



Association for **Life Sciences** Industry

Stay Updated on News and Events in Alberta's Life Sciences Scene with **BioBuzz!**

Welcome to February's last edition of BioBuzz. In this issue, we cover upcoming events, key industry updates, and significant news. Gain a deeper understanding of the latest advancements and opportunities shaping Alberta's life sciences sector.

Estimated Reading Time: 7 minutes

Upcoming Events

2025 ANNUAL POLICY FORUM

📍 FAIRMONT HOTEL
MACDONALD, EDMONTON

📅 FEBRUARY 27, 2025

February 27, 2025

The 2025 BioAlberta Policy Forum is almost here

We are just **TWO DAYS AWAY**, with limited tickets available to Alberta's premier event on health innovation and policy leadership. Join us this [Thursday, 27th February](#), for a full day of insightful discussions, expert panels, and high-impact networking.

For those interested in joining us for an earlier morning and buffet breakfast, the day will begin with the [BioAlberta Speaker Series Breakfast hosted by Novartis](#). The morning discussion will focus on **Addressing Unmet Needs in Early-Stage Breast Cancer: Collaborating for Transformative Change**. Visit BioAlberta's events page ([here](#)) to view the panelists.

Registration will open for [BioAlberta's 2025 Policy Forum](#), at [10:45 AM](#), with the lunch buffet being served at [11:00 AM](#).

Panels and Discussions:

- Keynote address from The Hon. Adriana LaGrange, Alberta Minister of Health
- Radiology and Diagnostics
- Alberta as a Leader in Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
- Federal Provincial Collaboration VS Health Innovation

The Policy Forum will conclude with a networking reception, offering a valuable chance to discuss key takeaways and connect with leaders driving the future of health innovation.

[Register for both events here](#)

PRAIRIE BIOECONOMY GUILD

INNOVATE SYNBIOSPARK: IGNITING CURIOSITY AND SHAPING TOMORROW THROUGH SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY

WITH NEETHU DAX, BRITTANY GREEN, AND DR. MARINA LAZIC,
INTERNATIONAL GENETIC ENGINEERED MACHINES
(iGEM) IN ALBERTA

Prairie Bioeconomy Guild

bioalberta
Association for Life Sciences Industry

ERIN
EDMONTON REGIONAL
INNOVATION NETWORK
BIDDING INNOVATION

POWERED BY
ALBERTA INNOVATES

📅 Wednesday, March 12, 2025 • 5pm to 7pm

📍 Brewsters (Mezz Room), 11620 104 Ave

March 12, 2025

Prairie Bioeconomy Guild: Innovate SynBioSpark

Join us on [Wednesday, March 12, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM](#) for BioAlberta's next Prairie BioEconomy Guild, at Brewsters Unity Square in Edmonton!

The evening will consist of networking and industry insights, featuring a presentation by Neethu Dax, Brittany Green, and Dr. Marina Lazic, from International Genetic Engineered Machines (iGEM) in Alberta.

This session will highlight the University of Alberta iGEM 2024 team's groundbreaking work on ReneWool, a novel synthetic biology approach to tackling textile waste. The project upcycles blended textile waste into spider silk using enzymatic breakdown, providing a sustainable alternative to conventional recycling

methods. This innovative solution not only addresses the environmental impact of fast fashion but also advances the circular economy by repurposing waste materials for high-value applications such as tissue scaffolding and drug delivery. The team's efforts earned them a gold medal at the iGEM 2024 Grand Jamboree in Paris, showcasing Alberta's leadership in synthetic biology.

[Register here](#)



September 25, 2025

Save the Date: 2025 Health & Life Sciences Showcase and Awards Dinner

Join us on [September 25, 2025](#), at the Fairmont Hotel MacDonald in Edmonton for BioAlberta's 2025 Health & Life Sciences Showcase & Awards Dinner, a key event celebrating Global Biotech Week and a recognized part of Alberta Life Science Week's calendar of events.

This premier gathering will bring together industry leaders, innovators, and stakeholders for a full day of insightful discussions, expert panels, and strategic

networking, culminating in an evening dedicated to recognizing excellence in Alberta's life sciences sector at the Awards Dinner.

With multiple industry events happening between [September 21-27](#), demand for accommodations will be high. BioAlberta has secured a room block at the Fairmont Hotel MacDonald, and we encourage those requiring accommodations to make arrangements early. Please reach out for further details.

Additional event information will be shared in the coming months.

Don't Miss Out



BioTalent Canada: Strengthen Your Organization Through Inclusion and Innovation

Attracting and retaining top talent is critical to Alberta's bio-economy. Companies that embrace Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) experience stronger recruitment pipelines, higher employee engagement, and increased innovation—factors that drive long-term business success. A diverse workforce

brings new perspectives, enhances problem-solving, and boosts productivity, all of which are key to maintaining a competitive edge in today's talent market.

BioTalent Canada invites you to take 20 minutes to complete this survey and help shape the future of Alberta's biosciences sector.

Why Participate?

- **Improve Recruitment & Retention** – Organizations with diverse teams are better positioned to attract and retain highly skilled talent. Studies show that embedding IDEA strategies directly into business practices leads to a stronger, more resilient workforce.
- **Enhance Innovation & Growth** – Companies that prioritize diversity benefit from fresh perspectives, which drive creativity and innovation. IDEA fosters a workplace culture that encourages collaboration and adaptability.
- **Shape Industry Resources** – Your insights will help develop tailored tools and strategies that support Alberta's biosciences employers in creating inclusive, high-performing workplaces.

[Take the Survey Now](#)

This survey is open **only to individuals working in Alberta**. Please note that participants who do not work within Alberta will not be eligible for the **\$100 incentive**. By sharing your perspective, you are contributing to the continued success and sustainability of Alberta's biosciences sector.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to workplace excellence.



Are you concerned about whether your total compensation is competitive in attracting and retaining top talent?

Pre-order BioTalent Canada's 2024-2025 National Compensation Guide today for \$250 to get the insights you need to attract and retain top talent for your team. Order now and receive a free job posting on The PetriDish™—your extra edge in hiring—while you prepare for the new year.

Email Soufiane at info@biotalent.ca to order your copy.

A discount code is available exclusively for BioAlberta members. Please contact Christy at christy@bioalberta.com for more information.

TRADE COMMISSIONER SERVICE



PRE-REGISTER FOR **CANEXPORT** FUNDING

CanExport Funding

The CanExport SMEs funding program is opening soon, with better support for your export diversification needs. To make things easier, new clients can now register for an account at any time during the year. Returning clients can continue to update the information in their account profile and manage their contacts. Stay ahead of the curve and be ready to take advantage of new opportunities for international growth.

[Sign up now](#)



Health Innovation Awards

The Alberta Innovates Health Team is thrilled to announce the Health Innovation Awards, in recognition of deserving nominees shaping the health innovation landscape in Alberta in 6 categories: Up and Coming Talent, Trailblazing Researcher, Outstanding Health Company, Health System Innovation Champion, Catalyst for Health Innovation Award, and Alberta Health Data Innovation Award.

Nominations close [March 21, 2025, at 11:59 PM MST](#).

[Learn more](#)

Zelenirstat cancer pill made in Alberta shows promising early results

A research team at the University of Alberta is testing a new cancer treatment, Zelenirstat, which could revolutionize cancer care by offering a simple daily pill with minimal side effects. Unlike traditional therapies, this pill works by shutting down cancer cell metabolism, preventing growth, and potentially extending patient life expectancy. Early trial results are promising, with patients experiencing significant tumor reduction and improved survival rates. Learn more about this groundbreaking treatment and how it could impact cancer care below.

[Learn More](#)

Nominations Open for the 2025 Gold Leaf Awards

BIOTECanada's Gold Leaf Awards, established over 20 years ago, are considered a valuable national affirmation for individuals and companies in the biotechnology sector. The awards recognize the remarkable people who have made significant contributions to the biotech industry and ecosystem in Canada.

The 2025 Gold Leaf Award winners will be celebrated at BIO International, in Boston, in June.

Gold Leaf Award recipients are chosen by an advisory group comprised of esteemed and respected industry leaders representing various BIOTECanada member constituencies.

[Award details here](#) & [Nomination form here](#)

NIHR Funding Opportunities

The following new funding opportunities are available:

- [ROK-UK Smart Clinical Trials Collaboration Award](#)
- [Predoctoral Award round 1](#)
- [Early action to prevent poor health outcomes](#)

For more funding opportunities with NIHR [click here](#)



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