Transforming Health Symposium

2024 | Vancouver, BC

A collaboration between:

Canada's Immuno-Engineering and Biomanufacturing Hub
UBC Academy of Translational Medicine
UBC Precision Health

UBC | 1950 2025 FACULTY OF MEDICINE
75 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA

EVENT DETAILS

Monday, November 4, 2024

8am – 7pm
Inclusive of registration and networking

Vancouver Convention Centre West (2nd floor)
1055 Canada Pl
Vancouver, BC
V6C 0C3

med.ubc.ca/transforming-health-symposium

OVERVIEW

This event will bring together a community of global thought leaders, clinicians, investigators, trainees and industry experts to examine the translational pathway, highlighting areas of excellence locally and beyond. Whether speakers are participating in a keynote presentation, panel or showcase they will stimulate engaging conversations on elevating the regional capacity for translational medicine and suggest new ways forward to transform health.

Our goal over the course of the symposium is to identify ways to integrate the brilliant assets of BC's life sciences community in a translational system where drugs, therapeutics, devices, and diagnostics move through development and regulatory pipelines with much greater efficiency, transforming patient and population health and quality of life quickly, equitably, and sustainably.

The inaugural Transforming Health Symposium is a collaboration between the Canada's Immuno-Engineering and Biomanufacturing Hub (CIEBH), UBC Academy of Translational Medicine (ATM), and the UBC Faculty of Medicine's Precision Health Initiative.

Innovate. Integrate. Accelerate: Transforming Health Together

CANADA'S IMMUNO-ENGINEERING AND BIOMANUFACTURING HUB

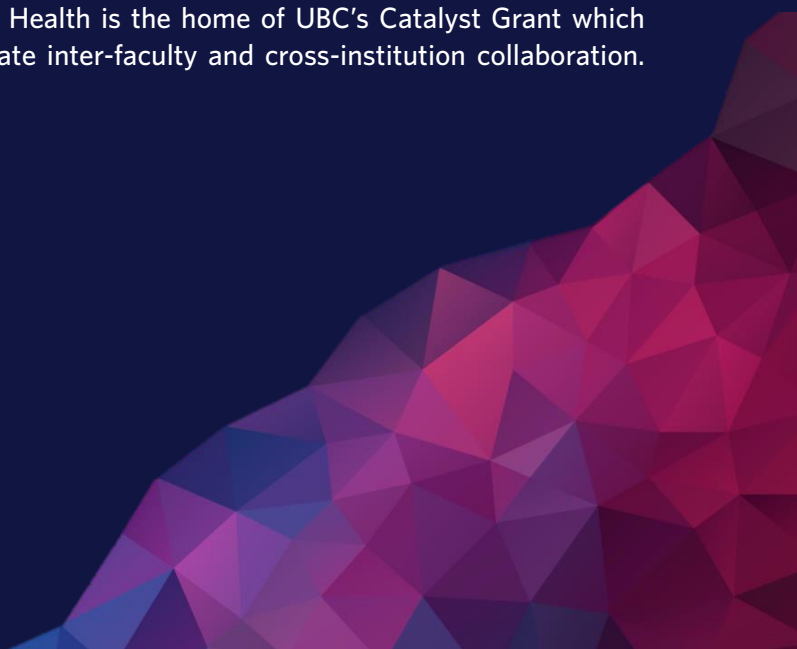
Canada's Immuno-Engineering and Biomanufacturing Hub (CIEBH) is a new UBC-led national research hub aimed at strengthening Canada's pandemic preparedness and developing lifesaving new medicines that will transform the health of Canadians. Canadian scientists and biopharmaceutical companies played a leading role in developing COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics that revolutionized how the world will now create, develop, and manufacture lifesaving medicines. UBC and its coalition of multisectoral partners established CIEBH to build on this history of excellence and position Canada for the future. CIEBH is pursuing an integrated program of biomedical research and talent development, along with building associated infrastructure to support the development and manufacturing of medical treatments in B.C. and Canada. Our mission is to harness the collective research and training excellence of our multidisciplinary, multisectoral partners to greatly increase Canadian capacity to translate scientific discoveries into patient-ready treatments at rapid speed — saving more lives, sooner.

THE ACADEMY OF TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE

The UBC Academy of Translational Medicine (ATM) works to accelerate progress through each phase of the translational pipeline from "bench to bedside". Our efforts bring policy-makers, health professionals, researchers, and industry closer together to think more holistically about prioritizing, coordinating, and translating research, and we train highly qualified leaders in translational medicine. We serve as a connecting point for capabilities that position British Columbia as a fully integrated powerhouse to advance translational medicine on a worldwide scale, and we foster collaboration and innovation to support a wide range of outstanding translational research institutes, centres, and programs affiliated with UBC and our partners.

PRECISION HEALTH

Precision Health at UBC aims to catalyze innovation and excellence in foundational, clinical and health systems to enhance precision and population health. Precision Health facilitates collaboration and coordination of precision health activities throughout our ecosystem, identifies and supports areas of unique strength and emerging leadership in this field, and works to build, maintain, and strengthen inter-faculty collaboration in precision health at UBC. Precision Health is the home of UBC's Catalyst Grant which enables precision health pilot research projects and facilitate inter-faculty and cross-institution collaboration.



PROGRAM-AT-A-GLANCE

Transforming Health Symposium		
Time	**Topic**	**Speaker(s)**
8:00 - 8:30	**Registration**	
8:30 – 8:45	**Welcome Ceremony (Room 211)**	Tsatsu Stagayu – Coastal Wolf Pack
8:45 – 8:55	**Welcome and Opening Remarks (Room 211)**	Dr. Poul Sorensen
8:55 – 10:00	**Keynote Presentation (Room 211)**	Professor Graham Lord Introduction by Dr. Dermot Kelleher
10:00 – 10:30	**The Patient Partner Perspective (Room 211)**	Introduction by Dr. Stuart Turvey
10:30 – 10:45	**Break**	
10:45 – 11:45	**Panel A (Room 211)** **Pursuing Equitable Health Outcomes for Indigenous Peoples**	Dr. Brittany Bingham, Dr. Gabrielle Legault, Derek K Thompson Moderator: Dr. Wyeth Wasserman
11:45 – 12:30	**Panel B (Room 211)** **Overcoming Challenges in Translational Science**	Dr. Marcel Bally, Dr. Ryan Flannigan, Dr. Janessa Laskin, Dr. Blair Leavitt, Dr. Daniel Vigo Moderator: Dr. Poul Sorensen
	Investigator Showcase 1 (Room 220) **Precision Medicine Catalyst Grant Recipients**	Dr. Anna Blakney, Dr. Rachel Murphy, Dr. Gang Wang Moderator: Dr. Stuart Turvey
12:30 – 13:30	**Lunch and Exhibitor Booths**	
13:30 – 14:15	**Panel C (Room 211)** **AI as a Driver of Translational Medicine**	Dr. Ali Bashashati, Dr. Artem Cherkasov, Dr. Steven Jones, Dr. Anita Palepu, Dr. Teresa Tsang Moderator: Dr. Raymond Ng
	Panel D (Room 220) **Elevating Regional Capacity for Translational Medicine in Neurological & Autoimmune Diseases**	Suzanne Cummings, Dr. Shannon Kolind, Dr. Florian Kuchenbauer, Dr. Erik Pioro, Dr. Lynn Raymond Moderator: Dr. Tony Traboulsee
14:15 – 15:00	**Panel E (Room 211)** **Regulatory Science: Translating Innovation to Patients, Sooner**	Sir Gordon Duff, Dr. Rob Holt, Dr. Catalina Lopez-Correa Moderator: Dr. Dean Regier
	Investigator Showcase 2 (Room 220) **Precision Medicine Catalyst Grant Recipients**	Dr. Annie Ciernia, Dr. Eric McGinnis, Dr. Ying Wang Moderator: Dr. Stuart Turvey
15:00 – 15:15	**Break**	
15:15 – 16:00	**Panel F (Room 211)** **Elevating our Regional Capacity for Translational Medicine**	Dr. Govind Kaigala, Alexis Sciuk, Dr. Sriram Subramaniam, Dr. Chen Wan Moderator: Dr. Rob McMaster
16:00 – 16:45	**Panel G (Room 211)** **Translational Horizons: Navigating Innovation With Insight from Life Sciences Visionaries**	Karimah Es Sabar, Nancy Harrison, Wendy Hurlburt, Dr. Larry Lynd, Moderator: Natalie Dakers
16:45 – 17:30	**Fireside Chat (Room 211)** **Pathways to Success and Impact**	Neil Aubuchon, Dr. Tom Madden, Dr. Poul Sorensen Moderator: Miranda Lam
17:30 – 17:45	**Closing Remarks (Room 211)**	Dr. Dermot Kelleher
17:45 – 19:00	**Networking Reception (Ocean Foyer)**	

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

The Patient Partner Perspective (Room 211)

This presentation explores the impact of translational medicine and precision health through the perspective of patients, emphasizing their crucial role in driving biomedical innovation. By sharing a patient partner experience, we highlight how their involvement leads to more effective and compassionate healthcare solutions. Join us to celebrate the invaluable contributions of patients in shaping the future of personalized medicine and improving patient outcomes.

Panel A: Pursuing Equitable Health Outcomes for Indigenous Peoples (Room 211)

An open, interdisciplinary conversation on the pursuit of equitable health outcomes for Indigenous peoples.

Panel B: Overcoming Challenges in Translational Science (Room 211)

Those on the front lines of translational science share perspectives on the progression from discovery and disclosure to early validation and patient testing.

Investigator Showcase 1 (Concurrent Session Room 220)

Anna Blakney, Rachel Murphy, and Gang Wang, three of the six 2023 Precision Medicine Catalyst Grant recipients, will each provide a 10-minute presentation with time for questions from the audience. The Precision Health Catalyst Grant competition aims to enable collaborative and innovative early-stage precision health research projects (foundational or clinical research) created with the intent to fuel a proposal for a larger-scale, longer-term project.

Panel C: AI as a Driver of Translational Medicine (Room 211)

Leaders will explore the transformative potential of artificial intelligence in biomedical innovation. Despite many unknowns, AI's promise warrants its integration into translational medicine to unlock new opportunities. The panel will explore how AI can direct research, enhance patient outcomes and shape the future of personalized healthcare.

Panel D: Elevating Regional Capacity for Translational Medicine in Neurological & Autoimmune Diseases (Concurrent Session Room 220)

Through this discussion with leading researchers and innovators, we plan to explore the opportunities and challenges in translating ground-breaking research into impactful clinical treatments for autoimmune and neurological diseases, with a focus on MS and cell therapies. Topics we aim to touch on in this session include but are not limited to, the role of basic research in driving therapeutic innovation, patient-centered research and the potential of personalized medicine, ethical or regulatory considerations in advancing cell therapies, and longer-term sustainability pathways in cell therapy solutions.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Panel E: Regulatory Science: Translating Innovation to Patients, Sooner (Room 211)

Leading experts in translational medicine and regulatory science discuss the opportunity and need for modernizing regulatory and reimbursement frameworks. With technological and scientific advancements outpacing implementation, innovative strategies are essential to streamline the pathway from discovery to patient care. This panel will explore key challenges, emerging needs and strategies to enhance the translation of health innovations throughout regulatory and reimbursement pathways, ensuring timely patient access to safe and effective interventions.

Investigator Showcase 2 (Concurrent Session Room 220)

Annie Ciernia, Ying Wang, and Eric McGinnis, three of the six 2023 Precision Medicine Catalyst Grant recipients, will each provide a 10-minute presentation with time for questions from the audience. The Precision Health Catalyst Grant competition aims to enable collaborative and innovative early-stage precision health research projects (foundational or clinical research) created with the intent to fuel a proposal for a larger-scale, longer-term project.

Panel F: Elevating Our Capacity for Translational Medicine (Room 211)

How can we better harness the world-class strengths of our local life science ecosystem to become a global powerhouse in translational medicine? Experts will weigh in on what is needed to create a more integrated system, drawing on successful examples from other regions. Join us to learn how we can leverage our resources and collaborate effectively to lead the way forward.

Panel G: Translational Horizons: Navigating Innovation with Insight from Life Sciences Visionaries (Room 211)

A panel discussion where leading life sciences visionaries and venture capital experts converge to explore the future landscape of biomedical innovation. This dialogue aims to provide perspectives on today's decisions in advancing translational science, forging strategic partnerships, enhancing patient engagement and maximizing value creation.

Fireside Chat: Pathways to Success and Impact (Room 211)

Reflections on the varied journeys and key success factors that led to big wins—strengths and opportunities in the ecosystem.

SPEAKERS

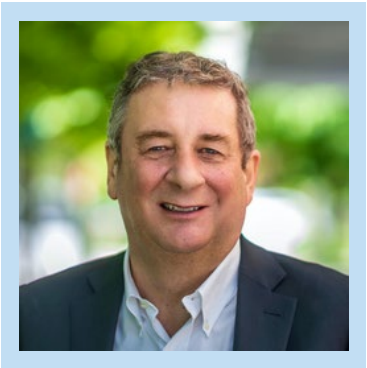
Professor Graham Lord

BA MB BChir MA PhD FRCP FRSB FMedSci, NIHR Senior Investigator Emeritus. Graham Lord is the Senior Vice-President, Health & Life Sciences, King's College London (KCL), Executive Director, King's Health Partners (an Academic Health Science Center) and Chief Academic Officer & Board Director, Guy's & St. Thomas' and King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trusts. He was previously Vice-President at the University of Manchester and Dean of the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, a Consultant Transplant Nephrologist at Manchester NHS Foundation Trust and Executive Director of the Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (2019-2024).

Before joining the University of Manchester in 2019, he held the position of Professor of Medicine and Head of the Department of Experimental Immunobiology and Director of the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre at King's College London. He has raised >$40m as a Principal Investigator, >$450 in UK Governmental Research Center Awards and >$1bn in VC and public capital market funding.

A leading clinician-scientist, Professor Lord trained in Medicine at the University of Cambridge, gained a PhD at Imperial College London and completed his postdoctoral training at Harvard University. He then established a research group seeking to understand the regulation of the immune system to enhance the treatment of severe inflammatory diseases. His clinical interest is in multi-organ transplantation and the genetics of long-term transplant failure. He has significant commercial expertise, having founded companies in the US that focus on immuno-oncology, infectious diseases and autoimmunity and has recently graduated from the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School.

SPEAKERS



Dr. Dermot Kelleher

Dr. Kelleher joined the University of British Columbia (UBC) in 2015 and serves as the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Vice-President, Health. Prior to his appointment at UBC, Dr. Kelleher served as Vice-President Health and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Imperial College London, where he also held a concurrent appointment as Dean of the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine in Singapore until 2014. Dr. Kelleher has also served as Head of the School of Medicine and Vice Provost for Medical Affairs at Trinity College and has been a Non-Executive Director of Icon plc, a member of the Wellcome Clinical Panel and the International Advisory Panel of the UK Research Excellence Framework (REF).

Dr. Stuart Turvey

Dr. Turvey MBBS DPhil FRCPC is a Pediatric Clinical Immunologist, UBC Professor of Pediatrics, and holder of the Tier1 Canada Research Chair in Pediatric Precision Health. As a practising pediatric immunologist based at BC Children's Hospital, Dr. Turvey's research program responds to major challenges in contemporary pediatric medicine. Specifically, his research focuses on childhood immune deficiency diseases and disorders of immune dysfunction including asthma, allergies, and autoimmunity. Dr. Turvey is internationally recognized for his research in developing precision health-based strategies to address childhood asthma and pediatric immune system disorders, and he is a highly effective mentor for the next generation of child health clinician-scientists.

Dr. Michelle Wong

Dr. Wong is the Executive Director of Canada's Immuno-Engineering and Biomanufacturing Hub (CIEBH) and the Senior Director, Research for the Faculty of Medicine at UBC. As Executive Director for CIEBH, she is leading the strategy and the implementation of the hub objectives to enhance the life sciences sector in BC, nationally and beyond. As the Senior Director, Research at UBC, her main role involves creating and implementing high profile strategic and key pan-institution initiatives. She leads the portfolio management and program delivery capability to enable the Faculty and University to evaluate and implement a broad range of enterprise-wide strategic initiatives. With a Ph.D. in oncology, her research interests are on the effects of tumor physiology and cellular kinetics using combination therapies. Dr. Wong has held various senior leadership roles related to research, business development, and strategic initiatives.

SPEAKERS

Panel A

Dr. Brittany Bingham

Dr. Bingham - (she/her/hers), is a proud member of the shíshálh (Sechelt) nation and holds an MPH and PhD in Health Sciences from Simon Fraser University. Brittany is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Social Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia and a Health Research BC Scholar. Brittany leads Indigenous community-driven health research with the primary aim of improving Indigenous experiences in healthcare and informing system transformation. She has worked in various capacities in research with Indigenous communities, healthcare and policy for 20 years. She is passionate about community-driven research, Indigenous health equity & women's health, implementation science, planetary health, climate justice, sexual and reproductive health, learning health systems and cultural safety & humility. Brittany is PI of a CIHR grant called the Amplify Study: Elevating the stories of Indigenous women, gender diverse and Two-Spirit peoples.

Dr. Gabrielle Legault

Dr. Legault is Métis from Treaty 4, Saskatchewan. She is an Assistant Professor in Indigenous Studies at the University of British Columbia (Okanagan campus) in syilx territory and Director of the Indigenous Health Research Unit at the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute. She is an advocate for the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge systems within health research frameworks. With a focus on promoting culturally-safe and community-driven research practices, Gabrielle engages directly with Indigenous communities, fostering partnerships that support collaborative, respectful, and equitable health research. Her work addresses systemic power imbalances in the research process, ensuring that Indigenous perspectives and priorities are centered in health research design, implementation, and policy development. Through these efforts, Gabrielle aims to build a more inclusive and effective health research ecosystem that better meets the needs of Indigenous Peoples.

Derek K Thompson

Derek K Thompson - Čaabaťh Bookwilla | Suhiltun is from the *diitiidʔaaʔtx̌* Ditidaht First Nation, one of fourteen Nuuchahnulth communities along the west coast of Vancouver Island. The seas for miles of shoreline and all of the land on the western side of our Vancouver Island home, from Point No Point in the south to Brooks Peninsula in the north, is Nuuchahnulth territory - our haahuulthii. Derek is the Director, Indigenous Engagement for the UBC Faculty of Medicine, and he brings over 30 years of experience working with First Nations organizations and communities across the province and country to achieve wellness through health and related services. His mission is to foster trust and mutual respect amongst students, staff and faculty in an effort to create an understanding of the commitments made by the Faculty of Medicine to redress and strengthen the relationship with Indigenous peoples and communities.

SPEAKERS

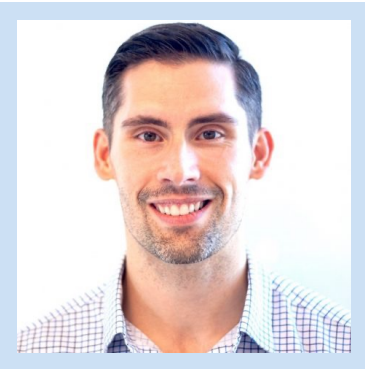
Dr. Wyeth Wasserman

Dr. Wasserman is a Professor in the UBC Department of Medical Genetics, a Senior Scientist at the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics, and an Investigator at the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute. He is a computational biologist with a focus on the analysis of genomics data related to transcription and gene regulation. He is also interested in the interface between researchers, clinicians and patients arising from the use of whole genome sequencing for the diagnosis of genetic disorders. One facet of his current work focuses on the pursuit of equity for Indigenous peoples through the Silent Genomes Project.

Panel B

Dr. Marcel Bally

Dr. Bally has focused his career on development of much needed novel drugs, drug combinations and drug delivery systems designed for use in patients with cancer. He has recognized expertise in pharmacology/toxicology, drug formulations and preclinical cancer models. He is qualified to conduct preclinical safety studies under Good Laboratory Practices and has completed training in Good Manufacturing Practices. His scientific works (scientific articles, abstracts, book chapters and patents) have been cited > 32,000 times and has a Google Scholar h-index of 91. He has co-founded multiple companies including Lipex (acquired by Northern Lipids), Inex (now Arbutus), Northern Lipids (renamed Transferra and purchased by Evonik in 2016), Celator (purchased by Jazz in 2016) and Cuprous Pharmaceuticals. Dr. Bally was one of the co-founders of Canada's NCE Centre for Drug Research and Development (joined with NEOMED to form adMare BioInnovations in 2019) as well as the Canada's NCE Nanomedicine Innovation Network. The research completed contributed to the success of three marketed drugs (Myocet- for metastatic breast cancer; Marqibo- for relapsed ALL and Vyxeos - for high risk AML).



Dr. Ryan Flannigan

Dr. Flannigan is an Associate Professor and surgeon-scientist within the Department of Urologic Sciences at UBC. Dr. Flannigan is the director of Male Reproduction and Sexual Medicine Research Program. His research spans investigating the molecular mechanisms and tissue engineering strategies to develop a regenerative medicine therapeutic strategy for severe male infertility, along with the development of digital health technologies to create a sexual health ecosystem to accelerate digital health tools biomarkers, therapeutic strategies and scaling clinical programs.

SPEAKERS

Dr. Janessa Laskin

Dr. Laskin is a clinical associate professor in the Department of Medicine UBC, associate member in Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre, and has been an active member of the medical oncology staff at BC Cancer since 2003 Dr. Laskin is the co-founder and clinical leader of the Personalized OncoGenomics (POG) program, a translational research effort that uses in-depth genomic sequencing to guide chemotherapy decision-making in a clinically relevant time-frame.

Dr. Blair Leavitt

Dr. Leavitt is a Professor in the Department of Medical Genetics and Medicine (Neurology) at the UBC Faculty of Medicine, a Senior Scientist at the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics (CMMT) at BC Children's Hospital, and Director, CMMT Transgenic Core Facility, and he is the Associate) Director of Research and a Consultant Neurologist at the UBC Centre for Huntington Disease. Dr. Leavitt's time (both clinical and research) is dedicated to developing new treatments for genetic brain disorders. He also works on other neurodegenerative diseases including amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and Frontotemporal dementia.

Dr. Daniel Vigo

Dr. Vigo is currently Assistant Professor at UBC's Department of Psychiatry and School of Population and Public Health, prior to which he was Lecturer in Global Mental Health at Harvard Medical School and Assistant Professor at Simon Fraser University. Dr. Vigo founded and leads the Mental Health Systems and Services Laboratory at the University of British Columbia, and serves as Provincial Medical Lead for the Advanced Practice of Assertive Community Treatment in BC, as Medical Lead for Tertiary Care in the Regional Mental Health and Substance Use Program at Vancouver Coastal Health, and as a psychiatrist at the Richmond ACT team, at UBC Hospital, and at Vancouver General Hospital. In June 2024 he became the inaugural Chief Scientific Advisor for Psychiatry for the Province of British Columbia, with a focus on improving services for people with concurrent disorders in the context of the toxic drug crisis. He has treated people with severe mental and substance use disorders since 2001 (first as psychologist, then as an ER physician, then as a psychiatrist), serving in clinical and academic leadership roles in various countries across the Americas and in Southeast Asia.

SPEAKERS

Investigator Showcase 1

Dr. Anna Blakney

Dr. Blakney is an Assistant Professor and Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in the Michael Smith Laboratories and School of Biomedical Engineering at UBC. She received her Bachelor of Science in Chemical & Biological Engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and her PhD in Bioengineering from the University of Washington. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Imperial College London on the development of molecular and biomaterial engineering strategies for delivery of self-amplifying RNA. Her lab uses bioengineering, molecular biology and immunology approaches to develop the next generation of RNA vaccines and therapies. Her research has been published in a variety of top tier journals including ACS Nano, Nature Communications, Molecular Therapy, Biomaterials, Journal of Controlled Release, and Advanced Materials. She is also a passionate science communicator and runs a TikTok channel dedicated to educating the public about RNA biotechnology, which now has >250,000 followers and >18M views. Dr. Blakney has received numerous awards and recognitions including the 2023 MIT Tech Review's 35 Innovators Under 35, 2022 Gairdner Early Career Investigator Award, the 2021 UBC President's Award for Public Education Through Media and the 2022 Controlled Release Society Gene Delivery and Editing Focus Group Young Investigator Award.

Dr. Rachel Murphy

Dr. Murphy is a Senior Scientist in Cancer Control Research at BC Cancer, an Associate Professor and the Associate Director, Research in the School of Population and Public Health at UBC. She holds a PhD in Nutrition and Metabolism and completed postdoctoral training in epidemiology at the National Institutes of Health. Her research program is focused on the intersections of nutrition, human health, and public health challenges. Dr. Murphy has received a number of awards recognizing her contributions, including a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar award and a Canadian Cancer Society Early Career Development award in Cancer Prevention.

Dr. Gang Wang

Dr. Wang received his MD from Tongji Medical University (Wuhan, China) and his Ph.D. in Pathology from the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada). After completing his Anatomic Pathology residency at the University of British Columbia and Genitourinary Pathology fellowship at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, he joined the BC Cancer Vancouver Center as a consultant pathologist in 2017. Dr. Wang is currently a Clinical Associate Professor at UBC, the lead pathologist of BC Cancer GU BioBank, the director of Histology and Immunohistochemistry at BC Cancer, and the medical director of the David Hardwick Pathology Learning Centre at UBC.

SPEAKERS

Panel C

Dr. Ali Bashashati

Dr. Bashashati received his B.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering from Sharif University of Technology (SUT), Iran in 2000, the M.Sc. degree in Biomedical Engineering from Amirkabir University of Technology (Tehran polytechnic), Iran in 2002, and the Ph.D. degree in Electrical & Computer Engineering from the University of British Columbia, Canada in 2007. He is currently the Director of AI and Bioinformatics Research in the Ovarian Cancer Research Program (OVCARE) of the BC Cancer/UBC. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the Electrical & Computer Engineering Department.

Dr. Artem Cherkasov

Dr. Cherkasov is a Full Professor of Medicine at UBC, a Senior Research Scientist at Vancouver Prostate Centre and Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Precision Cancer Drug Design. His research interests include Computer-Aided Drug Discovery (CADD), Artificial Intelligence, QSAR, Cheminformatics, and development of personalized cancer therapies. During his tenure at UBC, Dr. Cherkasov has been a principal applicant or co-applicant on a number of research grants totalling over $100M. Dr. Cherkasov developed and out-licenced 12 biotechnologies (including 8 drug candidates) to Big Pharma companies (Astra Zeneca, Roche), major international venture funds (5AM Ventures) and several spin off companies. 3 of those drugs are currently in clinical trials.

Dr. Steven Jones

Dr. Jones is Co-Director and Head of Bioinformatics at the Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre, BC Cancer, and Canada Research Chair in Computational Genomics at UBC, and Professor of Medical Genetics at UBC. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, he is recognized as one of the world's most influential researchers by Thompson Reuters and Clarivate Analytics, with over 500 peer-reviewed publications and numerous honors. He has given over 150 presentations globally and is a leading expert in genomic sequencing and analysis.

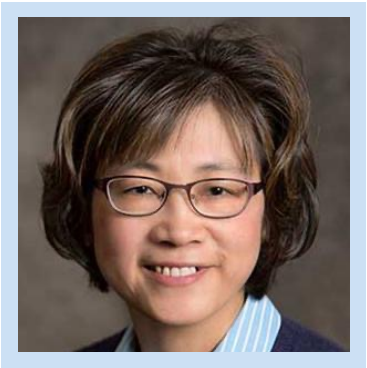
SPEAKERS

Dr. Raymond Ng

Dr. Ng, PhD is Professor, Department of Computer Science, UBC, Director, Data Science Institute, Canada Research Chair in Data Science and Analytics. Dr. Ng is a data scientist with a passion for using AI to streamline complex challenges in the healthcare system and improve patient outcomes. His research areas are data mining, text mining, health informatics, sensor analytics, and databases. In his work on genomics with the PROOF Centre of Excellence for the Prevention of Organ Failures, he focuses on the development of biomarker panels for various conditions related to organ failures in hearts, lungs, or kidneys. In an exemplary collaboration funded by PHSA and the Ministry of Health, the Data Science Institute, alongside BC Cancer Registry experts, co-designed state-of-the-art Natural Language Processing tools using Large Language Models to interpret pathology reports. This innovative approach outshines existing tools in ensuring accurate and interpretable identification of reportable cancers. It is now deployed for actual use in the BC Cancer Registry.

Dr. Anita Palepu

Dr. Palepu, MD, MPH, FRCPC, MACP is a Professor and Eric W. Hamber Chair and Head of the Department of Medicine, University of British Columbia. She is a Scientist at the Centre for Advancing Health Outcomes, specializing in urban health research. Her work focuses particularly on individuals who are vulnerable to adverse health outcomes, including those who use illicit substances and experience homelessness. Dr. Palepu is passionate about health advocacy and education, and she is deeply committed to the trainees and patients she is privileged to work with on the Clinical Teaching Unit at St. Paul's Hospital. She is also an associate editor for the Annals of Internal Medicine.



Dr. Teresa Tsang

Dr. Tsang is Echo-Cardiologist, Clinician Scientist, and Professor in the Division of Cardiology at UBC. She is the Director of Echo Lab at Vancouver General Hospital and UBC Hospital, and Director of UBC AI Echo Core Lab. She is Executive Director of Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute. Her focused areas of clinical and research interests include artificial intelligence in echocardiography, atrial remodeling, atrial fibrillation and other age-related cardiac conditions, and advancing technologies to achieve health equity.

SPEAKERS

Panel D

Suzanne Cummings

Suzanne Cummings, a bookkeeper from Victoria, B.C., was first diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 2011. However, in 2014, her diagnosis was changed to Neuromyelitis Optica. In 2015, Suzanne joined a clinical trial led by Dr. Anthony Traboulsee, motivated by a desire to contribute to medical research while also receiving more specialized care. Over the next nine years, her participation in the study not only provided her with advanced treatments but also gave her a renewed sense of purpose, knowing that her experience could benefit future NMO patients. She brings a personal perspective on the importance of have access to translational research for people living outside of the lower mainland.

Dr. Shannon Kolind

Dr. Kolind completed her PhD in Physics at UBC and a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Oxford and King's College London, developing ways to measure myelin. As an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine (Division of Neurology) with associate appointments in the Departments of Radiology and Physics at UBC, Dr. Kolind's lab is focused on developing a toolbox of tissue-specific imaging techniques and making them available to everyone. Her multi-disciplinary team employs these multi-modal tools to achieving greater sensitivity and specificity in clinical research; particularly for clinical trials of new therapies. She was recently appointed as the Associate Head (Research) for the Division of Neurology, with the goal of promoting and fostering translational medicine.

Dr. Florian Kuchenbauer

Dr. Kuchenbauer earned his MD degree in Germany and his PhD at the University of British Columbia. After leading a research group in Germany and serving as deputy head of the Bone Marrow Transplant program at Ulm University Hospital, he joined the Leukemia/Bone Marrow Transplantation Program at VGH in 2018. His work in non-coding RNAs has significantly advanced the understanding of acute myeloid leukemia. He further initiated British Columbia's first multiple myeloma research program. As associate director of the Hematology Research Program, he oversees clinical trials and translational research for blood cancer patients. This is further supported by his role in developing an in-patient Phase I Clinical Trial Unit. His contributions have earned him multiple accolades for excellence in patient care and research.

SPEAKERS

Dr. Erik Pioro

Dr. Pioro, MD, PhD, is a neuromuscular neurologist with expertise in ALS and related disorders (ALSRD). His research focuses on the neuroimaging, genetics, and molecular aspects of these disorders. Dr. Pioro earned his MD from the University of Calgary and a PhD from the University of Oxford. He completed his Neurology Residency at McGill University, followed by fellowships in imaging at MNI and neuropathology at Mayo Clinic. After a Neurophysiology fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic, he led the Section of ALS & Related Disorders for over two decades. He is now the ALS BC Society Professor & Chair of ALS Research at UBC, focusing on clinical care and research of patients living with ALSRD in BC.

Dr. Lynn Raymond

Dr. Raymond is full Professor and holds the Louise A. Brown Chair in Neuroscience in the Department of Psychiatry, cross-appointed in Medicine/Neurology. She combines research with clinical practice, leading a CIHR-funded research lab and serving as Clinic Director of the Centre for Huntington Disease. Her research investigates altered neuronal circuits, synapses and NMDA-type glutamate receptors in preclinical models of Huntington's disease, towards discovering therapeutics that slow progression. She serves as UBC site investigator for several multi-center clinical research studies. She served as President of the Canadian Association for Neuroscience and is Co-Director of the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health.

Dr. Anthony Traboulsee

Dr. Traboulsee is a Professor and Research Chair of the MS Canada at UBC. He is the Director of the UBC Multiple Sclerosis Magnetic Resonance Imaging Research Group and BC MS Cell Therapies Research Lead. His research focuses on clinical trial design, the development of practice guidelines for the use of MRI in the management of MS, establishing advanced MRI imaging outcomes, and investigating new therapies for MS and related disorders.

SPEAKERS

Panel E

Sir Gordon Duff

Sir Gordon Duff is the President of the United in Diversity Foundation working towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and creating an international campus at Kura Kura Island, Bali. He is co-chair (with Prof Andrew Lo, MIT) of the recently launched $30 billion 'Health of Nations' investment fund. He previously served as the Principal of St. Hilda's College at the University Oxford and as Chair of the UK's Committee on Safety of Medicines and its Biologicals and Vaccines Sub-committee as well as inaugural Chair of the UK's Commission on Human Medicines. He was also previously Chair of the Biotechnology and Biological Science Research Council (BBSRC) and of the UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), and so brings deep insights and a regulatory perspective of biopharma, drug discovery and drug development.

Dr. Robert Holt

Dr. Holt is Co-director, BC Cancer Immunotherapy Program, Professor of Medical Genetics, at UBC and Professor of Molecular Biology & Biochemistry at Simon Fraser University. Since 2003, Dr. Holt has been a scientist at Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre He is recognized for his leadership role in decoding some of the first model organism and pathogen genomes and, recently, for developing next-generation sequencing methods for interrogating the genetics of the adaptive immune system. He has served as a scientific advisor to the NIH Human Microbiome Project and discoveries by his group have linked new infectious agents to cancer risk. His current basic and clinical research directions are focused on immunogenomics, synthetic immunology and developing vaccines and genetically engineered cell therapies for cancer.

Dr. Catalina Lopez-Correa

Dr. Lopez-Correa is the Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) at Genome Canada. She has dedicated her career to genomics and its transformative applications in life sciences in Canada and internationally. As CSO at Genome Quebec (2008-2015) and Genome BC (2015-2019), she was instrumental in developing competitive teams for research and innovation initiatives raising the profile of Canadian genomics on the global stage. Recently, as the Executive Director of the Canadian COVID19 Genomics Network (CanCOGeN) she led a $40M initiative to advance the use of genomics to understand and control the COVID19 pandemic. Now, as CSO of Genome Canada, she is taking genomics to the next level, by advancing the national and global implementation of genomic technologies.
Dr. Lopez-Correa's work has been recognized with several awards. Among others, in 2017 the Canadian Senate 150th Anniversary Medal, in 2013 the National Order of Merit from Colombia.

SPEAKERS

Dr. Dean Regier

Dr. Regier is a Senior Scientist at the BC Cancer Research Institute, an Associate Professor at the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia (UBC), and the Associate Director of UBC's Academy of Translational Medicine. Over the past 15 years, Dr. Regier has focused his research on regulatory science and the economics of precision medicine, generating patient-oriented and real-world evidence to inform regulatory, clinical, and payer decision.

Investigator Showcase 2

Dr. Annie Ciernia

Dr. Ciernia is an Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia and currently the Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Understanding Gene Expression in the Brain. Her lab is located at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the Centre for Brain Health. Dr. Ciernia's lab focuses on understanding how our genetics and environment both influence brain development through regulation of gene expression. Much of her lab's current focus is on understanding how events in early-life impact interactions between the developing nervous and immune systems, leading to altered neurodevelopment.

Dr. Eric McGinnis

Dr. McGinnis is a Hematopathologist at Vancouver General Hospital with subspecialty expertise in cancer cytogenetics and molecular genetics and a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia. His main research interests are in improving evaluation and classification of chronic myeloid neoplasms and acute leukemias through clinical applications of novel genomics technologies, particularly optical genome mapping and long read sequencing.

SPEAKERS

Dr. Ying Wang

Dr. Wang obtained her PhD from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of British Columbia. After her postdoc training in translational cardiovascular medicine at UBC and Stanford University, Dr. Wang was recruited to the Centre for Heart Lung Innovation in March 2021. Her research combines biobank human specimens and mechanistic studies to address knowledge gaps in drug repurposing for coronary artery disease. Her lab is supported by CIHR, NSERC, New Frontiers in Research Fund, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, UBC Precision Health Catalyst Grant, and Canada Foundation for Innovation. Dr. Wang was appointed as the Director of Bruce McManus Cardiovascular Biobank in 2022. This 30-year-old biobank has the largest collections of explanted heart and heart valves in Canada. Dr. Wang is developing BMCB into a hub of pre-clinical drug assessment that will provide researchers with fit-for-purpose human biospecimens.

Panel F

Dr. Govind Kaigala

Dr. Kaigala is currently an Associate Professor and Director of Partnerships and Engagement at the UBC School of Biomedical Engineering. He is also a Senior Scientist at the Vancouver Prostate Centre based out of the Vancouver General Hospital campus. Kaigala received his PhD in Biomedical Instrumentation and Microsystems from the University of Alberta and did his post-doctoral training at Stanford University. Subsequently, Kaigala was at IBM Research Europe – Switzerland for 12 years, leading activities within the Precision Diagnostics team. His lab currently works on microscale fluid control, microscale molecular assays and developing bioinstrumentation for personalized medicine. A particular focus of the team is on precise tumor profiling and modelling. In recognition of his development of intellectual property, Dr. Kaigala was named “master inventor” by IBM in 2019 and has >45 families of patents. His work and IP have influenced the design of biotech products for hematology and protein analysis.

Dr. Robert McMaster

Dr. McMaster is a co-lead for Canada’s Immuno-Engineering and Biomanufacturing Hub. He received a D.Phil. in Biochemistry from the University of Oxford with research interests are in the areas of molecular immunology, and transplant immunology and genomics of host pathogen interactions. He is a Professor in the Department of Medical Genetics, and Vice Dean Research, Faculty of Medicine. Dr. McMaster is an advocate for health research and clinical trials and was Chair, Research Canada and Chair of the Advisory Committee for Clinical Trials BC where he was instrumental in the development of the BC COVID-19 Clinical Research Coordination Initiative (CCRI).

SPEAKERS

Alexis Sciuk

Alexis Sciuk is the Pipeline Lead for Pfizer's Global, Medical Digital Health Team. She is focused on integrating medical digital capabilities into the core of the company's work. She is responsible for evaluating new medical grade, digital technologies, and health frameworks, ensuring Pfizer remains at the forefront of innovation in the digital health space. This includes assessing the potential impact and relevance of advancements, identifying opportunities for adoption and integration, and evaluating regulatory, market access and compliance aspects. Alexis is tasked with making sure Pfizer remains innovative, adaptable, and well-positioned to leverage digital advancements in improving health outcomes and delivering impactful digital health solutions to patients globally.

Dr. Sriram Subramaniam

Dr. Subramaniam is Gobind Khorana Canada Excellence Research Chair in Cancer Drug design at the University of British Columbia, and also the Founder and CEO of Gandeeva Therapeutics, a drug discovery company based in Vancouver. Prior to his arrival in Vancouver, Sriram was Senior Investigator at the National Institutes of Health where he also founded and directed the US National Cryo-EM Facility. He received his PhD in physical chemistry from Stanford University and completed postdoctoral training in the Departments of Chemistry and Biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His work showed that the structures of proteins bound to drugs could be visualized using single particle cryo-EM methods at near-atomic resolution.

Dr. Chen Wan

Dr. Wan is the Director, Research and Innovation, Health at Genome British Columbia. She oversees the health portfolio, working closely with stakeholders from academia, industry, non-profit, and health authorities. Chen is passionate about omics innovation, and the responsible adoption of clinical genomics by healthcare system that truly benefits patients. Her and her team's work fosters innovation in genomics technologies and brings them closer to clinical practice. Prior to joining Genome BC, Chen conducted postdoctoral research at the University of British Columbia, focusing on liposomal nanoparticle drug delivery systems for both small molecule and genetic medicines. Chen holds a Ph.D. in Biophysics from University of Virginia, USA, and a mini-MBA from UBC Sauder School of Business. Outside of work, she enjoys weightlifting, dancing, skating, hiking, and spending time with her family.

SPEAKERS

Panel G

Natalie Dakers

Natalie Dakers is CEO of A2O Advanced Materials Inc. Natalie has been in the business of commercializing leading-edge technology for over 30 years. Over her career she has been part of the founding team for five different companies and organizations including A2O, Neuromed Technologies, CDRD (now Admare), its Venture arm (CDRD Ventures), and Accel-Rx, a unique pre-seed investment accelerator. She has been a mentor for CDL, LifeSciences BC and SFU VentureLabs working with early-stage companies. She is currently the CEO of A2O Advanced Materials Inc., a spinoff from UBC, that is transforming adhesion in high impact industries to make products last longer with reduced waste. Ms. Dakers currently serves on the Boards of Integrated Nanotherapeutics, Augurex Life Sciences Corp, Sonic Incytes, and STEMCELL Technologies. She has been the recipient of many leadership awards throughout her career.

Karimah Es Sabar

Karimah Es Sabar is a highly-recognized global life sciences leader with an exceptional career spanning multi-national pharmaceutical/biotechnology companies, startups, not-for-profit organizations and venture investment firms. She has provided leadership in marketing, business development, strategic and global alliances, public-private partnerships, translation strategies and execution, innovation ecosystems, entrepreneurship in start-ups, and in bioscience investments. Ms. Es Sabar is the founding CEO & General Partner at Quark Venture LP, a global venture capital firm, and Director of the Global Health Sciences [GHS] Fund. Prior to joining Quark Venture, Ms. Es Sabar was CEO & President of the Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD]; CEO & President of LifeSciences BC; and she has held several senior management positions in the biopharmaceutical industry, most notably at Sanofi Pasteur as global head of BD and International Division. She also co-founded and enabled several start-up companies. Ms. Es Sabar has received multiple awards and recognitions for her leadership and pioneering work, including Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Award. She holds an Executive Certificate in Management and Leadership from the MIT Sloan School of Management; a MSc degree in Neurochemistry from the Institute of Psychiatry, University of London, England; and a BSc Joint Honours degree in Biochemistry/Chemistry from the University of Salford in Manchester, England. She has served on numerous private, public and not-for-profit boards. Since 2017 she is Chair of the Health/Biosciences Economic Strategy Table (Government of Canada), a Member of the Industry Strategy Council (Government of Canada) and Chair of the Strategic Review Committee (Government of Canada).

SPEAKERS

Nancy Harrison

Nancy Harrison is a nationally recognized life sciences builder and investor with over 30 years of experience as sector innovator and leader. Nancy is a Venture Partner with Amplitude Ventures. Nancy previously spent 10 years as co-founder, Chief Business Officer, and President with MSI Methylation Sciences, which grew from start-up to phase II clinical trials for one of its drugs, having raised over US $70MM during her tenure. Prior to her time at MSI, Nancy spent 14 years as a Senior Vice President and Partner with Ventures West Management where she led the Life Sciences portfolio, growing it from zero to over 30 per cent of Venture West's investment portfolio. She helped lead Venture West's transformation from $90MM assets under management to over $800MM AUM in eight historical funds during her tenure. Some of these investments include companies such as Angiotech Pharmaceuticals, Inc., AnorMed, Inc, Caprion Pharmaceuticals Inc., Celator Technologies Inc., Alder Biopharmaceuticals, Xenon Pharmaceuticals Inc., Salmedix Inc., Sembiosys Genetics Inc., and many other biotechnology firms while with Ventures West. Currently Nancy sits on boards including Abdera Therapeutics, Congruence Therapeutics and Evolved therapeutics on behalf of Amplitude. She also serves on the boards and is an advisor for several companies and not-for-profits the including adMare BioInnovations, Nimbus Synergies, BC Genome I2 venture fund, BioteCanada advisory board for start-up companies, and is a fellow with the Creative Destruction Lab - West. With both an MBA from McGill and an Engineering degree from Queens, Nancy is a recipient of the 2023 Barry Gekiere Life time Achieve Award from CVCA, the 2020 Milton Wong Leadership Award from Life Science BC, the 2020 PEAK Award for Excellence in Leadership from the Association of Women in Finance, was named CDL-West Fellow of the Year in 2019 and has previously been named to Globe & Mail's Top 40 under 40 in Canada.

Wendy Hurlburt

President & CEO of Life Sciences BC, Wendy Hurlburt, holds a critical leadership role in B.C.'s dynamic life sciences ecosystem. She takes a collaborative approach to building relationships between local SMEs, global partners, educational institutions, and government to support the thriving sector and is a highly regarded spokesperson in key international markets. Regarded as a promoter and advocate for the sector, Wendy attracts new business and investment opportunities to the province. is passionate about volunteerism and seeks out tangible ways to give back. She is a member of the Government, Budget, and Finance Committee for the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade; the Clinical Trials BC Advisory Council, Michael Smith Health Research BC; a committee member for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Life Sciences Strategy Council, a member of the Public Policy Forum (PPF) Life Sciences Council and Co-Chair of the PPF Life Sciences working group. She is also a member of the Management Board of Invest Vancouver and Vice Chair of the Board and Board member of Science World.

SPEAKERS

Dr. Larry Lynd

Dr. Lynd is a Professor and the Dean in the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and is the Director of the Collaboration for Outcomes Research and Evaluation. Additionally, he is an Associate of the UBC School of Population and Public Health, and a Scholar at the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies. Recently, he was appointed as the Chair of the Health Canada Special Advisory Committee on Nonprescription Drugs, and to the Special Advisory Committee to the Respiratory and Allergy Therapies Division of Health Canada, and he sits as the economics expert on the B.C. Ministry of Health Services Expensive Drugs for Rare Diseases Committee.

Fireside Chat

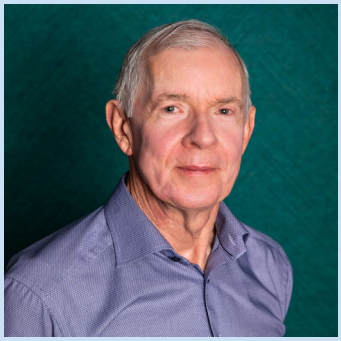
Neil Aubuchon

Aubuchon is Chief Commercial Officer of AbCellera. Pror to joining AbCellera Mr. Aubuchon was the Global Marketing Lead for Amgen's General Medicine early portfolio. In this role, he was responsible for developing the integrated strategy for Amgen's non-oncology therapeutic areas and leading commercial strategy for more than 10 biologics, as well as several high profile corporate initiatives. Prior to Amgen, Mr. Aubuchon was the Vice President of Global Marketing at Santen, a global ophthalmology-focused pharmaceutical company. Mr. Aubuchon previously spent nearly 17 years at Lilly in various commercial roles including, Chief Marketing Officer in Australia, Chief Marketing Officer in Japan, Head of Strategy & Operations for Lilly Bio-Medicines Globally, and Vice President of Lilly Bio-Medicines in Japan.

SPEAKERS

Miranda Lam

Miranda Lam, KC is the Chief Legal Officer & Vice President, Business Development at Acuitas Therapeutics, Inc., a biotechnology company that works with partners to advance nucleic acid therapeutics to address unmet clinical needs based on its globally recognized capabilities in delivery technology. Formerly an equity partner in the litigation group at McCarthy Tetrault, Miranda has been recognized as a Leading Lawyer in the area of General Commercial Litigation in independent publications such as Chambers Canada, The Best Lawyers in Canada, and Benchmark Canada. She has been previously named to Vancouver Magazine's Power 50 List of the City's Most Influential People and identified as a Leading Lawyer under 40 by Lexpert (2017), "Best 40 Under 40" Lawyer by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (2015), was the recipient of the Association of Women in Finance 2014 PEAK Women in Finance "Rising Star" Award, and recognized as one of Business in Vancouver's "Forty Under 40" in 2013. In 2023, Miranda was recognized by YWCA Vancouver as a Woman of Distinction in the "Business & Professions" category. She was appointed King's Counsel in December 2023. Miranda currently serves as Chair of the Board of Governors of the University of British Columbia and the board of the BC Cancer Foundation. She is also a member of the boards of directors of UBC Properties Trust and the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade. She has previously chaired the boards of the Vancouver Foundation, the largest community foundation in Canada, the UBC Alumni Association and Vantage Point, and has served as a director of the boards of the United Way of the Lower Mainland and Imagine Canada.



Dr. Thomas Madden

Dr. Madden Ph.D. President and Chief Executive Officer, Acuitas Therapeutics. Dr. Madden obtained his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of London, U.K. He has held several senior academic and industry positions. Dr. Madden founded Acuitas Therapeutics in 2009 and guided the company to a leadership position in the application of lipid nanoparticle (LNP) technology for delivery of nucleic acid therapeutics. Acuitas developed the LNP carrier used by Alnylam Pharmaceuticals for Onpattro™, the first approved RNA interference (RNAi) therapeutic and Acuitas LNP delivery technology is used in the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, COMIRNATY®. Dr. Madden has over 60 publications in peer-reviewed journals including recent publications in Nature. In 2020 Dr. Madden was made a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering and in 2022 was a recipient of the Governor General's Award for Innovation.

SPEAKERS

Dr. Poul Sorensen

Dr. Sorensen is a Distinguished Scientist at BC Cancer Research, Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at UBC, Director of the UBC Academy of Translational Medicine, Senior Research Scientist (honorary) at Vancouver Prostate Cancer, and Asa and Kashmir Johal Endowed Chair in Childhood Cancer Research. Dr. Sorensen is a molecular pathologist and cancer biologist specializing in pediatric cancers. His work has led to new diagnostic tests and treatments for childhood and adult cancers, particularly through discoveries in genetic changes and cancer cell protein roles. As Director of the ATM, he aims to establish it as a global leader in translating scientific discoveries into improved patient care and therapeutics. He will also lead initiatives to support faculty and clinicians in translational research while fostering the training of the next generation of scientists.