



Association for **Life Sciences** Industry

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

Welcome to the first March edition of BioBuzz! In this issue, we cover upcoming events, industry highlights, news, and more. Stay informed about the latest advancements and opportunities shaping Alberta's life sciences sector.

Estimated Reading Time: 11 minutes

Industry Highlights

Entos Pharmaceuticals Announces \$198.5 Million Partnership with the Governments of Canada and Alberta to Accelerate Biomanufacturing of Fusogenix PLV Next Generation Therapeutics

The \$77.5 million total investment will support a \$198.5 million project to create a state-of-the-art R&D centre and GMP biomanufacturing facility in Edmonton, Alberta,

Canada. The project builds on the significant partnership Entos has with global healthcare leader Eli Lilly & Company to research, develop, and commercialize nucleic acid products targeting the central and peripheral nervous system, as well as other partnerships with companies such as Oisin Biotechnologies, OncoSenX, and Aegis Life, and to advance its therapeutic pipeline for cancer and rare genetic diseases like Congenital Lipodystrophy, Stargardt Disease and Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

[Read more here](#)

Northern RNA Awarded Grant Funding from Alberta Innovates

Northern RNA Inc. has been awarded grant funding from Alberta Innovates to advance the development of next-generation lipid manufacturing processes. This funding supports their mission to address a critical gap in the global supply of commercial-ready lipids, which are essential for the production and delivery of life-saving medicines.

[Read more here](#)

Upcoming Events

PRAIRIE BIOECONOMY GUILD

INNOVATION IN THE BIOINDUSTRIAL SECTOR OF ALBERTA

DAVID C BRESSLER,
CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER - INTERNATIONAL AND
ENTERPRISE / PROFESSOR



bio
alberta
Association for Life Sciences Industry

ERIN
EDMONTON REGIONAL
INNOVATION NETWORK
BRIDGING INNOVATION

POWERED BY
ALBERTA INNOVATES

📅 Wednesday, April 9, 2025 • 5pm to 7pm

📍 Brewsters (Mezz Room), 11620 104 Ave



UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA

April 9, 2025

Prairie Bioeconomy Guild: Innovation in the Bioindustrial Sector of Alberta

On Wednesday, [April 9, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM](#) at Brewsters Unity Square in Edmonton, BioAlberta will host the Prairie BioEconomy Guild, featuring a special presentation by David C. Bressler, Chief Strategy Officer - International and Enterprise / Professor, on two decades of research and innovation from the Bressler Lab at the University of Alberta.

The presentation will explore the evolving bioeconomy landscape in Alberta, highlighting opportunities in biofuels, renewable chemicals, and biomaterials. Dr. Bressler will discuss how his lab's advancements in biorefining conversions and fermentations are shaping the future of sustainable energy and green chemistry.

The Biorefining Conversions & Fermentation Laboratory at University of Alberta has led the development of technologies that transform industry by-products into valuable biofuels and biocommodities. As the technology founder of Forge Hydrocarbons, Dr. Bressler has played a key role in advancing renewable fuels and sustainable aviation fuel solutions.

Join us to gain insights into this groundbreaking research and its impact on the bioeconomy.

[Register today](#)



The 27th International Glycoconjugate Symposium (Glyco27)

Glyco27 is being jointly hosted with the Canadian Glycomics Symposium at the Edmonton Convention Centre during [May 25-30, 2025](#). Previous iterations of Glyco27 have been hosted in different cities worldwide, bringing together over 500 researchers and industry professionals from across the world. This year is the first time that the symposium will be held in Alberta and it has not been hosted in Canada since 1991, presenting an exciting opportunity to highlight Alberta's strengths in life sciences and biotechnology.

Glyco27 will gather leading researchers, industry professionals, and trainees from around the world to discuss the latest advancements in glycomics and its applications in areas including health and immunology, biotechnology, and more. In addition to sessions featuring over 50 plenary, keynote and invited speakers, Glyco27 will include specialized technical workshops on:

- Mass Spectrometry/Glycoproteomics - Exploring advanced analytical techniques for glycoprotein characterization
- Glycobioinformatics - Covering computational tools for glycan structure analysis, mass spectrometry data interpretation, and AI-driven modeling
- Glycan and Lectin Arrays - Examining high-throughput methods for glycan profiling and interactions

Beyond the scientific program, Glyco27 serves as a strategic networking and business development opportunity. With top researchers, biotech leaders, and emerging startups in attendance, the symposium is a key venue to build

partnerships, explore funding and commercialization pathways, and showcase Alberta as a hub for health and biotech-driven innovation.

[Register here](#)

March 19, 2025

API Lunch & Learn: Unlock Non-Dilutive Funding to Fuel Your Growth

Featuring a panel of experts including CEO at Applied Pharmaceutical Innovation (API), Andrew MacIsaac, and Director of Operations at Thin Air Labs, Dr. Katie Greene, this session will provide valuable opportunities to:

- Learn how to effectively and efficiently secure grants, tax credits, and other non-dilutive funding options.
- Gain expert insights that can transform and maximize your funding strategy.
- Network with fellow innovators, founders and finance leaders in the life sciences.

This session will equip you with practical tools and strategies to navigate the world of non-dilutive funding and drive your business forward!

[Register today](#)

March 20, 2025

Shaping the Future of Alberta's NHP and Personal Care Industry – Insights, Challenges & Strategic Solutions

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation would like to invite you to this webinar where information from a recent industry survey – administered by Paper 2 Profit – will be disseminated.

Alberta's Natural Health Products (NHP) and Personal Care Industry is poised for growth but faces hurdles in funding, manufacturing, and market expansion. With

consumer demand rising for sustainable, high-performance, and scientifically backed products, how can Alberta businesses leverage opportunities and overcome barriers to compete on a global scale?

[Register today](#)

Canada's Medtech Conference 2025

The 2025 conference will feature insightful sessions and discussions addressing the most pressing challenges and opportunities in medtech today. Past conferences have welcomed esteemed dignitaries, including Ministers of Health, hospital CEOs, and other prominent voices, and this year promises to deliver the same caliber of expertise and dialogue.

The event will include Medtech Canada's Annual General Meeting, a networking lunch, a thought-provoking conference program, and a vibrant reception to close the day. Attendees will gain valuable insights and forge connections that will help shape the future of medical technology in Canada and beyond.

Don't miss this unparalleled opportunity to engage with leaders, exchange ideas, and drive innovation in the medtech industry!

Audience for Canada's Medtech Conference:

- Medtech Industry: CEOs/Presidents/General Managers; Sales & Marketing VPs/Directors/Managers; Government Relations Directors/Managers; Health Policy Directors/Managers; Contract and Business Development Managers
- Government: federal and provincial bureaucrats from Health, Economic Development, Global Affairs, and Treasury
- Healthcare Providers: hospitals, long-term care, home care, etc.

[Register here](#)

Second annual Conscience Symposium on Open Drug

Discovery

Conscience envisions a world where every disease has a treatment, and those treatments are accessible and affordable for all who need them. Progress is accelerated by robust, reliable, AI-powered computational tools which help design and optimize drug candidates while researchers across industries and sectors collaborate openly, sharing the data, tools, and expertise, addressing real world problems together. The Conscience Symposium on Open Drug Discovery brings this vision to life, showcasing visionaries, experts, and innovators who are working hard to make this future a reality.

Join leading industry experts at the Symposium on [April 7-8, 2025](#) at the Society for Arts and Technology in Montreal for two days of impactful discussions, panels, and workshops highlighting how open science is already driving the discovery of potential medicines. Explore the challenges and unanswered questions on how to create a thriving open drug discovery ecosystem. Be sure to check the 'Schedule' page for updates.

[Register here](#)

Don't Miss Out

Life Sciences in Alberta

State of the Industry 2025



MNIP

BE COUNTED Take the Survey

The 2025 Alberta Life Sciences State of the Industry report survey is open now

The State of the Industry is the most comprehensive view of Alberta's life sciences industry and the companies that are working to grow the life sciences sector and diversify Alberta's economy.

BioAlberta has partnered with MNP, to gather industry feedback, which is crucial for documenting the economic impact of the life sciences industry, influencing policy, and guiding funding decisions that will shape the future of Alberta's life sciences community.

Why participate?

1. Provide valuable insights to support sector-wide development
2. Assist in identifying barriers preventing growth
3. Help inform government policies and funding decisions

Be counted – your participation is critical in providing an accurate representation of the life sciences industry in Alberta.

[Take the survey now](#)

If you have any questions, please call Amanda Stadel, Manager, Industry Development, BioAlberta at [780.425.3802](tel:780.425.3802). Alternatively, you may contact Reise O'Hara, Manager of Public Affairs, MNP at reise.ohara@mnp.ca.

Please complete the survey by [5:00 PM MST on April 4, 2025](#).

ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

BioAlberta Annual Achievement Awards

Nominations are now open for the BioAlberta 2025 Achievement Awards! Shine a spotlight on Alberta's trailblazers by nominating a deserving individual or organization for Company of the Year, Vista Award, or Technology Innovation. These prestigious awards, chosen by the BioAlberta Awards Committee, will be presented at the Health and Life Sciences Showcase Gala Dinner on September 25th. Don't miss the chance to celebrate outstanding achievements in our industry.

Submit your nominations by [May 16, 2025](#), and help recognize the leaders shaping the future of Alberta's bioscience sector.

[Nominate Now](#)



Canadian Alliance for Skills and
Training in Life Sciences
adMare Academy Partner

Alliance canadienne pour la
formation et le développement de
compétences en sciences de la vie
Partenaire de l'Académie adMare

CASTL Launches New Workshops to Address Industry Needs

The CASTL team is excited to announce the launch of four specialized workshops focused on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) in biopharmaceutical manufacturing. These workshops have been developed in direct response to their recent [market survey](#), which highlighted key industry talent requirements.

What they learned from industry employers:

- 74% of employers plan to hire new staff in the next three years.
- 50% of new hires will be for technician-level roles.
- The most sought-after technical competencies include:
 - GMP: 80%
 - Laboratory skills: 70%
 - Manufacturing and production techniques: 64%
- There is a significant gap between theoretical knowledge and practical, hands-on experience

CASTL's response: To help bridge this gap and ensure a job-ready workforce, they introduced four targeted GMP workshops, designed to provide hands-on training and practical insights essential for biopharmaceutical manufacturing success.

[Learn more here](#)

CASTL New Report: Biomanufacturing Workforce Strategies

CASTL, in partnership with BioTalent Canada and Future Skills Centre (FSC), has just released a timely report titled [Future-Ready: Developing Key Competencies for Canada's Biomanufacturing Workforce](#). The report addresses the critical workforce challenges in Canada's rapidly growing biomanufacturing sector and offers actionable recommendations to help employers bridge the skills gap and build a future-ready workforce.

[Learn more here](#)

Industry Support



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 now accepting applications**, 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](#)

This 12-week hybrid program, delivered by the Trade Commissioner Service (TCS), provides:

- Actionable insights from industry-leading mentors.
- Expert guidance on market entry and expansion.
- Impactful connections with strategic partners, potential clients and investors.
- Opportunities to pitch your technology to key stakeholders.

Proven Impact

CTA participants gain an competitive edge. According to the Office of the Chief Economist:

- 92% reported business growth after completing a program.
- Nearly 95% strengthened their ability to raise capital and connect with investors.
- 80% enhanced their international business strategy.

These results demonstrate how CTA programs position companies for global success.

Key Details

- Duration: 12 weeks (hybrid format)
- Location: Virtual and in-person in Boston
- Cost: No participation fees — companies cover travel and accommodations
- Application deadline: March 21, 2025

[Apply Now](#)

Privacy and Security: Understanding the Distinction and Building Synergy

In today's digital landscape, privacy and security are two critical concepts often used interchangeably, leading to widespread confusion. Although they share common

goals of protecting information, they are distinct disciplines with unique objectives and methodologies. In this article, we will explore the differences between privacy and security, why these terms are often misunderstood, how they should coexist, and the steps to integrate privacy and security programs into a unified framework.

[Read more here](#)

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](#)
- [Themed Calls](#)

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



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