



Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute The Riddell Centre for Cancer Immunotherapy



April 2020

The **ACTION initiative** launches — a partnership between the Canadian Cancer Society, the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation and UCalgary.

October 2021

The Burns Family makes a major gift, enabling the creation of the **Jeff Burns Synthetic Immunology Research Platform**, supporting the design and engineering of genetically modified immune cells.

October 2022

The ACTION Program participates in the inaugural **Cracking the Cancer Code** event, a public lecture series focused on cancer research hosted by the Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute in partnership with the Calgary Public Library.

August 2023

Dr. **Nizar Bahlis** publishes a study in *Nature Medicine* uncovering how cancer cells evade new immunotherapy treatments that target BCMA and GPRC5D — two important markers on cancer cells.

December 2023

The **Riddell Centre for Cancer Immunotherapy** launches, a joint initiative between UCalgary and AHS, made possible through generous giving to the OWN.CANCER Campaign.

May 2024

Oncobiotix, a preclinical biotechnology company spun out of the Riddell Centre, wins the Alberta Cancer Foundation's Inaugural Breakthrough Fund Competition in Calgary.

July 2024

Dr. **Sorana Morrissy** publishes a study in *Nucleic Acid Research*, introducing a novel computational framework developed to better analyze large -omic datasets.

November 2024

Philanthropic giving from the **Owerko Family** supports the Riddell Centre's Biomanufacturing Program, and local adult and paediatric clinical research.

November 2024

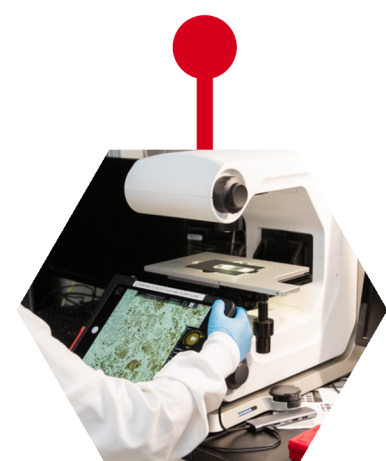
Dr. **Johnathan Canton** publishes a study in *Science Immunology*, identifying a protein that helps immune cells activate better against cancer and infections — informing new immunotherapy strategies.

January 2025

A gift from Harold and Betty Allsopp supports the launch of the **Binder Discovery Program** to develop molecules that precisely target cancer cells.



2020



2021



January 2021

ACTION scientists invent **GCAR1**, a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy targeting GPNMB (a protein on certain cancer cells), developed as a personalized treatment for a local patient at the Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH).



October 2022

The Dixon family through the Alberta Cancer Foundation, makes a major gift to support the **recruitment of three scientists** — fundamental, translational and clinical — advancing cancer immunotherapy at UCalgary.



October 2022

ACTION hosts its **first annual research retreat**, bringing together members and external leaders in cancer immunotherapy to share knowledge and foster collaboration.



September 2023

First patient enrolls in the GCAR1 single-patient trial — **the first CAR T cell therapy invented, developed, and delivered entirely by Canadian scientists.**



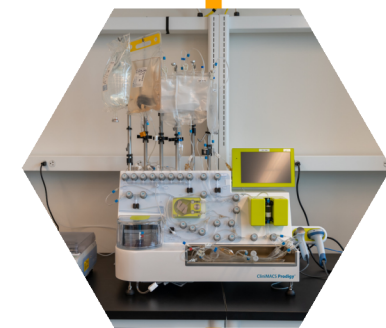
November 2023

ACTION hosts the **15th Annual International Oncolytic Virotherapy Conference** in Banff, Alta., welcoming nearly 250 global experts to the longest-running conference in the field.



Photo Credit:
Alberta Cancer Foundation

2023

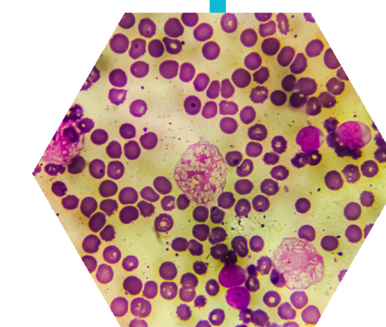


June 2024

Riddell Centre research and biomanufacturing teams move into the **Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre**, expanding capacity for cancer immunotherapy innovation.

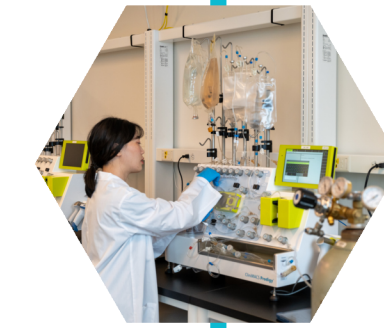


2024



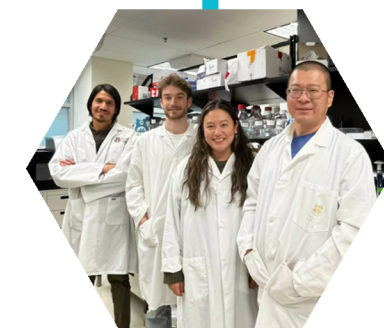
July 2024

The **Ron Wigham Memorial Initiative for Myeloid Cancers** launches, advancing research into innovative treatments for myeloid cancers through support from local philanthropists.



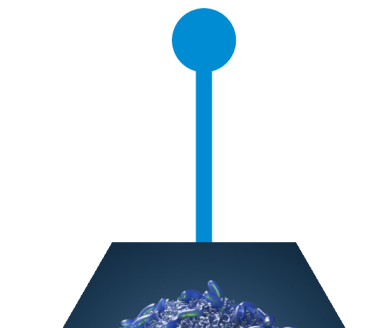
November 2024

Dr. **Douglas Mahoney** publishes a study in *Nature Communications*, showing how oncolytic viruses stimulate immune responses by infecting both tumour and nearby healthy cells.



January 2025

The **CLIC-2201 clinical trial**, led by Dr. Kevin Hay, launches, testing a Canadian-made CAR T cell therapy in patients with relapsed or refractory B-cell malignancies.



2025