DiscoveryLab Meeting + Diagnostics & Medical Device Summit

Location: Sky Garden Auditorium, 54th floor of The Bow

Time: 8:40 am - 5:00 pm (Mountain Time) on Friday March 26, 2023

Format: The morning session includes in-person pitches from diagnostic innovators. The afternoon includes pitches focussing on pharmaceuticals, cleantech, energy, transportation, AI and fintech with parallel in-person keynotes and a panel discussion on Alberta's translational capacities and biomanufacturing to support pandemic preparedness.

Morning Session: in-person diagnostics pitches

8:40 am Mountain Time: Coffee & Tea


Pitch Session 1 chaired by Elliot Cudmore, Executive VP, Copoint

9:05 am Troy Feener, COO, Rapid Infection Diagnostics, Inc., a University of Calgary startup, pitches a suite of diagnostic tools for microbial infections including those that cause bloodstream and urinary tract infections.

9:15 am Carrie Shemanko founded Crocus Biomedical, a University of Calgary-based startup that has developed a blood and tumour tissue-based molecular test for physicians to identify individuals at high risk of bone metastasis.

9:25 am Roger Zemp, Founder, CliniSonix Inc., an Edmonton-based startup that has invented scalable probe technology that significantly outperforms current 2D/3D ultrasound scanners in terms of resolution and speed.

9:35 am Discussion

Pitch Session 2 chaired by Peter Fenwick, Director, Scale-Up and Growth Programming, Mount Royal University

9:50 am Colin Coros, CCO, Nanostics Inc., an Edmonton-based a clinical-stage precision health company with a detection platform for a range of diseases including prostate and bladder cancer.

10:00 am Kathleen McMahon, Director of Regulatory Affairs, Wave View Imaging Inc., (Calgary) is developing pain-free and timely breast imaging systems using microwave technology.

10:10 am Pierre Lemire, CEO, Kent Imaging (Calgary), designs and manufactures multispectral oxygenation imaging technology for limb preservation and surgical care.

10:20 am Discussion and Coffee Break
Pitch Session 3 chaired by Katie Mertens, Associate Business Partner, Alberta Innovates

10:45 am John Murphy, CEO, Bio-stream Diagnostics Inc. (Edmonton) has developed an organic electrochemical transistor-based platform for faster, more accurate diagnostic tests based on antibody binding target antigen for a variety of infections.

10:55 am Amir Sanati-Nezhad, CEO & co-Founder, CriticareDx has developed a lab-on-a-chip technology that offers a combination of capillary self-powered microfluidics and electrochemical nano-biosensors.

11:05 Break

Pitch Session 4 chaired by Peter Ciechanowski, Associate, Bennett Jones

11:25 am Claire Dixon, co-Founder & CEO, Neuraura (Calgary) which has developed a bioelectronic wearable and is targeting polycystic ovarian syndrome.

11:35 am Am Gill, CEO, BioSenta (Calgary) develops and manufactures environmentally sound chemical compounds including Tri-Filler, which offers broad spectrum antimicrobial properties for household and industrial applications.

11:45 am Discussion

Selection of best in-person pitch by judges:

Angelo Nwigwe, Senior Advisor - Business Development, Mitacs
Bindi Ferguson, Director - Commercialization, Health Innovation, Alberta Innovates
Nisarg Patel, Industry Development Manager, BioAlberta

12:00 pm End of in-person pitches (followed by lunch)

Afternoon Virtual Pitch Session

(Note: this runs parallel with the in-person keynotes and panel discussion)

1:00 pm Introductions by Michael Overduin, Founder and CEO of DiscoveryLab, Science Capital, Molscreen, the SMALP Network, and Professor in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Alberta.

Pitch Session 5 chaired by Zachary Klarenbach, University of Alberta

1:05 pm Michael Weickert, CEO, Pacylex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. a University of Alberta spinout which is developing a first in class myristoylation inhibitor as a new oral daily therapy for hematologic and solid tumor cancers.

1:15 pm Maximilian Kerz, co-Founder & CEO Cherry Health (Calgary) has developed an app for posting of temporary, permanent and telehealth physician jobs and is building a network that connects physicians, employers and industry.
1:25 pm Damilare Odumosu, Founder/C.E.O, All Farmers Online provides precision agriculture services and sensors to farmers, allowing them to optimize yields, reduce costs, and improve efficiency based on analysis of data collected from drones, satellites, and cameras.

1:35 pm break

Pitch Session 6 chaired by Rameen Sikander, University of Alberta

1:40 pm Jason Hendrick, President, OceanML provides integrated machine learning consulting, custom predictive analytical solutions and solutions for clients in industries including energy, resource development, cleantech, government, finance and health care.

1:50 pm Alan Tay, CEO, Delphi Technology Corp offers rapid, scalable, conversational & action-based avatar training for airlines & aerospace companies and government and defense contractors.

2:00 pm break

Pitch Session 7 chaired by Rameen Sikander, University of Alberta

2:05 pm John MacInnes, Founder, Earthware Reusables Inc. Billions of food takeout containers go into our landfills every year. Earthware is a return for reuse takeout container service that eliminates this problem by selling reusable containers to restaurants, hotels, caterers, grocery stores.

2:15 pm Ryan Galloway, Founder, Inversion Point Technologies Ltd., specializes in the cost-effective direct removal of atmospheric methane at scale.

2:25 pm break

Pitch Session 8 chaired by Trixie Rae Adra, University of Alberta

2:30 pm Chris Cassin, CEO of Zero Point Cryogenics (Edmonton) builds dilution refrigerators, which operate at temperatures near absolute zero, for quantum technology applications.

2:40 pm Amirreza Sohrabi, co-Founder and CEO, Roshan Water Solutions (Edmonton) has developed VeloCens, which is an end-to-end product package for onsite, real-time testing of water samples for bacteria.

2:50 pm break

Pitch Session 9 chaired by Trixie Rae Adra, University of Alberta

2:55 pm Masoud Baghelani, CEO and Founder, NeatFil Inc. (Edmonton) offers a recyclable and reusable material that provides an efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable solution for removing organic contaminants including dyes and pigments from water and wastewater treatment plants.

3:05 pm Timothy Burgess, CEO and co-Founder, WealthAgile (Toronto) provides an AI powered crypto portfolio manager that connects via API to crypto exchanges to automatically manage customers’ crypto portfolios.

3:15 pm break
Pitch Session 10 chaired by Rakesh Bhat, University of Alberta

3:20 pm Conor Phillips, Founder & CEO, Pathfinder365 (Saskatoon) provides a digital exploration tool that serves as an all-inclusive, one-stop source for diverse tourism destinations including travel, activity, entertainment and accommodation options.

3:30 pm Carine Bado, CEO & Founder, My Little Tribe has designed an app for parents who are looking to book affordable, reliable and flexible private childcare services such as babysitting, nanny and home care.

3:40 pm David Rosenegger, CEO, SenseSi Technology Inc, a Calgary-based startup developing wearable non-invasive diagnostic sensors to monitor cortisol levels which can predict stress, inflammation and concussion severity.

3:50 pm Open discussion and close of virtual session

12:00 pm Lunch and Networking in the Atrium Garden, 54th Floor, The Bow

Afternoon In-person Keynotes + Panel Discussion in The Bow

1:00 pm Introductory Comments by Andre Buret, Professor in Biological Sciences at the University of Calgary, Associate Vice-President Research at the University of Calgary.

1:05 pm Introductory Comments by Ian Lewis, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Calgary, Director of the Alberta Centre for Advanced Diagnostics and Alberta Innovates Chair.

1:10 pm Keynote presentation by Oran Muduroglu, Co-founder & CEO, coeus h3c, previously at Verily; CEO at Medicalis, Philip and Stentor Inc.: "The challenges and opportunities of translating scientific innovation from academic centers into commercial successes".


1:55 pm Coffee Break
2:10 pm Introductory Comments by Ian Lewis, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Calgary, Director of the Alberta Centre for Advanced Diagnostics and Alberta Innovates Chair.

2:15 pm Panel Discussion on partnering and leveraging existing resources and opportunities in order to enhance Alberta's competitive position, moderated by Raja Mita, Executive Director of Health Innovation at Alberta Innovates, and Ian Lewis.

The panelists include:

Natalie Knox, Head of Computational Biology Unit, Research Scientist and Head of the Computational Biology Unit Bioinformatics Section, Public Health Agency of Canada; Development of a pan-Canadian framework for implementing new genomics technologies into public health.

Bradley Hart, Senior Director of Clinical Research of the Life Sciences Business Unit at Thermo Fisher Scientific. Focused on chromatographic separations, mass spectrometry, precision medicine, toxicology, environmental and food verticals.

Tim Murphy, Vice President, Health, Alberta Innovates, leading the Health innovation portfolio, previously established Provincial Platforms including Alberta's Data Institute and Alberta's Strategy for Patient Oriented Research SUPPORT Unit.

Michael Mengel, North Sector Medical Director, Alberta Precision Labs and Chair and Medical Director for Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the University of Alberta.

Dylan Pillai, Professor Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Molecular Microbiology, Infectious Diseases, Translational Research, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary and South Sector Medical Director, Alberta Precision Labs.

Brad Shopland, Manager, Translational Research & Academic Support at DynaLIFE Medical Labs. Previously President of Shopland Analytics and Analyst at Deloitte & Touche, Canada.

Sabina Bruehlmann, CEO at Nimble Science. Previously Consulting Director, Technology & Regulatory at Zephyr Sleep Technologies and Director Partnerships and Licensing Manager at Innovate Calgary.

3:45 pm Wrap up Remarks

4:00-5:00 pm Networking reception with drinks and canapes
Format: Virtual and in person pitch slots are 10 minutes, with half for pitching and the rest for questions with the panel of business advisors, mentors and investors who receive the reports, feedback, plans, decks and videos. Confidential disclosure agreements are not provided, but information exchanged at this event should be considered privileged and should not be shared publicly.

Directions: The Bow is at 54th Floor, The Bow, 500 Centre St. S, Calgary, AB. Check in with reception upon arrival, then make your way to the main boardroom (for advisors) or the prep boardroom (if pitching).

Check-in: Main level of the Bow Tower. A table will be set up where you will be provided with an access card. Access cards must be returned at the end of the day. Follow the signage towards the elevators to the 42nd floor, and then again follow the signage to the 54th floor. Staff will also be available to provide directions.

Parking: The Bow parkade can be accessed via 5th Ave SE or 6th Ave SE. Take an elevator to the main floor to check in.

Wifi connectivity info is available throughout the area. Please bring usb or usb-c sticks to present.

COVID-19: Guests are welcome to wear masks if they feel more comfortable doing so but they are not required to.

Organizers: Michael Overduin, Director, DiscoveryLab, 780 222 6281 and Jennifer Reid, Director, ADEPT, 403-501-8091