



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

Welcome to the second February 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: 4 minutes**

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### **Industry Highlights**

#### **48Hour Discovery and AdvanCell Announce Collaboration**

BioAlberta member 48Hour Discovery, a peptide discovery platform company, and AdvanCell, a clinical-stage radiopharmaceutical company developing innovative targeted alpha therapies for cancer, announced a collaboration and exclusive licensing agreement to develop a novel peptide-based Lead-212 ( $^{212}\text{Pb}$ ) radioligand therapy program for oncology.

[Read more](#)

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## **Entos Collaboration with Mediphage and Chromatin Bioscience**

BioAlberta member Entos announced a collaboration with Mediphage and Chromatin Bioscience. This exciting partnership brings together three innovative organizations and provides an opportunity to combine their trademarked technologies

[Read more](#)

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## **Expanding Medication Supply for Better Care**

Alberta's government is investing \$61 million over three years to build a new drug preparation centre, improving medication access in southern Alberta.

[Read more](#)

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## **New Drug Target Offers Hope in Fight Against Antibiotic-Resistant E. coli**

A University of Alberta research team has identified a new drug target to treat harmful E. coli bacteria — which cause nearly 250,000 deaths a year from urinary tract infections (UTI) and are becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotics.

[Read more](#)

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## **Future Fields Uses Transgenic Fruit Flies to Scale Recombinant Protein Production**

Future Fields has developed the EntoEngine, a protein expression platform that uses transgenic *Drosophila melanogaster* (fruit flies) to produce recombinant proteins at commercial scale within seven months from initial sequence selection.

[Read more](#)

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# LUNCH KEYNOTE

BioAlberta's Annual Policy Forum  MARCH 5, 2026

## ALBERTA INNOVATES: SHAPING ALBERTA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

**MICHAEL J. (MIKE) MAHON, PH.D.**  
CEO of Alberta Innovates  
President Emeritus, University of Lethbridge



### Keynote Speaker for Policy Forum

We're pleased to announce our Lunch Keynote for BioAlberta's Policy Forum on March 5, 2026.

#### **Alberta Innovates: Shaping Alberta's Economic Future**

Join Alberta Innovates CEO Michael Mahon, who will share Alberta Innovates' new strategic and business direction, why innovation matters now and how they hope to partner with the Life Sciences Ecosystem to make things happen.

[Read more](#)

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### Policy Forum Speakers

We're pleased to announce our speakers for BioAlberta's Policy Forum on March 5, 2026.

[Read more](#)

# BUILDING FUTURE READY TALENT AND HUMAN CAPACITY



BioAlberta's Annual Policy Forum  MARCH 5, 2026



**BRUCE BIRDELL**  
Varian Medical Systems



**ROB HENDERSON**  
BioTalent Canada



**JILLIAN KOWALCHUK**  
Amii



**PATTY WICKSON**  
Dr. Barrie Stafford Centre for Learning Innovation & Quality (CLIQ)  
**Moderator**

## Building Future Ready Talent and Human Capacity

Hear from **Bruce Birdsell**, Global Vice President, Oncology Market Development, Varian, **Rob Henderson**, President and CEO, BioTalent Canada, **Jill Kowalchuk**, M.Ed., Manager, AI Literacy, Amii, and moderator **Patty Wickson**, Director Research & Innovation, The Brenda Stafford Foundation.

[Read more](#)

# IMPLICATIONS OF U.S. TRADE AND ECONOMIC POLICIES ON ALBERTA'S HEALTH AND HEALTH INNOVATION SECTORS



BioAlberta's Annual Policy Forum  MARCH 5, 2026



**RYAN MERCER**  
Alberta Innovates



**LAURA PAGNOTTA**  
Roche Canada



**ROB PANKHURST**  
Medtech Canada




**JASON COPPING**  
Copping Consulting  
**Moderator**

# Implications of U.S. Trade and Economic Policies on Alberta's Health and Health Innovation Sectors

Hear from **Ryan Mercer**, Director, Clinical Research Innovation, Alberta Innovates, **Laura Pagnotta**, Vice President, External Affairs, Roche Canada, and **Rob Pankhurst**, VP Western Canada, Medtech Canada, with moderator **Jason Copping**, Senior Advisor, Principal, Copping Consulting.

[Read more](#)

**ALBERTA LEADS: ADVANCING EQUITY WITH MOBILE LUNG SCREENING**

BioAlberta's Annual Policy Forum  MARCH 5, 2026

**KIM LORIA**  
AstraZeneca Canada

**JAMES PUCKRIN**  
Aceso Medical

**THERESA TANG**  
Praxus Health

**MANISHA WITMANS**  
Pulmonologist

**TARA COWLING**  
Medlior **Moderator**

## Alberta Leads: Advancing Equity with Mobile Lung Screening

Hear from **Kim Loria**, Head, Health Systems Strategy, AstraZeneca Canada, **James Puckrin**, President, Aceso Medical, **Theresa Tang**, Co-Founder & CEO, Praxus Health, **Manisha Witmans**, Pulmonologist, with moderator **Tara Cowling**, President, Medlior

[Read more](#)

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## Upcoming Events



# HEALTHTECH FORWARD 2026

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February 25, 2026

## **HealthTech Forward 2026**

HealthTech Forward 2026 is a technology showcase hosted by ST Innovations, featuring live demos, client success stories, and networking with industry, ecosystem partners, and government representatives. Join us at the Li Ka Shing Building to celebrate health technology innovation and connect with collaborators across Alberta's innovation community.

[Register today](#)

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EMPOWERING TOMORROW

**Tickets Now Available**

 MARCH 5, 2026

 WESTIN HOTEL, EDMONTON

March 5, 2026


## Annual Policy Forum


BioAlberta's Policy Forum on **March 5, 2026** at the Westin Edmonton will bring together leaders from across Alberta's life sciences ecosystem to discuss trade, talent, and patient-centred innovation.

[Register today](#)

## CEO Breakfast & Fireside Chat

**Westin Hotel, Edmonton**

 March 5, 2026

 8:00 AM



**Kerry Bales**  
CEO - Recovery Alberta



**David Diamond**  
CEO - Acute Care Alberta



**Toby Schneider**  
CEO - Assisted Living Alberta



**Kim Simmonds**  
CEO - Primary Care Alberta



**Laura Fitzgerald**  
Assoc Dir - Moderna Canada  
Moderator

CONNECT. MEET. LEARN.

March 5, 2026

## Health Innovators Breakfast Series

BioAlberta and the University Hospital Foundation invite you to our second Health Innovators Breakfast, a morning event bringing together leaders from across Alberta's health and life sciences ecosystem.

This panel, in the morning right before Policy Forum, will be a CEO Fireside Chat with Alberta healthcare CEOs Kerry Bales, David Diamond, Toby Schneider, and Kim Simmonds, moderated by Laura Fitzgerald.

This is a **separate ticketed event** from Policy Forum, but you can bundle your ticket purchases together.

[Register today.](#)

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Join the Conversation

PRECISION HEALTH  
& LONGEVITY SUMMIT

April 25 - 26, 2026

Get Your Tickets Now  
www.dilwalk.ca

Dr. Walk Foundation

April 25-26, 2026

## Precision Health & Longevity Summit 2026

The Summit brings together leaders across precision medicine, longevity science, AI, genomics, digital health, microbiome research, nutrition, and health-system innovation to explore the future of health and collaborative solutions.

[Register today](#)

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## Industry Support



This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  Environment and Climate Change Canada / Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

## Science Horizons Youth Internship Program

The Science Horizons Youth Internship Program is now accepting applications! Receive up to \$25,000 in funding support to provide post-secondary graduates with paid internship opportunities in an environment-related STEM field.

[Read more](#)

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## BioTalent Canada is accepting applications for the winter 2026 term Student Work Placement Program

The Student Work Placement Program (SWPP) is a paid internship/Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) initiative to provide students on-the-job training to increase their job-readiness after graduation.

The program gives employers the freedom to:

- Access to support to hire students for a paid internship
- Leverage a pool of workers eager to enhance their skills
- Provide on-the-job experience for young talent
- Develop new talent for future recruitment needs

[Read more](#)

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## **Save 50% on Customized Biomanufacturing Training**

Thanks to the CASTL BioWorks subsidy (funded by Upskill Canada and the Government of Canada), companies can save 50% on CASTL's customized training programs.

[Read more](#)

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## **Alberta Export Expansion Program**

The Alberta Export Expansion Program (AEEP) supports Alberta's small- and medium-sized enterprises, industry associations, Indigenous organizations, economic development organizations that promote Alberta exports through international travel to formal outbound trade events.

[Read more](#)

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## **Call for Proposals: Non-Dilutive Funding Available**

VITAL is an accelerator hub in the U.S. Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) Accelerator Network (BAN). The BAN fosters the growth of the global health security innovation ecosystem by supporting early-stage companies to overcome their business, marketing, and operational hurdles.

[Read the program overview](#)

[Read the one-pager](#)

[Read more](#)

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## **NIHR Funding Opportunities**

The following new funding opportunities are available:

- [Shaping and supporting the health, public health and social care workforce of the future](#)
- [Themed Calls](#)

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

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**CORPORATE MEMBERS**

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



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