



# bio buzz

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: 3 minutes**

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### **Industry Highlights**



## **BioAlberta's 2026 Policy Forum Brings Together Leaders & Innovators in the Life Sciences Sector**

On March 5, 2026, BioAlberta hosted the annual Policy Forum in Edmonton. This year's Policy Forum brought together policy influencers, life sciences ecosystem innovators, and health agency partners to drive results and support innovative initiatives and strong patient outcomes. Three insightful panels covered important topics, including increasing human capacity with the support of AI technology, the impact on our health sector among growing uncertainty in global markets and the effect of inconsistent US trade policy, and increasing health equity for rural and remote communities through mobile lung screening.

[Read more](#)

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## **UAlberta Medicine Professor Wins Prestigious Award for Excellence in Research**

Congratulations to Vivian Mushahwar, professor and Canada Research Chair in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry's Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, for receiving the 2025 J. Gordin Kaplan Award for Excellence in Research.

[Read more](#)

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## **Rare Disease Framework for Alberta**

Alberta's rare disease care system is well-positioned to build on its existing strengths and further improve care for patients and their families. To support the development of a made-in-Alberta approach, BioAlberta and Innovative Medicines Canada hosted a two-day collaborative design lab, with support from the Pivot Group.

[Read more](#)

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## **PulseMedica Wins Swiss Startup Pitch Competition**

PulseMedica, the Edmonton-based, One Six 8 Ventures-backed company, won the pitch competition out of over 160 companies competing globally at the HealthTech Global Summit in Switzerland

[Read more](#)

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## **From Compliance to Competence: Advancing Canada's Life Sciences Workforce**

As automation and AI continue to reshape life sciences, Canada's competitive edge will depend on how quickly professionals can demonstrate real-world capability—not just complete training.

[Read more](#)

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## **Upcoming Events**

PRAIRIE BIOECONOMY GUILD

THIS WEDNESDAY

# WHY THE FUTURE OF TEXTILES MIGHT START IN A HEMP FIELD



**LELIA LAWSON**  
FOUNDER & CTO,  
ZYLOTEX



📅 Wednesday, March 11, 2026 • 5pm to 7pm  
📍 MKT, 8101 Gateway Blvd NW

**ZYLOTEX**

March 11, 2026

## Bioeconomy Guild - March Event

### Why the Future of Textiles Might Start in a Hemp Field

The global hemp industry is rapidly expanding for food and oilseed production, generating large volumes of agricultural residue in the form of hemp straw. While the seeds are highly valued for food, oil, and protein products, the remaining stalks are often underutilized. The result is a whole-plant utilization model that creates new value for farmers while strengthening Canada's bioeconomy.

**NOTE:** this event will be at our new 2026 location: **MKT, 8101 Gateway Blvd. Free parking available.**

[Register today](#)

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# Join the Conversation



Get Your Tickets Now  
[www.dilwalk.ca](http://www.dilwalk.ca)

## PRECISION HEALTH & LONGEVITY SUMMIT

April 25 - 26, 2026

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**

# Cultivate your environmental STEM team

[biotalent.ca/ScienceHorizons](https://biotalent.ca/ScienceHorizons)



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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