



**Arnie Charbonneau
Cancer Institute**

11th Annual Cancer Research Symposium

Friday, May 15, 2026

**Arthur Child Auditorium
& Azrieli Atrium**



**UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY**



**Cancer Care
Alberta**

Program

SCHEDULE



All talks will be in the **Arthur Child Auditorium**

Poster session and lunch will be held in the **Azrieli (HRIC) Atrium at the Cumming School of Medicine**

8:30 - 9:00 am | **Research Day Check-In** | Arthur Child Auditorium | *Coffee, tea, and light snacks will be available*

9:00 - 9:05 am | Opening Remarks by **Dr. Jennifer Chan**, Director, Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute

SESSION 1 Chair: Dr. Jongbok Lee

9:05 - 9:30 am | **Dr. Brian Kelly**, Professor, Department of Oncology
Cancer, Mental Illness, and Inequity: A Research Perspective

9:30 - 9:55 am | **Dr. Augusto Andrade**, Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Exploiting the challenging tumor microenvironment of pediatric brain tumors for therapeutic development

9:55 - 10:10 am | **Amy Banks**, PhD Candidate supervised by Dr. Ana Nikolic
Spatial and temporal evolution of a gene fusion driven pediatric brain tumour.

10:30 - 12:00 pm | **POSTER SESSION** | Azrieli (HRIC) Atrium, Cumming School of Medicine

12:00 - 12:50 pm | **CONFERENCE LUNCH** | Azrieli (HRIC) Atrium, Cumming School of Medicine
Must have lunch ticket to attend lunch

SESSION 2 Chair: Dr. Pinaki Bose

1:15 - 2:15 pm | **KEYNOTE LECTURE** | **Dr. Rayjean Hung**, Associate Director of Population Health, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute, and Professor, Division of Epidemiology, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto
From Cancer Omics Discovery to Population Health

2:15 - 2:30 pm | **Dr. Nebojša Oravec**, Medical Resident supervised by Dr. Alison Laws
Nodal burden among women with early-stage lobular breast cancer

2:30 - 2:40 pm | **Celebrating the successes of our trainees**, presented by Dr. Jennifer Chan

2:40 - 2:55 pm | **Session Break** | Arthur Child Auditorium | *Light snacks and refreshments will be available*

SESSION 3 Chair: Dr. Ioana Nicolau

3:00 - 3:25 pm | **Dr. Etienne Mahe**, Associate Professor, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
Next Generation Cytogenomics: Bringing Optical Genome Mapping to Alberta

3:25 - 3:40 pm | **Colby Regal**, Intermediate Data Management Specialist supervised by Dr. Alain Tremblay
Lung Cancer Screening for High-Risk Individuals in Alberta

3:40 - 3:55 pm | **Shannon Snelling**, PhD Candidate supervised by Dr. Jennifer Chan and Dr. Douglas Mahoney
CAR-macrophages drive CD8⁺ T cell-dependent control of glioblastoma and synergize with temozolomide and checkpoint blockade

4:00 - 4:15 pm | **Announcement of winners of poster and oral presentations** | Awards for MSc, PhD, and Postdoctoral levels

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Rayjean Hung

Associate Director of Population Health and Senior Investigator, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute, Sinai Health System

Head, Prosserman Centre for Population Health Research

Professor of Epidemiology, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto

Dr. Rayjean Hung is the Associate Director of Population Health and a Senior Investigator at Sinai Health's Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute (LTRI), Head of the Prosserman Centre for Population Health, and holds the Canada Research Chair in Integrative Molecular Epidemiology. Dr. Hung is an internationally recognized leader in cancer epidemiology, focusing on etiology, prevention, and early detection. Her work covers the spectrum from omics discovery and predictive models to implementation, with emphasis on diverse populations.



Dr. Augusto Andrade

Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Dr. Augusto Andrade is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology. He completed his PhD at the University of São Paulo in Brazil and his postdoctoral training at McGill University in Dr. Nada Jabado's lab. His research focuses on pediatric gliomas, with an emphasis on tumor-immune interactions, epigenetic regulation, and the development of clinically relevant models to identify new therapeutic strategies.



Dr. Brian Kelly

Professor, Departments of Oncology and Psychiatry

Dr. Brian Kelly is a psychiatrist and Academic Head of Division and Daniel Family Leadership Chair in Psychosocial Oncology in the Cumming School of Medicine's Departments of Oncology and Psychiatry. He is also the Medical Lead of Provincial Psychosocial Oncology, Cancer Care Alberta, based at the Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre. Prior to this appointment he has undertaken clinical, health service and academic leadership roles within the University of Newcastle, Australia.



Dr. Etienne Mahe

Associate Professor, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

Dr. Etienne Mahe is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine at the Cumming School of Medicine, with cross appointment in the Division of Hematology & Hematological Malignancies, and a member of the Charbonneau Cancer Research Institute. Dr. Mahe's chief areas of interest are in the hematological malignancies, with particular focus on precision diagnostics in these areas. Dr. Mahe is also co-director of the Arthur Child Cancer Translational Research Hub, and is leading a project to implement and operationalize Optical Genome Mapping in Alberta.

TRAINEE SPEAKERS



Amy Banks

PhD Candidate supervised by Dr. Ana Nikolic

Amy Banks is a PhD student in a brain cancer research lab investigating epigenetic mechanisms underlying tumour growth and progression. Her research focuses on the evolution of pediatric high-grade gliomas with a particular interest in response to targeted treatments. Amy holds an MSc in Human Molecular Genetics from Imperial College London and a BSc in Forensic Science from the University of South Wales.



Dr. Nebojša Oravec

Medical Resident supervised by Dr. Alison Laws

Dr. Nebojša Oravec is a third-year general surgery resident at the University of Calgary. His clinical and research interests relate to breast surgical oncology, endocrine surgery, and advanced GI malignancy.



Colby Regel

Intermediate Data Management Specialist supervised by Dr. Alain Tremblay

Colby Regel is an Intermediate Data Management Specialist in the Cancer Screening, Detection and Risk Reduction Program under the supervision of Dr. Alain Tremblay. She holds an MSc in Evolutionary Biology from the University of Calgary and has a background in biostatistics and health data analytics. Her work focuses on quality improvement in the Alberta Lung Cancer Screening Program and the application of artificial intelligence to aid lung cancer screening and early detection.



Shannon Snelling

PhD Candidate supervised by Dr. Jennifer Chan and Dr. Douglas Mahoney

Shannon Snelling is a PhD candidate at the Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute, under the supervision of Dr. Jennifer Chan and Dr. Douglas Mahoney. Her research focuses on emerging immunotherapies for glioblastoma including mRNA vaccines, CAR-T cells, and CAR-macrophages.



Dr. Jongbok Lee

Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Dr. Jongbok Lee is an Assistant Professor at the Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary. As an immunologist keen on translational research, Dr. Lee focuses on developing innovative cancer treatments. His work with a unique subset of T cells, double-negative T cells (DNT), aims to target cancer cells selectively while sparing normal cells, revealing promising mechanisms for safer therapeutic strategies and better understand the biology of DNT. He is also the co-chair of Charbonneau Trainee Education and Professional Development Committee.



Dr. Pinaki Bose

Associate Professor, Departments of Oncology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, and Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

Dr. Pinaki Bose is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Oncology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, and Pathology & Laboratory Medicine at the University of Calgary. He serves as Scientific Lead for the Precision Oncology and Experimental Therapeutics (POET) program and Director of Tumour Biology and Translational Research for the Ohlson Research Initiative (ORI). His lab investigates the biology of head and neck, brain, and pediatric cancers, with an emphasis on biomarker development and immuno-oncology.



Dr. Ioana Nicolau

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Oncology

Dr. Ioana Nicolau is a research scientist and cancer epidemiologist in the Department of Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention Research (CEPR) at Cancer Care Alberta and Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Calgary in the Department of Oncology. She holds a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Toronto, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute. Her research focuses on understanding and reducing disparities in cancer risk, prevention, and outcomes across the cancer continuum, integrating population-level data with community-based approaches to generate actionable evidence to inform equitable cancer prevention, screening, and treatment strategies.

SPECIAL THANKS TO



Charbonneau Education Committee

Dr. Gareth Williams, Co-Chair

Dr. Jongbok Lee, Co-Chair

Carmen Coelho, Business Operations Manager

Dr. Ayan Chanda

Dr. Ioana Nicolau

Dr. Pinaki Bose

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MAP TO AUDITORIUM

