of Canada's largest, most mature, and comprehensive repositories. This remarkable resource serves as the foundation for the Alberta Real World Evidence Consortium, a highly experienced cross-functional provincial research team from the Universities of Alberta and Calgary, along with the Institute of Health Economics. Leveraging these unique data assets, the Consortium conducts timely health-focused research using real-world data, engaging funding partners, decision-makers, and knowledge users.

The Consortium initiates the collaborative research process by considering the interests of our funding partners, and aligning these with our deep understanding of the evidence required to support health care and drug policy decision-making. By doing so, we identify the right research questions and generate meaningful evidence from a trusted source that can be used for informed decision-making.

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

The Alberta Real World Evidence Consortium provides businesses in the health care sector the opportunity to support collaborative real-world data-driven research that generates meaningful evidence from a trusted source, providing invaluable insights that contribute to advancing health outcomes and supporting the shaping of effective policies and decisions.

## **CONTACT**

**Karen Martins, PhD.** Associate Director, Research and Strategy

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## **AltaML**

AltaML is a leading applied AI studio and developer of machine learning (ML) software. Building powerful AI tools and pursuing product opportunities through industry-specific joint ventures, AltaML creates operational efficiency, reduces risk, and generates new sources of revenue for customers. With expertise across multiple industries and access to top AI/ML talent, AltaML accelerates the AI adoption journey with a focus on fostering long-term relationships with customers.

In 2022, AltaML ranked No. 18 on The Globe and Mail 2022 Report on Business, ranking Canada's top-growing companies based on revenue growth. Additionally, AltaML ranked No. 13 on the Deloitte Technology Fast 50TM and No. 71 on the Deloitte Technology Fast 500TM, which recognizes the top North American technology companies based on revenue growth, entrepreneurial spirit, and bold innovation.

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

We are looking for partners looking to build data-driven solutions related to oncology.

## **CONTACT**

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## **Amii**

Amii — the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute — is a world-leading centre for machine-learning research and industry application.

Amii's team of 43 Research Fellows is prominent on the world stage, advancing the art of the possible in AI and machine learning (ML). Led by reinforcement learning pioneer Rich Sutton, our key areas of research achievement include reinforcement learning, deep learning, explainability, ethics, and natural language processing — with special attention to applied areas including precision health, protein expression, supply chain, and robotics.

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

Amii partners with enterprises to identify and execute ML projects that transform their businesses and help them deliver breakthrough technology. We have worked with 250+ industry partners from around the world, delivering technology and talent-transfer programs that extend our partners' in-house expertise, capacity, and intellectual property.

## **CONTACT**

**Dr. Jay Summach**, Sector Relationship Manager, Health

[jay.summach@amii.ca](mailto:jay.summach@amii.ca)

(780)-700-1926

<https://www.amii.ca/>

## **Applied Pharmaceutical Innovation- API**

API, one of Canada's largest not-for-profit life sciences organizations, bridges the gap between academic research, development, and commercialization. Enabling innovation among life sciences academia, startups, and small to medium-sized enterprises, API provides direct access to industry capacity and expertise, accelerating testing and development timelines. With a comprehensive suite of services, API serves as a CDMO, CRO, scientific and commercialization one-stop solution for pharmaceuticals, natural health products, medical devices, and diagnostics companies.

API has grown to more than 70 staff and is supported by an interdisciplinary external network of over 100 scientists, clinicians, regulatory, patent, and market experts. API has attracted over 75 industry-led projects, created more than \$500M in value for incubated companies, and supported over 50 SMEs, scale-ups, and spinoffs.

Based in Alberta with lab and office spaces in Edmonton and Calgary, API works with partners across Canada and around the world to build life sciences companies and expand expertise for students, postdoctoral fellows, and entrepreneurs. Further, API is building new capacity to bolster critical medicine supply chains, emphasizing readiness for global health emergencies through initiatives like commercial-scale manufacturing and novel compound discovery platforms.

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

- Business Development: Meeting with academia, startups, and small to medium-sized enterprises that are looking for services and expertise offered by API.
- Partnership: Finding partners interested in collaborating with API on critical drug manufacturing and distribution.
- Investment: Garnering interest from potential investors and industry on research collaboration and out-licensing opportunities.

## **CONTACT**

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## **BioAro**

BioAro, located at the heart of Alberta, is a leading innovator in genomic analysis and precision medicine, aiming to build new opportunities for patients, healthcare and the research sector. BioAro is advancing artificial intelligence technology to leverage its advantages for predicting health crises and developing the most optimal treatment solutions with genomic insights.

As the precision medicine market grows, BioAro aims to be at the forefront of its development with software for real-time genomic analysis, patient monitoring, predictive models for health assessment, and AI-integrated systems for record management, uniting all under one integrated ecosystem. This approach optimizes operations and expenses of the healthcare sector while enhancing overall patient care.

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

BioAro's mission is to deliver precision care to the people. Our solutions for healthcare and research sectors provide crucial information for understanding the complexity of the human body and microflora ecosystem for optimal and precise patient care and research purposes related to improving treatment strategies.

We believe in and deliver real-time data-driven optimal medical care and explore collaborations in the precision medicine field to make it more accessible for people.

## **CONTACT**

**Dr. Anmol Kapoor**, Founder and CEO

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<https://bioaro.com/>



## **Biohubx**

Biohubx is a not-for-profit that supports life sciences and health-tech companies that are at the scale-up stage. We provide mentorship, programming, and access to technical infrastructure, including laboratory space prepped for regulatory certification and manufacturing. We will be launching a second facility in Calgary, centred in the northwest health tech cluster that includes the Calgary Cancer Centre (the largest oncology center in Canada), the University of Calgary, Foothills Hospital, Alberta Children's Hospital, and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. We offer international companies who are planning to expand in the North American market tailored support and a de-risked beachhead opportunity situated in a strategic and central location. At BIO, we are looking to connect with industry partners and SMEs who would benefit from being plugged into an ecosystem designed for commercialization.

The Province of Alberta has competitive conditions for business with the lowest corporate income tax rate in Canada and no sales tax. The sunny City of Calgary was named the third most livable city in the world in 2022.

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

- Connect with multinational organizations interested in expanding presence in Western Canada
- Connect with multinational organizations interested in supporting Alberta's innovation ecosystem
- Connect with SME's interested in expanding into North America
- Promote the North American Soft-Landing program and recruit companies to participate
- Connect with like-minded organizations for partnership opportunities and co-programming
- Create visibility around the vibrancy of Alberta's life sciences and health tech ecosystem
- Seek out business opportunities for Biohubx member ventures

## **CONTACT**

**Elisa Park Kim**, Director of Business Development

[www.linkedin.com/in/elisa-park-kim](http://www.linkedin.com/in/elisa-park-kim)

<https://www.biohubx.com/>

## **Calgary Economic Development**

Calgary Economic Development works with companies and organizations that are interested in developing their technologies or growing and expanding their business in Calgary, Alberta. We connect people and companies with resources that can help them grow their careers and businesses, thrive in new locations or markets, and feel at home in our community. Calgary is home to more than 120 life sciences companies, from emerging startups to established medtech/healthtech/biotech firms. With leading research innovation in cardiovascular diseases, neuroscience, microbiome, oncology, infectious diseases and sports medicine, the city is an active hub for life sciences innovation.

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

- Meet with companies that plan to relocate or expand their business in North America.
- Support Calgary ecosystem partners and companies in securing partnerships and opportunities
- Promote Calgary as a great destination for establishing and growing health-tech/med-tech/bio-tech ventures
- Seek partnership opportunities with international organizations and investors that work with life sciences companies.

## **CONTACT**

**Lin Tang**, Business Development Manager, Health and Life Sciences

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(403)-221-7889

<https://www.calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com/>



# Clinical Trials Alberta

## Clinical Trials Alberta

Clinical Trials Alberta is dedicated to establishing Alberta as a premier destination for conducting high-quality clinical trials. Developed as a partnership between academic, government, and research organizations, we work collaboratively to:

- Promote Alberta's unique strengths to conduct high-quality clinical trials.
- Attract industry R&D investment to the province.
- Provide centralized access for industry to engage with Alberta's clinical trial assets.
- Enable effective collaboration between industry sponsors and Alberta investigators, sites and service providers.

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

- Promote and market Alberta's clinical trial resources, assets, and capabilities.
- Raise awareness with organizations on how Alberta's existing research strengths can support their priorities.
- Invite prospective sponsors to visit Alberta and meet our research and clinical trial community.

## **CONTACT**

**Ryan Mercer**, Director, Clinical Research Innovation, Alberta Innovates

[ryan.mercer@albertainnovates.ca](mailto:ryan.mercer@albertainnovates.ca)

(780)-991-0297

<https://clinicaltrialsab.ca/>



## Edmonton Global

Edmonton Global is a foreign direct investment (FDI) and international business development agency, located in the Western Province of Alberta in Canada where we represent the Edmonton Region. The Edmonton region is accelerating research and development and increasing productivity in life sciences and has strengths in pharmaceutical manufacturing, drug discovery, nutraceuticals, diagnostics, medical devices, and sits at the convergence of artificial intelligence and health.

Companies in the region benefit from operating in Alberta which is home to Canada's largest, fully integrated healthcare system that serves a diverse population of 4.3 million people.

Collaboration, digitalization, strong academic and industry partnerships paired with an entrepreneurial mindset have led to a boom in this sector. The region is teeming with potential strategic partners for anyone looking to invest.

Health and life science companies in the Edmonton region are part of a strong, growing, and tight-knit community working at the cutting edge of scientific breakthroughs. Scientists are at the forefront of research in diabetes, virology, and precision health, and we have world class facilities to prove it.

Anchored by world class institutes such as the University of Alberta and the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute whom are ranked top 3 Globally for their innovation and excellence in Artificial Intelligence.

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

To bring awareness and interest to the strengths of the Edmonton Region to the global biotech world, attracting interests in R&D, collaborations, partnerships, investment attraction and deal making.

## **CONTACT**

**Robert Sikora**, Senior Manager, Business Development and Life Sciences

<https://edmontonglobal.ca/>



## **Entos Pharmaceuticals**

A new reality in genetic medicine lies ahead, one that will be ushered in with the advent of safe, effective, and re-dosable nucleic acid delivery technologies. Since its inception in 2016, Entos® has been dedicated to advancing next-generation genetic medicines using our proprietary Fusogenix™ PLV™ drug delivery system. The Fusogenix PLV platform is formulated with FAST™ proteins to enable the delivery of nucleic acid to target cells through direct fusion. Entos is pioneering the development of life-changing medicines for patients and has partnered with global companies, such as Eli Lilly, to accelerate and expand the impact of our platform. Entos Pharmaceuticals Inc. is headquartered in Edmonton, Canada, with its wholly owned U.S. and U.K. subsidiaries based in San Diego, California and London, United Kingdom, respectively.

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## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

Entos Pharmaceuticals is currently seeking licensing partnerships in ophthalmology to leverage our optimized Fusogenix PLV formulations for the eye and in respiratory disease indications leveraging our optimized Fusogenix PLV formulations for the lung.

## **CONTACT**

**Jason Ding**, Chief Business Officer  
[jason.ding@entospharma.com](mailto:jason.ding@entospharma.com)  
(780)-803-8677

<https://www.entospharma.com/>

# EXPLORE EDMONTON

## Explore Edmonton

Welcome to Edmonton – the capital city of Alberta, Canada, and the host city for your next event. Eclectic, inventive and energetic, the best of Edmonton intersects the unconventional and the unique all into one itinerary. Explore Edmonton offers a diverse range of award-winning venues and a Business Events team that comes together to set you apart.

Whether you're planning a large convention or a small meeting, Explore Edmonton's venues and dedicated Sustainability team will ensure your event is 10 steps ahead of the ordinary – just like the city itself. Bursting with eclectic neighbourhoods, a world-class culinary scene, awe-inspiring Indigenous experiences, and more than 50 festivals year-round, Edmonton erupts with unexpected delights. Be prepared to come hungry for food, adventure, or both. At Explore Edmonton, our Business Events team provides complimentary, full-service support, guidance and connections to event organizers looking to level up their meeting or conference.

Explore Edmonton works closely with Edmonton Global, the economic development organization for the Edmonton Metropolitan Region, to help events in Edmonton's key sectors thrive. With our GBAC Star Destination certification and our membership in the Hybrid City Alliance, we're committed to pushing the envelope on what is possible and building a stronger foundation for sustainable events.

Our team is ready to take your event to new heights. We're all in, are you?

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

- To create awareness of Edmonton and the innovation in Health & Life Sciences here
- To build relationships with companies that may plan a conference to bring it to Edmonton
- To see if we can attract a similar conference like Bio to Edmonton/Western Canada

## **CONTACT**

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## **48Hour Discovery**

48Hour Discovery, headquartered in Edmonton, is a biotechnology company that specializes in rapid drug discovery through its revolutionary peptide platform. By harnessing state-of-the-art technologies, the company quickly identifies and optimizes drug candidates providing an innovative approach to tackling unmet medical needs. Founded in 2017, 48Hour Discovery has validated its technology through strategic partnerships with over 25 companies, including global pharmaceutical leaders. With a dedicated focus on developing radiopharmaceutical assets, the company is at the forefront of advancing precision medicines for the diagnosis and treatment of various cancers. Discover more about our groundbreaking initiatives at [www.48hourdiscovery.com](http://www.48hourdiscovery.com).

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

- Secure meetings with life sciences investors to close our Seed round
- Secure meetings with potential clients looking to start peptide-based drug discovery projects in a wide range of applications: targeted radiopharmaceuticals, targeted delivery of RNA, PPIs, antagonists, etc. Clients include established biotech companies, VC Spin-off companies/portfolio companies, and leading global pharmaceutical companies
- Secure meetings with potential partners to out-license our initial radiopharmaceutical diagnostic program

## **CONTACT**

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## **Future Fields**

Difficult expression made easy with the EntoEngine™. Utilizing *Drosophila melanogaster* as our expression platform, Future Fields excels in the expression of challenging recombinant proteins at scale. With a single strain, we leverage the model organism's genetic tools and our continuous and scalable production system to overcome low expression experienced by traditional manufacturing approaches.

Through collaborative partnerships, we tailor our expression strategies to meet the specific requirements of our clients' target proteins, employing techniques such as codon optimization, tissue specific expression, and inducible promoters. As a highly efficient and flexible system, we offer custom batch sizes and on-demand manufacturing for our clients. Our state-of-the-art facility ensures a seamless manufacturing process, from genetic engineering to scale-up production, emphasizing quality control and adherence to regulatory standards. By choosing our biomanufacturing services, clients benefit from a cost-effective and scientifically robust solution for the successful production of challenging recombinant proteins.

Future Fields is a Green Certified Lab, a 1% for the Planet member, and a proud supporter of the United Nations Global Compact. By partnering with a producer that cares for people and the planet, clients receive quality proteins while advancing their leadership in sustainable biotechnology.

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

Future Fields is attending BIO to connect with partners, collaborators, and potential customers who are struggling to scale, source, or express recombinant proteins. We are particularly interested in the broad category of Difficult to Express proteins, as our novel transgenic insect system has specific advantages that help with challenging proteins such as inducible expression and parallel multi-cellular expression optimization. We are interested in meeting with pharmaceutical companies with advanced research requirements, early preclinical biopharma companies, reagent manufacturers, and collaborative CDMO/CRO referral partners.

## **CONTACT**

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## **Global Public Affairs**

Global Public Affairs is Canada's largest privately-owned, fully-integrated public affairs firm. We work with an ever-expanding list of Canadian and international clients in multiple aspects of their business, providing government relations and strategic communications counsel and services to a range of for-profit and not-for-profit organizations alike.

Global has offices in Ottawa, Halifax, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, and Victoria. In addition to these offices, Global has affiliates in other key centres and works with a network of strategic partners.

A major priority for Global is fostering a team-based organization and providing a seamless suite of services to our clients – "From Insight to Impact." We commit to providing the most appropriate expertise from across our team to serve your needs best.

## **CONTACT**

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## **GlycoNet**

Supported by the Government of Canada through the federal Strategic Science Fund, GlycoNet ( <https://canadianglycomics.ca/> ) is a pan-Canadian initiative bringing together researchers, industry and academic partners to develop solutions to unmet health needs through the study of glycomics. GlycoNet builds on our world-leading network of glycomics researchers and trainees, government laboratories and industry partners. The Network addresses key challenges in human and animal health as well as agriculture. GlycoNet's research, in collaboration with our partners, leads to novel approaches for preventing and treating disease. GlycoNet research is focused in 4 main areas: Cancer, Infectious Diseases, Chronic Diseases and Neurodegenerative Diseases with more than 180 researchers across 35 universities focused across all focus areas.

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

- Bring awareness to the high quality, depth, and scope of glycomics research being conducted in Canada.
- Identify strategic partnerships to further accelerate the translation of novel glycomics research into commercial technologies that address an unmet medical need.

## **CONTACT**

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## **Hermay Labs Corporation**

Hermay Labs Corporation is a Canadian Contract Research Organization (CRO). We are based in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and operate out of a 10,000-square-foot laboratory in the Edmonton Research Park. Established in 2019, our core focus is on organic synthesis and medicinal chemistry. Since then, we have expanded our research areas to include computer-assisted drug discovery and development, cell-based assays, proteomics, drug delivery, and formulation. We have completed multiple projects in drug design, medicinal chemistry, chemical analysis, custom synthesis, and scaling up manufacturing.

Our facility has the capability to synthesize complex chemical compounds in quantities ranging from micrograms to kilograms. With over 30 years of synthetic, medicinal chemistry, and CRO experience, our leadership team has a strong record of successfully executing projects for industry and academic institutions. Hermay Labs is home to a team of skilled scientists with expertise in synthetic chemistry, medicinal chemistry, computational chemistry, and biochemistry.

In addition to providing outstanding services, our prices are very competitive – almost half price comparing to the CROs in the United States  
Please feel free to contact us at [info@hermaylabs.com](mailto:info@hermaylabs.com)

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

Service Promotion and Brand Awareness: To introduce our contract research services in drug design, medicinal chemistry, chemical analysis, custom synthesis, and scaling up manufacturing.

Client Acquisition and Relationship: Identify key decision-makers and stakeholders within pharmaceutical, biotech, and academic institutions who could benefit from contract research services.

## **CONTACT**

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## **Institute of Health Economics**

The Institute of Health Economics (IHE) is an independent, not-for-profit organization with expertise in health economics, evidence synthesis, policy, stakeholder engagement, and public-private partnerships. We deliver multidisciplinary solutions in health at the intersection of industry, academia, and government, focusing on reimbursement decision making, health technology assessment, economic evaluation, and problem solving.

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

The Institute of Health Economics (IHE) would like to connect with a broad range of industry, government, and other organizations who are interested in accelerating the adoption of innovative therapies in Canada. We would like to showcase our pan-Canadian public-private partnership (P3) that is driving toward predictable, timely application of innovative reimbursement agreements for managing clinical and economic risk across stakeholders. We are also interested in conversations about our capacity to access Alberta administrative data to characterize patient populations and RWE applications, as well as methods development in value of information and modeling.

## **CONTACT**

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## **Northern RNA**

We are a Canadian contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) specializing in the production of nucleic acid and lipid products that support life-enabling work. We strive towards this daily by developing and deploying our state-of-the-art bioprocessing and chemical process technologies, using proprietary manufacturing and analytical approaches, employing a highly skilled workforce, and partnering with an excellent and extensive network of relationships and collaborations. We support our customers by providing scalable manufacturing capacity and help them accelerate innovation in bringing their products from benchtop to bedside or field.

## **CONTACT**

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## **Pacylex**

Pacylex is a clinical-stage pharmaceutical company headquartered in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, targeting hematologic and solid cancers with orally bioavailable NMT inhibitors. Zelenirstat is the lead drug in a new class of NMT inhibitors, enabling Pacylex to exploit NMTs as new clinical targets for cancer treatment. Pacylex is conducting two multi-center Phase 2a studies in Canada in patients with relapsed/refractory NHL and refractory metastatic colorectal cancer. The IND for a Phase 1 multiple ascending dose study in acute myeloid leukemia (AML) has been cleared and the FDA has granted zelenirstat both Orphan Drug Designation and Fast Track Designation for AML. The US Department of Defense is supporting the initial clinical investigation of zelenirstat in patients with AML.

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

Seeking Series B investors but also open to Pharma partnering discussions.

## **CONTACT**

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# SINOVEDA

## **SINOVEDA**

Established in 2006 by Drs. Yun K. Tam and Nuzhat Tam-Zaman, SINOVEDA is an innovative corporation headquartered in Edmonton, Alberta. Combining traditional herbal medicine with scientific pharmaceutical innovation, the company aims to revolutionize global healthcare and bolster Alberta's natural healthcare sector. Their Pharmaceutical Platform Technology (PPT) enables rapid and cost-effective development of drug candidates and natural health product (NHP) formulations by harnessing herbal remedies' active ingredients.

Their latest advancement, AI-PPT, utilizes AI to develop treatments based on patients' genetic profiles, enhancing safety and reducing development time and costs. Despite industry hesitance towards nature-derived therapies, SINOVEDA is committed to proving the efficacy of AI-PPT therapies.

Their development model starts with herbal formula selection, moves to human trials, and promises early revenue streams. Revenue streams include AI-PPT collaborations, licensing promising drug candidates for diseases like liver cancer, and ready-to-license NHP formulations such as Cordyva/Antico for long COVID relief, EffectiCal as a calcium supplement, and Proflexa for arthritis. Antico/Cordyva has found success in Hong Kong, while EffectiCal and Proflexa are expanding online presence in the USA and Canada.

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

- To meet with strategic partners and collaborate/co-develop therapies using AI-PPT.
- To meet with potential investors

## **CONTACT**

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## University Hospital Foundation

The University Hospital Foundation (UHF) was created in 1962 by an act in the Alberta legislature. In the decades since, we have evolved into one of the most successful hospital fundraising organizations in Canada. We raise funds to advance patient care and innovation at the University of Alberta Hospital, the Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute and the Kaye Edmonton Clinic.

UHF is situated at the nexus of philanthropy, health, and academic research. This unique position within Alberta's health ecosystem – along with our visionary leadership, facilitation, and strong governance – enables UHF to look at the big picture and catalyze advancements in health, that, without us, would never occur.

UHF's portfolio is vast, ranging from traditional and venture philanthropy to strategic partnerships. Through such partnerships we bring health innovation leaders from private industry together with Alberta's provincial health ecosystem, to unite the knowledge of government, academia, philanthropy, and our hospital sites and beyond to solve big health challenges.

Strategic partnership highlights:

- Fostering true collaboration between private, public and philanthropy (P3) to enhance health innovations and improve the lives of Albertans and patients globally.
- Over 14 partnerships with multinational health companies.
- Collaborations with several global pharmaceutical companies, Government of Alberta, and Alberta's health system, including Novo Nordisk, Johnson & Johnson, Novartis, Roche, Takeda, Boehringer Ingelheim, and PrairiesCan.
- Real World Evidence (RWE) Generation projects where Alberta's health system data sets are utilized to identify patient gaps and achieve better patient outcomes.

## **Business Objectives**

- To share the UHF's strategic partnerships story and why these collaborations are serving as a catalyst for innovation and advances patient care.
- Seek partners who are aligned with the UHF's strategy to transform and redefine health.

## **CONTACT**

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# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## University of Alberta

The University of Alberta in Edmonton is one of the top teaching and research universities in Canada, with an international reputation for excellence across the humanities, sciences, creative arts, business, engineering and health sciences. The University of Alberta is known for energy innovations, discoveries in artificial intelligence, lifesaving vaccines and cell-based therapies, community engaged Indigenous pedagogical research, agricultural breakthroughs and research addressing intersectional inequities and decolonization.

Improving lives. Changing lives. Saving lives. The U of A is a catalyst in creating incredible growth in research — accelerating data and discoveries with promise to solve some of the most pervasive health care problems of our time.

## **Business Objectives**

The University of Alberta seeks to build additional research collaborations in our areas of strength and to find partners to further develop some of the advances we have created. Specifically, we have strengths in artificial intelligence/machine learning, precision health, clinical trials, vaccines, cardiovascular, diabetes among many other areas. One of our strengths is enabling new levels of interdisciplinary research and teaching that advances the full spectrum of human health and wellness in individuals and communities around the world.

## **CONTACT**

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# UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

## University of Calgary

UCalgary researchers are partnering with industry sponsors to turn knowledge into breakthrough treatments, diagnostics, devices, and solutions. Our scholars have made significant progress in bridging the gap between research results and practical application of knowledge.

In the last 5 years,

- #6 in Canada for sponsored research funding
- \$550 million in sponsored research funding a year in the last 5 years and growing Over 50 start-ups in health, life sciences and agnostic sectors
- More than 300 disclosures
- Over 100 patents filed, including foreign filings
- Over 80 licenses executed

An overview of the healthcare and life science research partnership interests from University of Calgary are listed here:

<https://research.ucalgary.ca/health-life-sciences-partnerships>

## **Business Objectives**

- Research Partnerships with global SMEs, MNEs.
- Collaborations with international academic partners.
- Collaborations with international governmental partners, trade commissions.
- Outreach on capabilities and institutes at University of Calgary.
- Investor relationships for UCEED.
- Out licensing of University Created IP.

## **CONTACT**

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## Xortx Therapeutics

### **Developing Novel Therapies That Extend Kidney Health**

XORTX Therapeutics, Inc. is a drug-based biotechnology company primarily focused on orphan disease indications which have aberrant purine metabolism and frequently high serum uric acid imbalance. Our focus on developing kidney therapies also includes therapeutics programs for large markets such as diabetic nephropathy and acute kidney injury associated with respiratory virus infections such as SARS-CoV-2.

We possess patents and patent applications that may include U.S. and international rights regarding the development of uric acid-lowering agents for the treatment of hypertension, insulin resistance, diabetes, metabolic syndrome, and kidney injury.

### **Clinical Studies**

Clinical and scientific evidence shows that aberrant purine metabolism and chronically increased serum uric acid can cause a 'disease axis' that contributes to and includes obesity, high blood pressure, widespread activation of inflammation, progressive kidney injury, and progressive diabetes symptoms. We believe that treatment of this recently defined new and harmful mechanism of injury is addressed in our patents and patent applications.

Independently Investigator Led Phase II Clinical studies have verified that treating and lowering chronically increased uric acid levels in the blood may be an important new approach to managing disease caused by xanthine oxidase/xanthine oxidoreductase and chronically high uric acid. Some of those studies include Phase II studies showing that lowering and maintaining uric acid can block weight gain and decrease blood pressure, while other studies – three phase II studies – show improvement of kidney dysfunction when uric acid is controlled.

## **BUSINESS OBJECTIVES**

Present XORTX to the Bio International Convention community.

## **CONTACT**

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## A History of Life Science Achievement in Alberta:

- University of Alberta chemistry professor Raymond Lemieux was the first to synthesize sucrose in 1953.
- John Carter Callaghan of the University of Alberta performed Canada's first open heart surgery in 1956.
- In 1989 The Islet Transplant group at University of Alberta, founded by Dr. Ray Rajotte in 1982, carried out Canada's first islet transplant, providing 10 per cent of patients freedom from insulin injections.
- In 1999 James Shapiro from the University of Alberta transplants human donor pancreatic islet cells into patients with chronic Type 1 diabetes. This procedure, dubbed The Edmonton Protocol, frees patients from insulin.
- Sir Michael Houghton, a University of Alberta virologist was awarded the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in recognition of his discovery of the hepatitis C (HCV) virus.

Source: Government of Alberta  
University of Alberta