

CANADA 

**Business
Events**



LIFE SCIENCES

Innovation is in our DNA



**LEVERAGING ECONOMIC
STRENGTHS TO MEET WITH
PURPOSE IN CANADA**

BUSINESSEVENTSCANADA.CA

CANADA IN FOCUS

37.5
MILLION
TOTAL POPULATION*

19.1
MILLION
TOTAL WORKFORCE*

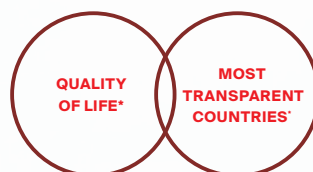
1.3
MILLION
BUSINESSES*

\$2.0
TRILLION
TOTAL GDP*

*Source: 2019 Statistics Canada



CANADA RANKS 1ST IN THE G7 FOR



AND 2ND IN



*Source: 2020 Best Countries rankings

→ Destination Canada's Business Events team is charged with growing Canada's share of international business events by promoting the country's unique meeting, convention and incentive event possibilities.

→ DISCOVER CANADA FOR BUSINESS EVENTS

“ Business events play a crucial role in economic growth. When destinations focus on their **intellectual assets** in a particular industry or sector sphere, they can help local industries accelerate ahead of those in other communities to become leaders in their field. By aligning our strategies with **Canada's leading innovation industries**, we are creating a thoughtful, community-based approach to business event attraction that unites tourism, industry, academia, government and economic development agencies, lifting up culture, art, community confidence and pride, and ultimately, innovation.”



Chantal Sturk-Nadeau, Executive Director, Destination Canada Business Events

“ There is no substitute for the creativity and energy that ignites when groups of like-minded people come together in the same place. When organizations choose to host their event in one of Canada's **centres of excellence** they not only gain access to some of the world's safest, greenest, creative and culturally diverse and dynamic destinations, but they gain access to their industry's thought leaders and innovators. These opportunities not only promote the transfer of knowledge, but they **can lead to future collaboration, talent attraction, trade, investment and future leisure travellers**. Such is the power of business events as a catalyst for economic nourishment and social and cultural change.”



Virginie De Visscher, Senior Director of Business Development, Economic Sectors, Destination Canada Business Events

OPEN UP TO A HOST OF NEW CONNECTIONS



With **world-class expertise across a spectrum of innovation industries**, Canadian life sciences hubs are a natural draw for conferences across a wide range of sub-sectors. When combined with Canada's vast landscapes, diverse cities and culture, dynamic culinary and nightlife experiences, and unique opportunities to explore groundbreaking ideas, it's easy to understand why organizations the world over choose Canadian locations to host their global life sciences events.

Canadian trailblazers in a host of emerging life sciences industries **are shaping the future of work, health-care, culture and society**. When conference-goers meet in our innovation hubs, they can tap into Canada's brain trust, connect with some of our brightest minds and thought leaders, preview made-in-Canada solutions to the world's greatest health concerns, and explore Canadian treatments, therapies and technologies powering the future of health-care during conferences, symposia, B2B exchanges, lab tours and more. And when top performers are recognized and rewarded with Canada's unparalleled destinations and distinctive experiences, they'll return home refreshed and inspired, ready to perform.

Isn't it time for you to meet with purpose in Canada?

Connect with us to learn how.

→ businessevents@destinationcanada.com

#meetincanada



LIFE SCIENCES SECTOR IN CANADA

Canada's increasingly important life sciences sector comprises four growing industries: pharmaceuticals, medical devices, biotechnology and R&D in life sciences.

HERE ARE SEVERAL HIGHLIGHTS:

The world's ten largest biopharmaceutical companies are in Canada, most with R&D and manufacturing operations. Canada is also the world's 10th largest pharmaceuticals market. Since 2012, compound annual growth of pharmaceutical sales has remained positive at 4.5 percent.

Canada is a global leader in digital radiography, in-vitro diagnostics, cardiovascular devices, dental implants and materials, and home health-care products.

In 2019, manufacturing in life sciences employed 31,201 people and over the last 5 years, employment grew by 11.4%.

Canada's proven research strengths include genomics, bioinformatics, immunotherapy, regenerative medicine and neuroscience.

The pharmaceutical industry ranks first—ahead of all other sectors in Canada—in R&D intensity.

As one example of sectoral strength, the Québec-Ontario Life Sciences Corridor, the second-largest life sciences cluster in North America, is also one of the largest bio-clusters in the world, with more than 1,100 companies, 66,000 qualified workers, 490 undergraduate and graduate programs in biological and bio-medicine sciences. Annual public and private medical research investments exceed \$1 billion.

Why else do so many global investors choose to invest here? Canada is the lowest-cost G7 country in biotechnology, product testing and clinical trials industries.

\$9.97B

Annual **pharmaceutical manufacturing production**, from December 2018 to November 2019

Source: Statistics Canada, 2018-2019

\$27.3B

In **pharmaceutical sales** in 2017

Source: Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB), 2017

#1

Among G7 countries for **available engineers**

Source: Global Affairs Canada, 2018

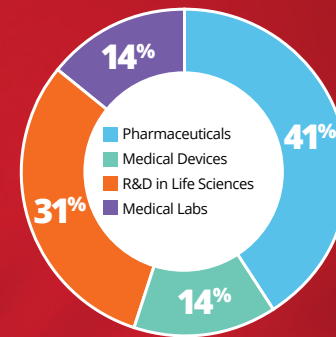
#2

The world's 2nd largest number of biotechnology companies are concentrated in Canada

Source: Pitchbook, 2020

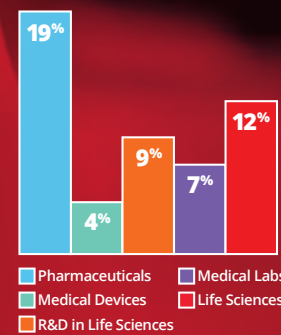
GDP BY LIFE SCIENCES INDUSTRY, 2019

Source: Statistics Canada



GDP GROWTH RATE BY INDUSTRY, 2019

Source: Statistics Canada



NOTABLE LIFE SCIENCES COMPANIES IN CANADA



PROGRAMS AND INCENTIVES

- **Genome Canada** provides large-scale investments that develop new technologies, and create solutions.
- **Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)** comprises 13 institutes that collaborate with partners and researchers to find innovation.
- **Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)** funds infrastructure to strengthen the capacity of Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals, and non-profit research institutions to carry out research.
- **The Canada Brain Research Fund (CRF)** is a public-private partnership designed to fund Canadian brain science research to advance knowledge and understanding of the brain and brain disorders.
- **National Research Council (NRC)** is Canada's premier research organization. It is working with a private partner to develop new therapeutic models that could lead to improved treatments in the future and better outcomes for patients suffering from brain disease.
- **The Digital Technology Supercluster**, an industry-led consortium, funds innovations transforming life sciences and manufacturing of pharmaceuticals.

CANADA HAS EXCEPTIONAL INSTITUTIONS LEADING INNOVATION:

- **The Medical Image Analysis Lab (MIAL)** at Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, is developing new techniques for image analysis of brain structures.
- **The Montreal Diabetes Research Centre** in Montreal, Quebec, coordinates new technologies for better diagnostic tools and treatments for diabetes.
- **The Brain Repair Centre** in Halifax, Nova Scotia, develops technology that will prevent, repair and reverse damage to brain cells.
- **IBM** has partnered with the University of Ontario Institute of Technology and Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children on advanced analytic platforms to predict when a hospitalized baby is at risk of life-threatening infection.

“About 40% of the staff here have PhDs, so it's a highly educated and highly productive workforce.”

- **John Milligan**, Chief Operating Officer, Gilead

RECENT LIFE SCIENCES INVESTMENTS

Sanofi Pasteur (France) invested USD \$431.78 million in 2018 in a new vaccine facility in Toronto to produce antigens used in diphtheria and tetanus vaccines. The new facility will be operational in 2021.

Medicago (Japan) invested USD \$245 million to open a production facility in Quebec in 2015. The new facility will help the firm meet its needs for seasonal and pandemic vaccines.

Jubilant (India) invested USD \$100 million to expand its manufacturing operations in Kirkland, Canada, in 2018. (CAPEX figure is an estimate based on fDiMarket algorithm).

Gilead (USA) invested USD \$100 million in 2015 to build a new drug manufacturing facility at its R&D campus in Edmonton, Canada. (CAPEX figure is an estimate based on fDiMarket algorithm).

Unither Bioelectronique (USA) invested USD \$74.9 million in 2018 in Bromont, Quebec, to open a new warehouse at the Roland-Desourdy airport. The facility will also house a R&D center.



CONTACT

Invest in Canada promotes, facilitates and accelerates foreign direct investment (FDI) into Canada. For companies seeking to expand into Canada, it is the global investor's primary point of contact.

info@invcanada.ca | www.investcanada.ca

Data last updated April 15th 2020, provided by Invest in Canada.

CANADA'S LIFE SCIENCES CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE



SUPERCLUSTERS

When small-, medium- and large-sized companies, academic institutions and non-profit organizations come together to generate bold ideas, **regional innovation systems are transformed.**

Harnessing the power of collaborative R&D and a \$950M investment by the Government of Canada matched by the private sector unlocks the power of data-driven innovation across a spectrum of industries that make up Canada's five superclusters: digital technologies, protein industries, advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence (AI) and blue ocean science.

CANADA'S DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY SUPERCLUSTER

Based in **Vancouver**, the Digital Technology Supercluster is a cross-industry **collaboration of diverse health-care**, communications, natural resources, technology and transportation businesses that **co-invest in ambitious, business-led R&D projects** focused on transformational digital technologies to solve some of industry's and society's biggest problems. Some \$60M has been invested in innovative projects related to COVID-19 through Canada's Digital Technology Supercluster.

680 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING:

- BCIT
- Canfor
- Dwave
- DNASTack
- Genome BC
- Microsoft
- Telus
- Thrive Health
- University of British Columbia
- University of Victoria

Canada's Digital Technology Supercluster received over 600 project proposals in support of Canada's response to COVID-19, including a digital mental-health tool for health-care workers providing COVID-19 care. As well, the Digital Tech Supercluster is working on the first global platform that empowers health-care organizations to collaborate and improve the **diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases**. The Global Clinical Network for Infectious Diseases, led by Spectrum Mobile Health, brings together Alberta Health Services, Nova Scotia Health Authority, Saskatchewan Health Authority and private enterprises to view guidelines developed by institutions across the globe, access their epidemiological data sets and subscribe to updates. Hospitals can adapt and use those guidelines, and the system will help them communicate directly with front-line health-care providers through their mobile devices and computers.

SCALE AI

A consortium of private entities, research centres, academia and high-potential startups, the Montréal-based Scale AI Supercluster is the central pillar of Canada's artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem. Scale AI identifies cross-sector collaborative projects and provides funding and expert guidance to strengthen and improve the productivity of supply chains through the integration and responsible use of AI.

AMONG THE 110+ PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS:

- Air Canada
- COVEO
- Creative Destruction Lab
- Element AI
- MAJiK Systems
- McGill University
- MindBridge
- Shopify
- University of Alberta

Scale AI is leveraging Canadian expertise in AI to respond to the COVID-19 health crisis. One such initiative, led by AlayaCare in cooperation with Polytechnique Montréal and Bien Chez Soi, uses **AI to assist in COVID-19 triaging by identifying clients or home health-care workers** who may have been infected.

SUB-SECTOR SPOTLIGHT



INFECTIOUS DISEASES RESEARCH

As an ongoing risk to public health, infectious diseases are the leading cause of death worldwide. Industry-leading research in COVID-19, Ebola, Zika and other viruses strengthens Canada's commitment to improving the health of global populations.

Saskatoon's Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization - International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac) is a world leader in infectious disease research and vaccine development and is home to one of Canada's few **biosafety level 3 facilities**. Responsible for several world firsts in animal vaccines within its \$200M biocontainment infrastructure, the institute studies **150** infectious diseases and vaccines annually, and was **the first in Canada to isolate the COVID-19 virus** and establish an animal model for testing. It was also the first centre in Canada to have a vaccine in the early stages of animal testing.

Canada is at the cutting edge of R&D

LEADERS
Saskatoon, Edmonton,
Winnipeg, Québec City

CONFERENCES

5th Annual One Health Conference

2018
Saskatoon, SK

SUCCESS STORIES

Researchers at the **Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology** at the University of Alberta **co-developed the world's first oral antiviral treatment for hepatitis B**. In 2020, **Edmonton-based Dr. Michael Houghton**, the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Virology, was awarded the **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** for his discovery of the hepatitis C virus.

The **Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health** in Winnipeg is a global leader in infectious diseases laboratory science and the **first facility in the world to have both human and animal containment level 4 (CL4) labs under one roof**.

Scientists at Manitoba's **National Microbiology Laboratory** have significantly advanced scientific knowledge and strengthened the development of treatments for Ebola. Researchers are **developing treatments and vaccines for other CL4 diseases**, including Lassa fever, Marburg virus disease, and Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever.

The **Infectious Disease Research Centre (IDRC)** is the **largest infectiology research institute in Canada and fifth-largest in the world**. The IRDC team at Université Laval in Québec City was the **first in the world to offer a clinical trial for a Zika virus vaccine**.

Halifax's **Immunovaccine**, a clinical-stage immuno-oncology company, is working to transform the way we engage human immunity to address some of the most complex and devastating diseases in today's medical landscape.

MEDTECH & MEDICAL DEVICES

With strengths in medical and diagnostic imaging, cardiovascular devices, and assistive and rehabilitative devices, Canada is one of the largest markets in the world for medical devices.

An aging global population is one of the drivers of demand for new technologies, including wearable and smart medical devices. Global leadership in AI, blockchain, data analytics and personalized medicine supports Canada's development of emerging medical technologies such as robotic surgery, telemedicine, surgical simulation, wearable and smart medical monitoring devices, and precision medicine.

CANADA: WORLD'S 8th largest MEDICAL DEVICE MARKET

LEADERS
Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg,
Toronto, Ottawa, Québec City, Halifax

CONFERENCES

International Society of Biomechanics 2019 Congress

2019
Calgary, AB

Singularity U Canada: Summit 2019

2019
Edmonton, AB

SUCCESS STORIES

Calgary's **Orpyx Medical Technologies' SI Sensory Insoles** offer remote patient monitoring to prevent diabetic foot ulcers.

Edmonton's **Sensory Motor Adaptive Rehabilitation Technology** network develops innovative **medical devices and rehabilitative interventions for people with neural injuries and diseases** such as spinal cord injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.

Winnipeg's **Precision ADM**, a global medical device company and advanced manufacturing solutions provider, CANSWAB™ nasopharyngeal swabs are the first Canadian-made COVID-19 testing product to receive Health Canada approval.

Toronto tech startup **Maple offers non-emergency health-care** by connecting patients with physicians **24/7, online or by mobile device**.

Halifax is home to **ABK Biomedical**, a medical device company dedicated to improving treatment options for patients with hypervascular tumours.

In Toronto, clinical trials are underway to validate the use of **Myant's Skiin**, a **textile-based monitoring solution**, as a medical device to usher in a new paradigm in **remote patient monitoring in health-care**.



NEUROSCIENCE

Through innovative research in centres across Canada clinicians and scientists are gaining insights into the nature of neurological diseases, mental illness, brain injuries and disorders. Their commitment to understanding the mysteries of the brain is accelerating treatments and therapies for a host of neurological challenges and helping to transform lives.

LEADERS IN NEURO RESEARCH

CERVO Brain Research Centre in Québec City, one of **Canada's leading neuroscience and mental health centres**, is focused on the root causes of brain diseases.

Researchers at the **Brain Repair Centre** in Halifax are working to **discover and develop the means to prevent, repair and reverse damage to cells and synaptic connections in the brain and spinal cord.**

SUCCESS STORIES

The **Brain and Mental Health Initiative** at the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary uses the **clot-busting drug tPA to reduce stroke treatment time from 70 minutes to 36 minutes, among the fastest in the world for stroke treatments.**

LEADERS

Calgary, Toronto, Montréal, Québec City, Halifax

CONFERENCES

Society for Neuro-Oncology Annual Meeting

2023
Vancouver, BC

PHARMACEUTICALS & BIOTECHNOLOGY

Collaboration is at the core of Canada's pharmaceutical and biotech innovation – with clinicians, academia, startups, multinationals, government, research centres and contract research organizations coming together across Canada to develop and test new treatments for some of the world's most pressing ailments.

CANADA IS THE 10th LARGEST MARKET FOR PHARMACEUTICAL SALES

LEADERS

Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montréal, Québec City, Halifax

SUCCESS STORIES

Medicago, based in Québec City, is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company specializing in the **development of new vaccines and therapeutic proteins and a world leader in the production of plant-based vaccines and antibodies.**

Charlottetown's **BioVectra** is an industry leader in microbial fermentation of both small and large molecules and offers contract development and manufacturing capacity in their scalable cGMP operations.

The **Edmonton Protocol**, developed at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, helps **patients with type 1 diabetes to become insulin independent at an unprecedented 100% success rate.**

Trudell Medical, in London, Ontario, is widely recognized as a global leader in the design and development of aerosol drug delivery devices and a force behind a **new device that revolutionizes treatments for people with chronic lung disease.**

Montréal's **ExcellThera** is a clinical-stage cell and molecular medicine company, **delivering molecules and bioengineering solutions** to expand stem and immune cells **for use in novel one-time therapies** for patients with hematologic malignancies, as well as autoimmune and other diseases.

CONFERENCES

International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology ISPE Annual Conference

2023
Halifax, NS

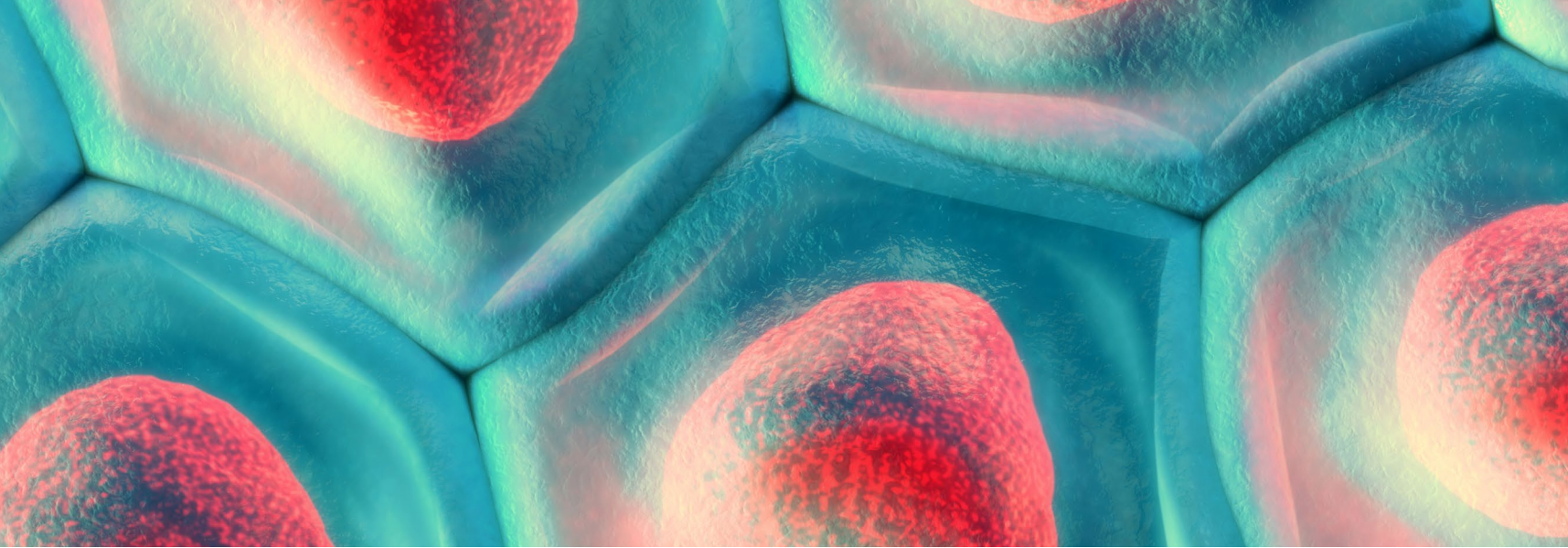
TOP 10 PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES IN THE WORLD HAVE A HOME IN CANADA



LEADING RESEARCH

The **Centre Québécois d'Innovation en Biotechnologie** is an incubator and innovation hub dedicated to strengthening entrepreneurship and innovation **in life sciences and biotechnology located in Laval, Quebec**, just outside of Montréal.

Researchers at the **Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology** at the University of Alberta in Edmonton co-developed the **world's first oral antiviral treatment for hepatitis B.**



REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

With the promise to treat, manage or cure some of the most devastating and costly diseases in the world today, the Canadian pioneers in regenerative medicine are disrupting the traditional health industries with the promise of revolutionary new cures for heart disease, diabetes, cancer and more.

160+ RESEARCHERS IN THE GREATER TORONTO REGION ARE WORKING IN REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

SUCCESS STORIES

Among the full complement of cell biology research tools in **STEMCELL Technologies' Vancouver** arsenal is **CAR T-cell therapy, a rapidly emerging immunotherapy that seeks out and destroys cancerous cells** to effectively target and treat types of leukemia.

TORONTO IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF RESEARCH IN REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

In 1961, **Toronto scientists** James Till, a biophysicist, and Ernest McCulloch, a haematologist, **published findings in Radiation Research that proved the existence of stem cells** – cells that can self-renew repeatedly for various uses. Their pioneering work continues through the researchers at the **Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine and at Toronto's Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, a world leader in stem cell research and the largest integrated cancer research, teaching and treatment centre in Canada.**

NETWORKS OF EXPERTS ACROSS CANADA

With a vision to transform the treatment of incurable diseases, the **Ontario Institute for Regenerative Medicine** is making Ontario a global leader in the development and dissemination of stem cell-based products and therapies.

The **Stem Cell Network** in Ottawa is a national non-profit that supports stem cell and regenerative medicine research, training the next generation and providing outreach across Canada.

LEADING RESEARCHERS

The Alberta Diabetes Institute in Edmonton is a **state-of-the-art facility studying islet cell** biology and physiology, plus immunology and cell therapies amongst others.

Québec City's Laboratoire d'organogénèse expérimentale **is one of the first laboratories in the world to perform organ reconstruction through tissue engineering with normal human cells.**

CONFERENCES

International Symposium,
The International Society
for Stem Cell Research

2019
Toronto, ON

LEADERS

Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa,
Montréal, Québec City

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN HEALTH

AI-assisted technologies have the power to transform health-care. Thanks to Canada's globally recognized expertise in machine learning (ML), robotics and data analytics, researchers here are working to make health-care more streamlined, efficient and personalized.

SUCCESS STORIES

A **University Health Network** AI scientist in Toronto developed a platform to **track changes in the genetic structure** of the COVID-19 virus. Before development of the COVID-19 Genotyping Tool, analysis of the virus could take up to a week. Now, using the **AI-driven platform**, this analysis takes minutes

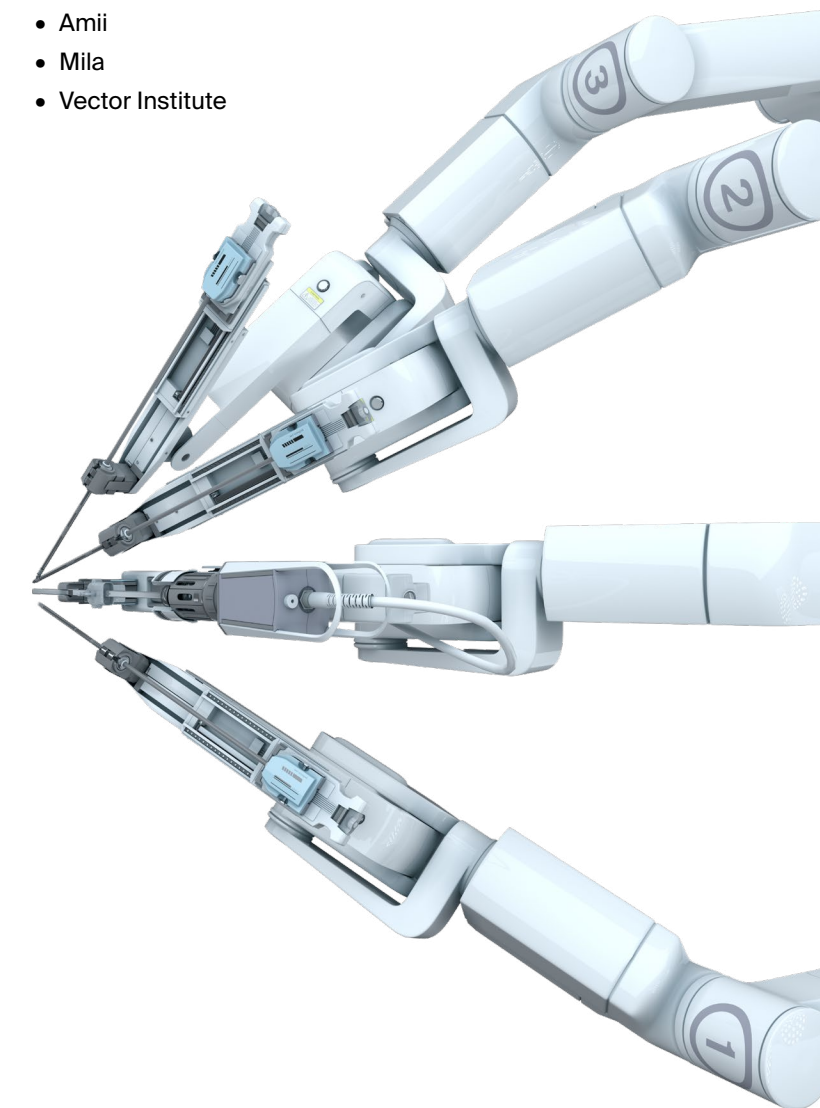
AltaML, an Edmonton software company developing AI, and doctors associated with the Oliver Primary Care Network are working with pharmaceutical giant Boehringer Ingelheim Canada Ltd. to **develop a frailty index that clinicians can use to predict chronic illnesses like diabetes, heart disease and mental health conditions.**

LEADERS

Edmonton, Toronto, Montréal

GLOBAL LEADERS IN AI

- Amii
- Mila
- Vector Institute





2021

100 Years of Insulin Discovery

COVID-19 SPOTLIGHT

Canada's research and scientific communities have been mobilized to slow – and eventually stop – the spread of the COVID-19 infection. A member of the Global Research Collaboration and Infectious Disease Preparedness consortium, Canada helps facilitate the international rapid response to infectious disease outbreaks such as COVID-19.

Canada is participating in the World Health Organization's SOLIDARITY trial, a multinational clinical trial to study possible treatment options for COVID-19.

LEADERS
Toronto, Winnipeg, Saskatoon,
Vancouver, Halifax

EARLY SUCCESSES

Vancouver-based **AbCellera** has **built the world's leading technology for antibody discovery** and is at the forefront of developing antibody-based drugs to treat and prevent COVID-19.

The **Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto is launching the Institute for Pandemics**, which will study how pandemics arise and how to mitigate their effects on health systems and economies.

Ottawa-based Auscul Sciences Canada developed a **touchless stethoscope system** that allows physicians and nurses battling COVID19 to **listen to patients' hearts and lungs from outside their rooms**.

Toronto's **Theralase Technologies**, in collaboration with the **University of Manitoba**, is researching the **development of a coronavirus vaccine and therapeutic** to be further evaluated in animal and then human **clinical testing in 2021**.

Dr. Magdy Younes (Cerebra Health/University of Manitoba) designed and built the **Winnipeg Ventilator**, which was used as the basis for commercial ventilators deployed in tens of thousands of ICUs globally during the 1990s and 2000s. The **Winnipeg Ventilator has been chosen by NGen Canada as part of the Government of Canada's response to the COVID-19 crisis**. NGen funding is enabling broadly distributed manufacturing of ventilators based on the original Winnipeg Ventilator model.

EnvisionSQ, headquartered in Guelph, just outside of Toronto, has joined the war on COVID-19, **transforming its smog-destroying traffic barrier technology into virus-crushing bulwarks**. The startup's **NanoClean product is a self-sterilizing coating that kills bacteria on contact** and can remain potent for up to a year.

Sona Nanotech, a nanotechnology life sciences firm based in Halifax, is developing a rapid, point-of-care COVID-19 antigen test.

"Diabetes in its severe form used to be a death sentence as patients either starved from the prescribed low-calorie glucose-free diet, or died of the disease's complications. This all changed when a **Canadian team of researchers discovered a treatment**. In 1921-22, at a **University of Toronto** laboratory, **Frederick Banting, Charles Best, James J.R. Macleod, and J.B. Collip** succeeded in producing extracts of pancreas that contained an effective anti-diabetic agent. They successfully tested their extract on diabetic patients at Toronto General Hospital, named it **insulin**, and presided over its development in treating innumerable patients, saving lives around the world and revolutionizing the treatment for the once fatal disease of diabetes. **It is the most celebrated Canadian medical discovery of the 20th century, winning a Nobel Prize in 1923, and stimulating further medical research in Canada.**

Arguably one of Canada's greatest contributions in the area of medical research, the discovery of insulin completely **transformed the treatment of diabetes**, saving millions of lives worldwide."

-Parks Canada, Government of Canada

Source: [Parks Canada, Government of Canada](#)



RESEARCH INSTITUTES

- Banting & Best Diabetes Centre, University of Toronto
- Alberta Diabetes Institute
- Montreal Diabetes Research Center

LEADERS
Toronto, Montréal,
Edmonton

CANADIAN RESEARCH CHAIRS (DIABETES MELLITUS)

- Dr. Vincent Poutout, University of Montreal
- Dr. Patrick MacDonald, University of Alberta
- Dr. Richard E. Gilbert, University of Toronto
- Dr. A.M. James Shapiro, University of Alberta

VANCOUVER

Multifaceted and dynamic, Vancouver is one of the most sought-after destinations for business events in Canada. It's also a rapidly growing life sciences hub where innovations in precision medicine, genomics, biotech, oncology and digital health are drawing the world's attention (and global business events). Perfectly positioned between the mountains and the sea on Canada's west coast, Vancouver is an equal distance between the established marketplaces of Europe and the booming businesses of Asia Pacific, making it a central location for conference delegates to gain a fresh perspective.

17,000
PROFESSIONALS
EMPLOYED

Source: LifeSciences BC

\$14B
IMPACT ON BRITISH
COLUMBIA'S GDP

Source: LifeSciences BC

~1,200
ORGANIZATIONS
INCLUDING
EDUCATIONAL &
RESEARCH INSTITUTES
IN VANCOUVER'S LIFE
SCIENCES INDUSTRY

Source: LifeSciences BC

17
CANADIAN RESEARCH
CHAIRS & THE LARGEST
LIFE SCIENCES INSTITUTE
IN CANADA CAN BE FOUND
AT THE LIFE SCIENCES
INSTITUTE AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH
COLUMBIA

~70%
OF BC'S LIFE SCIENCES INDUSTRY IS FOUND IN METRO
VANCOUVER

The **UBC-Broadway Corridor** (the Corridor) is the second largest business and innovation centre in British Columbia. The linkage between its health-care precinct, life sciences hub, burgeoning technology industry, and UBC's research enterprise sets the stage for significant growth in the coming decades.

Source: vancouvereconomic.com



NOTEWORTHY INNOVATIONS

Vancouver-based Augurex and its partners developed a 14-3-3 eta blood test called JOINTstat, which has been adopted by clinical labs worldwide.

Vancouver-based Prevention of Organ Failure is a non-profit organization that aims to efficiently develop blood tests to better predict, diagnose, manage and treat heart, lung and kidney disease.

SUB-SECTORS

- Biotech
- Digital health
- Genomics
- Oncology
- Pharmaceuticals
- Precision medicine

COMPANIES

- AbCellera
- Achieve Life Sciences
- Arbutus Biopharma
- Boreal Genomics
- Chinook Therapeutics
- GE Healthcare
- LightIntegra Technology
- MetaOptima
- RepliCel Life Sciences
- STEMCELL Technologies
- Symvivo
- Vitaeris
- Zymeworks

ACCELERATING INNOVATION

- Simon Fraser University
- Accel-Rx
- BCIT
- Life Sciences Institute at the University of British Columbia

Did you know...

The first transcatheter aortic valve implantation procedure in North America was performed at Vancouver's St. Paul's Hospital.

In 1955, BC Cancer launched the world's first cervical cancer screening program. In 2007, it invented an advanced form of radiation therapy now used worldwide.

In 2010, BC Cancer became the world's first agency to treat a patient based on the DNA/genomic profile of cancer. Two years later, its scientists were the first to identify 10 unique subtypes of breast cancer.

“The B.C. life sciences ecosystem continues to thrive while maintaining its world class distinction as the global leader in precision medicine, oncology, medtech, antibody and lipid nanoparticles. The life sciences sector is one of the fastest growing sectors in B.C., employing over 18,000 people and contributing \$5.5B in revenue in 2018-19. It is home to world-class research, a rich depth of scientific talent and innovative thinking generating health-care breakthroughs and patient care treatments for the most challenging of diseases. BC is proud that life sciences technology and scientific innovation is playing a critical role in the global response to COVID-19, demonstrating BC's continued strength and scientific expertise.”

Wendy Hurlburt, President and CEO, LifeSciences BC
#meetincanada

CONFERENCES

International Society of Developmental Biologists	Society for Neuro-Oncology Annual Meeting	American Society of Human Genetics
2021	2023	2026

CONFERENCE INFRASTRUCTURE

13,000
GUEST ROOMS

91,740 sq m
987,482 sq FT
TOTAL MEETING SPACE

VANCOUVER CONVENTION CENTRE
43,339 sq m
466,500 sq FT
3,250 Gala



CALGARY

With research and clinical expertise, and a critical mass of companies leading the development of innovations solving today (and tomorrow's) health challenges, Calgary's expertise in medtech, oncology, neurology and other life sciences fields is fast-attracting global business events to the city.

THERE ARE SOME 110 COMPANIES IN CALGARY'S LIFE SCIENCES SECTOR

Source: Calgary Economic Development

51% IN HEALTH IT & MEDICAL DEVICES

Source: Calgary Economic Development

The Cumming School of Medicine, Faculty of Biological Sciences and Faculty of Biomedical Engineering at the **University of Calgary** are recognized research leaders in brain and mental health, biomedical engineering, chronic diseases and cardiovascular sciences, attracting some of the best research talent from around the world.

COMPANIES

- Brightsquid
- Circle Cardiovascular Imaging
- Nanalysis
- Oncolytics Biotech
- Orpyx Medical Technologies
- Parvus Therapeutics
- PureWeb
- Syantra Diagnostics
- Willow Biosciences
- Zenith Epigenetics

ACCELERATING INNOVATION

- HATCH-YYC
- IMPACT (Integrated Management Platform to Accelerate Clinical Trials), University of Calgary
- University of Calgary Life Sciences Innovation Hub
- Alberta Health Services Tom Baker Cancer Centre



Did you know...

It is predicted that the majority of the global population will be impacted by health issues related to chronic disease, plus brain and mental health. Calgary is home to leading researchers and more than 100+ companies in these areas, putting it in a unique position to address these global health issues.

NOTEWORTHY INNOVATIONS

Syantra Diagnostics is developing a revolutionary, rapid and economical blood test to detect breast cancer that is accurate regardless of the test recipient's family history, age or tissue density.

Source: syantra.com

Parvus Therapeutics, in an agreement with Genentech, will develop Navacim™ Therapeutics for the treatment of autoimmune diseases.

Source: businesswire.com

CONFERENCES

Sigma Theta Tau International - 30th International Nursing Research Congress 2019	International Society for Quality of Life Research 29th Annual Conference 2021
International Society of Biomechanics Congress 2019	Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada – Canadian Conference on Medical Education 2022
DONA International Annual Conference 2021	

CONFERENCE INFRASTRUCTURE

15,000
GUEST ROOMS

111,484 sq m
1.3 million sq FT
TOTAL MEETING SPACE

CALGARY TELUS
CONVENTION CENTRE

11,334 sq m
122,000 sq FT
3,600 Gala

BMO CENTRE
24,619 sq m
265,000 sq FT
2,000 Gala

*expanding to 1 million sq. ft. by 2024

#meetincanada

“ There is significant opportunity for event planners to leverage Calgary's world-class research assets and clinical expertise in life sciences. The University of Calgary is a leader in brain and mental health, biomedical engineering, chronic diseases and cardiovascular research. This, along with the impressive advancements being made in digital health services by local companies such as Brightsquid, position Calgary as a leader in the life sciences field and an ideal destination for an event in this sector.”

David Woodward, Executive Director,
Meetings & Conventions Tourism Calgary

SUB-SECTORS

- Cardiovascular research
- Medical imaging/diagnostics
- Medical technology & devices
- Microbiome research
- Neurology
- Oncology

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

- University of Calgary
 - Cumming School of Medicine
 - Faculty of Biological Sciences
 - Faculty of Biomedical Engineering
- Bow Valley College School of Health & Wellness

EDMONTON

With cutting-edge research institutes, Canada's largest integrated provincial health-care system and industry leadership in pharmaceutical, biotech, diagnostics, and medtech and devices, it's easy to understand why life sciences organizations in these specialized fields are drawn to meet in Edmonton's innovation ecosystem.

WITH A CONTRIBUTION OF ALMOST \$17.5B IN OUTPUT FOR 2019, ALBERTA IS THE 3RD LARGEST OUTPUT CONTRIBUTOR TO TOTAL HEALTH SECTOR GDP IN CANADA

Source: Edmonton Economic Development/StatsCan

The **Edmonton Health City Initiative** helps entrepreneurs navigate the health innovation sector in Edmonton to advance disruptive health innovations.

Source: Edmonton Global

Noteworthy Innovations

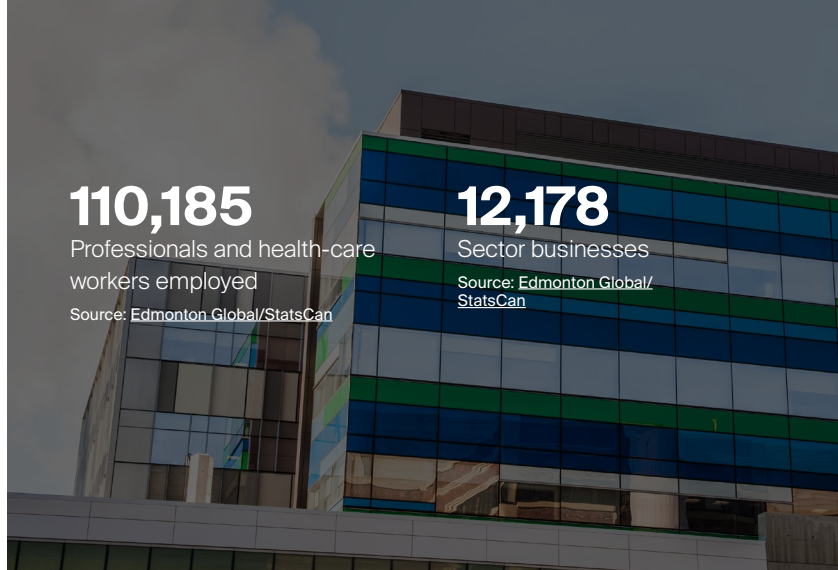
In 2020, Dr. Michael Houghton, the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Virology, at the University of Alberta, was awarded the **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his discovery of the hepatitis C virus.**

THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Alberta Health Services is Canada's first and largest province-wide, fully integrated health system. It's responsible for delivering health services to over four million Albertans through its 850 facilities, including 106 acute care hospitals.

Alberta Health Services' new \$459M eHealth system, Connect Care, integrates more than 1,300 information systems from 400 facilities across the province.*

Alberta Health Services has 13 Strategic Clinical Networks designed to bring together clinicians, researchers and innovators in such areas as cardiovascular health and stroke, addiction and mental health, and diabetes, obesity and nutrition.



110,185

Professionals and health-care workers employed
Source: Edmonton Global/StatsCan

12,178

Sector businesses
Source: Edmonton Global/StatsCan

RESEARCH INSTITUTES

- Alberta Cardiovascular and Stroke Research Centre
- Alberta Diabetes Institute
- Canadian VIGOUR Centre
- Cross Cancer Institute
- Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital
- Lois Hole Hospital for Women
- Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute
- Metabolomics Innovation Centre
- Northern Alberta Clinical Trials and Research Centre

SUB-SECTORS

- AI in health
- Biotech
- Cardiology
- Diagnostics technology
- Health research
- Medtech & devices
- Pharmaceuticals

By harnessing innovation, the Alberta Innovation Corridor is becoming a global leader in life sciences amongst a host of other industries.

CROSS CANCER INSTITUTE

The Cross Cancer Institute is the comprehensive cancer centre for northern Alberta, and is one of two tertiary cancer centres in the province. It is a lead centre for the province-wide prevention, research and treatment program. Key cities in Alberta include Edmonton and Calgary.

* Source: albertahealthservices.ca

“As one of Canada's health cities, Edmonton is a medical research powerhouse. With our expertise in health and life sciences, our unique strength in AI and our robust innovation ecosystem, we consistently break barriers. Edmonton offers world-class medical facilities, post-secondary institutions and AI capabilities that are breathing new life into the industry worldwide.”

Anna Look, Director, Meetings, Incentive, Conventions and Exhibitions, Explore Edmonton

COMPANIES

- Akshaya Bio
- Chenomx
- DrugBank
- Entos Pharmaceuticals
- IMBiotechnologies
- Innovative Trauma Care
- MEDO AI
- Metabolomic Technologies
- Rehabatronics
- Tevosol

ACCELERATING INNOVATION

- Alberta Centre for Advanced MNT Products
- Alberta Innovates Health Solutions
- Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute
- Applied Pharmaceutical Innovation
- BioAlberta
- Genome Alberta
- Northern Alberta Clinical Trials and Research Centre
- ST Innovations
- TEC Edmonton Health Accelerator

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

- Athabasca University
- Concordia University of Edmonton
- MacEwan University
- Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
- Norquest College
- University of Alberta

#meetincanada

CONFERENCES

Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors: Annual Education Conference

| 2023

Canadian College of Health Leaders: National Health Leadership Conference

| 2024



CONFERENCE INFRASTRUCTURE

12,738
TOTAL GUEST ROOMS

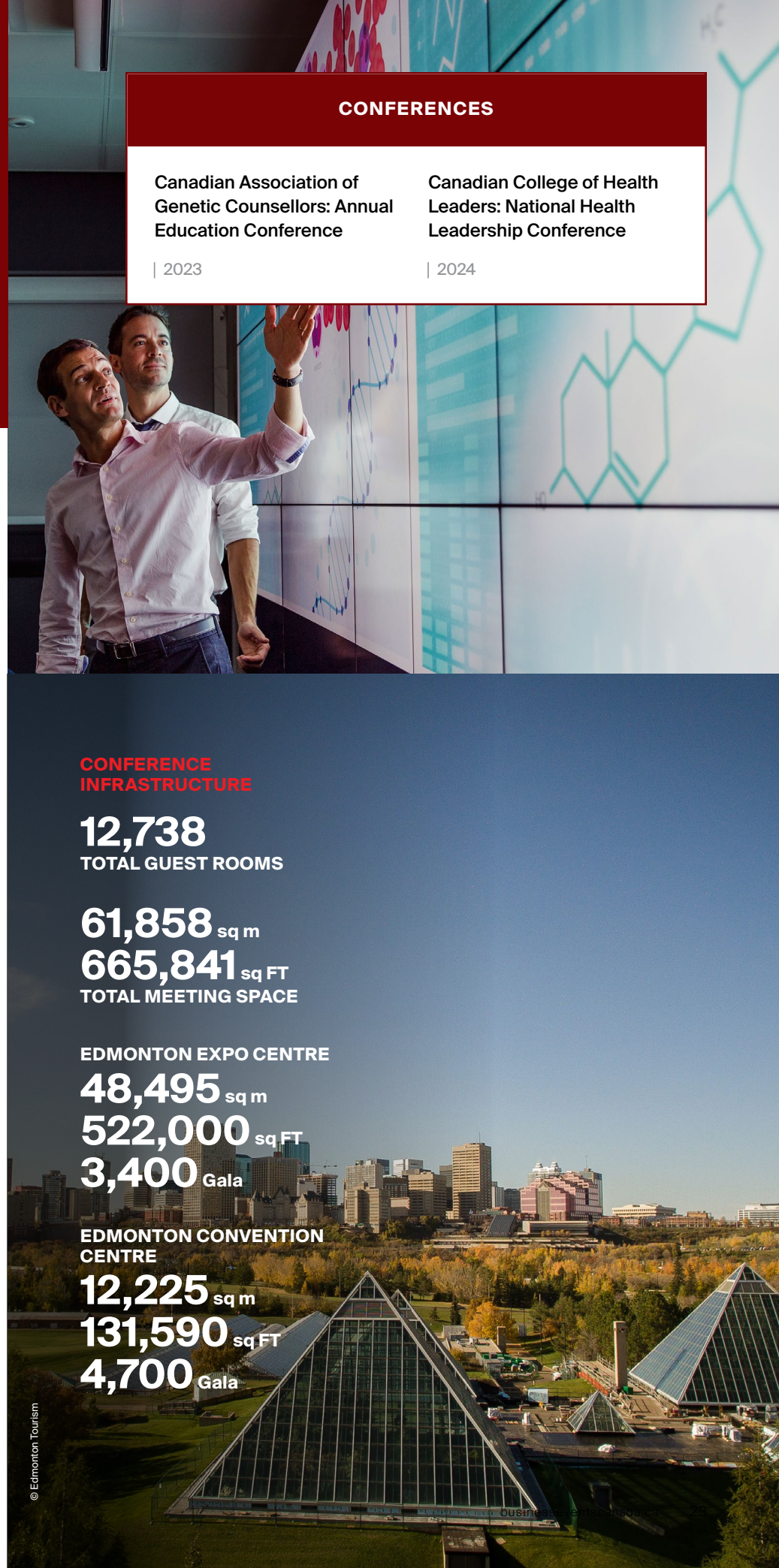
61,858 sq m
665,841 sq FT
TOTAL MEETING SPACE

EDMONTON EXPO CENTRE

48,495 sq m
522,000 sq FT
3,400 Gala

EDMONTON CONVENTION CENTRE

12,225 sq m
131,590 sq FT
4,700 Gala



SASKATOON

Home to leading researchers solving global health issues, Saskatoon has built a reputation as a world leader in infectious disease and vaccine research, biotech and human/animal health sciences. Saskatoon is the beating heart of Saskatchewan culture and scientific innovation, and conference organizers can count on a warm reception when the red carpet is rolled out in this Prairie city.

Saskatoon is a global leader in nuclear sciences and medicine research thanks to the work being done at the **Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation**.

Source: steda.com

RESEARCH CENTERS

- Canadian Light Source Synchrotron
- Innovation Place Saskatoon
- University of Saskatchewan
- VIDO-InterVac

Source: steda.com

COMPANIES

- Canadian Isotope Innovations Corporation

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

- Saskatchewan Polytechnic
- St. Thomas More College
- St. Andrew's College
- University of Saskatchewan

CONFERENCES

World Indigenous People's Conference on Viral Hepatitis 2022	11th International Conference on Isotopes 2022	CanSAGE 5 - Canadian Society for the Advancement of Gynecologic Excellence 2022
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© Tourism Saskatoon/Greg Hulszar

ACCELERATING INNOVATION

- Genome Prairie
- The Saskatchewan Research Council
- The Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization - International Vaccine Centre, one of Canada's few biosafety containment level 3 (CL3) facilities.
- Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation

SUB-SECTORS

- Biotech research
- Infectious diseases research
- Patient-oriented medicine
- Reproductive health
- Telerobotics

“From being the only city in the western hemisphere to have both a synchrotron and cyclotron, to VIDO-InterVac being the first in Canada to isolate the COVID-19 virus and establish an animal model for testing, Saskatoon is small but extremely mighty when it comes to research, innovation and world firsts within the life sciences sector.”

Candace Schierling, Director of Business Development, Tourism Saskatoon

Did you know...

The Saskatchewan Centre for Cyclotron Sciences is a unique-in-Canada class II nuclear facility, featuring a high-energy cyclotron, radiopharmaceutical production facility and radiochemistry laboratories.

Radioisotopes produced by the cyclotron are being used in research that includes exploring new cancer treatments and understanding how Parkinson's disease develops.

CONFERENCE INFRASTRUCTURE

5,286
TOTAL GUEST ROOMS

74,322 sq m
800,000 sq FT
TOTAL MEETING SPACE

TCU PLACE
9,662 sq m
104,000 sq FT
1,424 Gala

PRAIRIELAND PARK TRADE & CONVENTION CENTRE
22,296 sq m
240,000 sq FT
2,880 Gala

WINNIPEG

In Canada's heartland, this cosmopolitan midwestern city boasts a thriving community of life sciences researchers, institutes and businesses specializing in biotech, medical devices and pharmaceutical advancements.

1,100+
UNIVERSITY GRADUATES
FROM PROGRAMS
SUPPORTING THE
INDUSTRY IN 2019

Source: Tourism Winnipeg

29
RESEARCH CENTRES
SPECIALIZING IN HUMAN
& ANIMAL HEALTH,
& NUTRACEUTICALS

SUB-SECTORS

- Biotech
- Infectious disease research
- Medical devices
- Nutraceuticals
- Pharmaceuticals

Source: Tourism Winnipeg

COMPANIES

- Arxium
- Bausch Health
- BOMImed
- Cerebra Health
- Cubresa
- Emergent Biosolutions
- Kane Biotech
- Precision ADM

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

- University of Manitoba
- University of Winnipeg
- University of St. Boniface

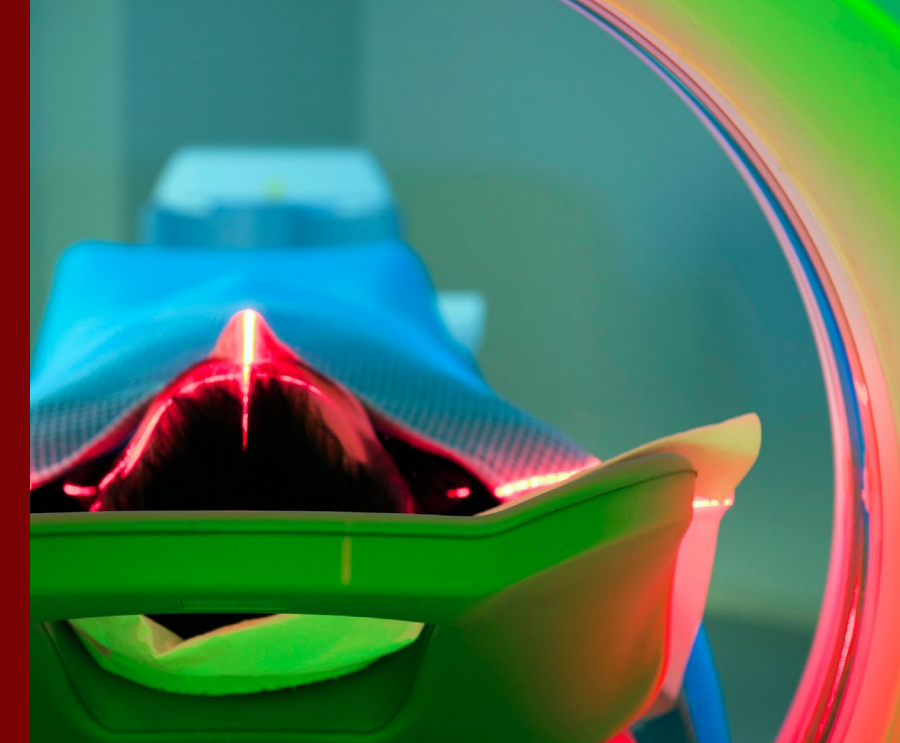
ACCELERATING INNOVATION

- CancerCare Manitoba Research Institute
- Chronic Disease Innovation Centre
- Genome Prairie
- Health Sciences Centre
- National Research Council
- St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre
- Public Health Agency of Canada



“With a total of 1,357 participants at CCME, Winnipeg graciously opened our arms in greeting our delegates with friendly staff, rich culture and of course an amazing culinary scene. Our attendees also got the chance to visit the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, a must-see when in Winnipeg. The passion local Winnipeggers have for their city is refreshing, and is exciting to witness. Thank you for sharing your city with us!”

Mia Huysmans, Conference Assistant, Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada Canadian Conference on Medical Education



CONFERENCES

Diabetes Canada/Canadian Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism

| 2019

Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians – Annual Scientific Conference

| 2021

Conference Infection Prevention and Control Canada – National Education Conference

| 2021

Canadian Physiotherapy Association

| 2022

NOTEWORTHY INNOVATIONS

Researchers at the **Albrechtsen Research Centre** are leading groundbreaking studies on women's heart health and cardiovascular risk.

Winnipeg's **Kane Biotech** is commercializing a wound gel treatment for the human health market.

Researchers at the **Chronic Disease Innovation Centre** have developed a simple and reliable tool that is now the global standard for predicting kidney failure.

Source: changinghealthcaredelivery.ca

Background on the Kidney Failure Risk Equation Study: news.umanitoba.ca

CONFERENCE INFRASTRUCTURE

7,100
TOTAL GUEST ROOMS

56,000 sq m
604,000 sq FT
TOTAL MEETING SPACE

RBC CONVENTION CENTRE

24,526 sq m
264,000 sq FT
9,000 Gala



TORONTO

One of the world's leading life sciences hubs, Toronto's researchers are pioneering regenerative medicine, oncology, neuroscience and medical imaging, among other health advancements. Toronto's collaborative and connected life sciences ecosystem is just one of the many reasons global organizations host their events in Toronto.

36,000
EMPLOYED

Source: Toronto Global

\$2B
IS CONTRIBUTED TO THE
CITY'S ECONOMY BY LIFE
SCIENCES

Source: toronto.ca

>50%
OF THE WORLD'S TOP
100 LIFE SCIENCES
COMPANIES OPERATE IN
THE TORONTO REGION

Source: Toronto Global

160+
RESEARCHERS IN THE TORONTO REGION ARE WORKING
IN THE FIELD OF REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Source: torontoglobal.ca

The Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine recently opened the Centre for Cell and Vector Production, a GMP facility to manufacture clinical-grade cells for phase 1 and 2 trials.

Did you know...

Researchers at Toronto start-up **Deep Genomics** are successfully using AI to identify genetic mutations and speed the study of drug candidates for rare diseases.

NOTEWORTHY INNOVATIONS

InteraXon developed brainwave-sensing technology for applications like the Muse meditation headband.



COMPANIES

- Amgen
- AstraZeneca
- Blue Rock Therapeutics
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Johnson & Johnson
- Leo Pharma
- McKesson
- Pfizer
- Roche
- Sanofi Pasteur

SUB-SECTORS

- AI in life sciences
- Biopharmaceuticals
- Health research
- Imaging & medical devices
- Neuroscience
- Oncology
- Pharmaceuticals
- Regenerative medicine/stem cell research

“ We wanted to emphasize the translational stage of stem cell biology at the meeting, and chose the perfect venue. Toronto is a city that really embraces diversity and innovation.”

Robert Deans, PHD, Chief Innovation Officer at BlueRock Therapeutics and member of the Toronto Organizing Committee for 2019 International Symposium of the International Society for Stem Cell Research

CONFERENCE INFRASTRUCTURE

36,000
TOTAL GUEST ROOMS

OVER **3.2** MILLION SQ FT OF MEETING AND EXHIBITION SPACE AT FOUR MAJOR CONVENTION CENTRES:

- Metro Toronto Convention Centre
- Exhibition Place
- The International Centre
- Toronto Congress Centre

METRO TORONTO CONVENTION CENTRE

55,741 sq m
600,000 sq FT
4,470 Gala



ACCELERATING INNOVATION

- Biomedical Zone
- BlueLine Bioscience
- Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine
- J Labs
- MaRS Innovation
- Triphase Accelerator Corporation
- Wearable, Interactive and Mobile Technology Access Centre in Health

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

- George Brown University
- Humber College
- Ryerson University
- University of Toronto
- York University

CONFERENCES

Society of
Interventional
Radiology

| 2022

American Society for
Surgery of the Hand

| 2023

American College of
Medical Genetics and
Genomics

| 2024

American Association
of Clinical
Endocrinologists

| 2025

OTTAWA

With its world-class R&D capability, Ottawa is a thriving centre of discovery, development and commercialization in life sciences. Thanks to its world-leading medical discoveries in cardiology, oncology, biopharmaceuticals, eHealth and medical devices, the city attracts events dedicated to the advancement of health from across the globe.

**6,500
EMPLOYED**

Source: Invest Ottawa

**130+
COMPANIES**

Source: Invest Ottawa

OTTAWA IS HOME TO 6,400 HEALTH RESEARCHERS WITHIN TWO UNIVERSITIES AND SIX HOSPITAL INSTITUTES, AND IS HOME TO THREE LIFE SCIENCES NETWORKS

**5
OF CANADA'S TOP 40
HOSPITAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTIONS ARE
LOCATED IN OTTAWA**

Source: Invest in Ottawa

SUB-SECTORS

- Cardiology
- Health research
- Medtech
- Oncology
- Regenerative medicine

COMPANIES

- Abbott Point of Care
- Boston Scientific
- Evidence Partners
- Fullscript
- IQVIA
- Nordion
- OraSure Technologies
- Sivantos
- Spartan Bioscience
- Thermo Fisher Scientific
- Turnstone Biologics
- VBI Vaccines

ACCELERATING INNOVATION

- Bruyère Research Institute
- CHEO Research Institute
- Institute du Savoir Montfort
- The Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
- The Royal Institute of Mental Health Research
- University of Ottawa Heart Institute



Did you know...

Ottawa has the only GMP biosafety level 2 (BSL-2) facility compliant with European and US standards to manufacture viral vectors in Canada.

NOTEWORTHY INNOVATIONS

The Ottawa Hospital and University of Ottawa researchers conducted the first made-in-Canada CAR-T cell clinical trial. CAR-T therapy uses patients' own genetically engineered immune cells to attack their cancers.

Source: ohri.ca

Spartan Bioscience has invented the world's smallest DNA analyzer that will provide results in less than 45 minutes. Using PCR chemistry to create copies of sample DNA, the Cube's optical system detects increased fluorescence and algorithms automatically generate test results. The Spartan Cube is currently being used in precision medicine and environmental water safety.

CONFERENCES

Society for Hip Arthroscopy

| 2021

International Congress on Infant Studies

| 2022

International Society for Paediatric Oncology

| 2023

CONFERENCE INFRASTRUCTURE

**10,000
TOTAL GUEST ROOMS**

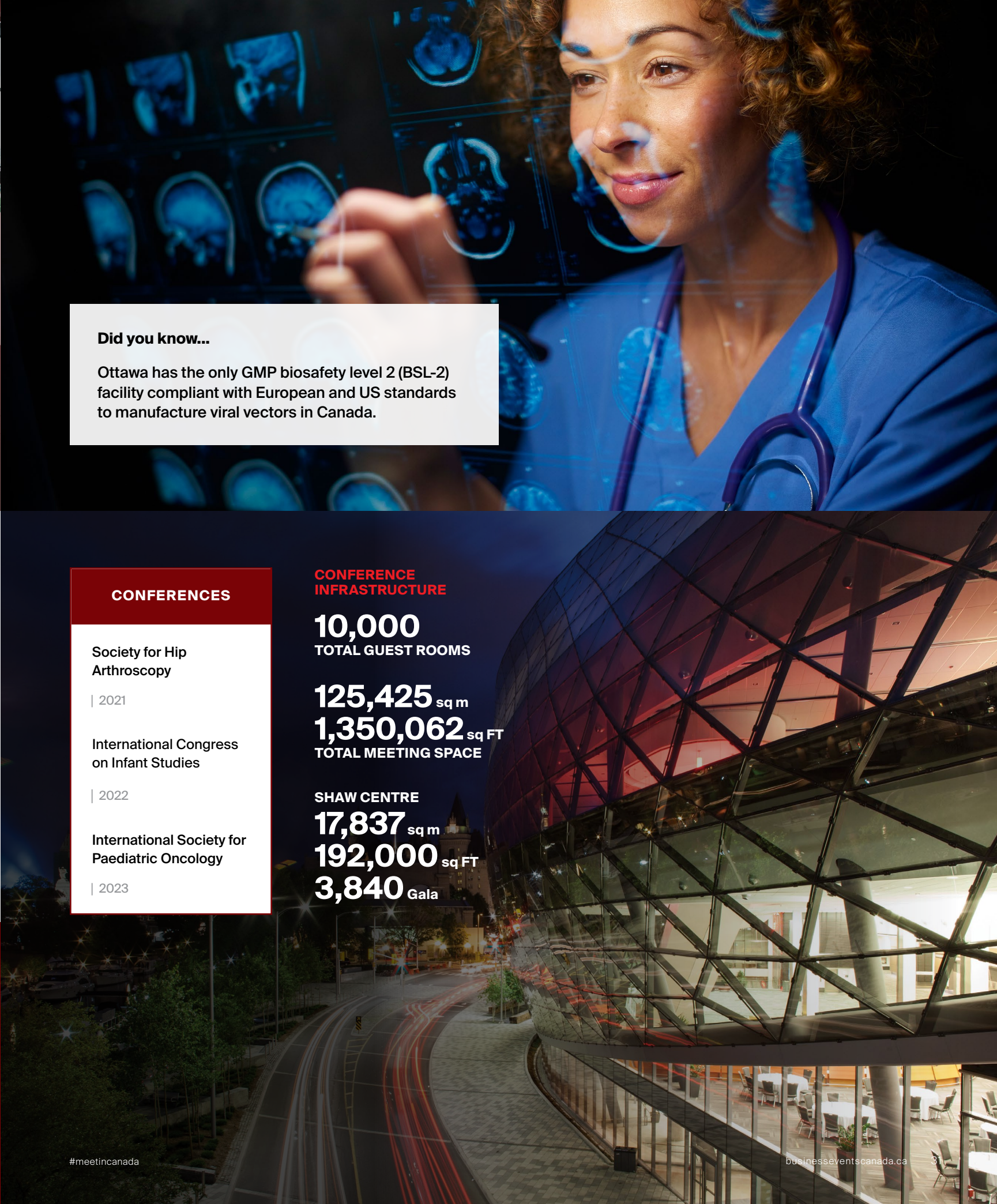
**125,425 sq m
1,350,062 sq FT
TOTAL MEETING SPACE**

SHAW CENTRE

**17,837 sq m
192,000 sq FT
3,840 Gala**

“The destination plays a major role when people are choosing which conference to attend, so we're excited about coming to Ottawa to take advantage of the scientific expertise.”

Perry Gil-Ryan, Director of Client Accounts at Kenes Group, PCO for International Society for Paediatric Oncology



MONTREAL

An interconnected innovation centre and one of North America's most influential life sciences centres, Montréal consistently ranks at the top of conference organizers' lists. Some of the world's most prominent life scientists are established here, conducting research, trialling new treatments and advancing patient care in neuroscience, cardiology, oncology and AI for health.

THERE ARE 56,000 EMPLOYEES IN QUEBEC, OF WHICH ABOUT 80% ARE LOCATED IN GREATER MONTREAL

Source: Tourisme Montréal

650 COMPANIES

Source: Tourisme Montréal

1st IN CANADA FOR R&D INVESTMENT & RESEARCH CENTRES IN LIFE SCIENCES

Source: Tourisme Montréal

RESEARCH INSTITUTES

- Le Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal
- The CHU SAINTE-JUSTINE Mother and Child University Hospital Center
- The Montréal Heart Institute (Université de Montréal)
- The Montréal Neurological Institute-Hospital (McGill University)
- The Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre

COMPANIES

- Bausch Health
- Caprion Biosciences
- Cirion Biopharma Research
- Imagia
- Medtronic
- MERCK
- Novartis
- Nuchem Therapeutics
- Pfizer
- Telus Health

NOTEWORTHY INNOVATIONS

Montréal's leadership in AI is helping shape life sciences. The Transmedtech Institute supports the accelerated development of next-generation medical technologies.



“The life sciences sector is tightly knit in the province of Quebec and especially in Montréal. The spirit of collaboration that reigns there is remarkable. We are familiar with the process of having very different companies (industrial, academic research, government, etc.) work together to attain common goals. It is this mindset that made the organization of the event ‘EFFERVESCENT: The Future of Life Sciences’ possible and such a great collective success.”

Frank Béraud, Chief Executive Officer, Montréal InVivo

ACCELERATING INNOVATION

Montréal InVivo, the life sciences and health technologies cluster, is a catalyst for innovation in oncology, cardiology, neuroscience and beyond.

The first of its kind in Canada, the BioHub provides state-of-the-art dry and wet laboratories to help develop successful products based on scientific discoveries and ideas.

The University of Montréal Hospital Research Centre is one of the largest hospital-based research centres in North America.

SUB-SECTORS

- AI in health
- Biotech
- Cardiology
- Neurosciences
- Metabolic diseases
- Oncology
- Pharmaceuticals

Did you know...

The Université de Montréal and Le Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM) announced the creation of the first school of applied AI in the health field originating from a francophone milieu.

CONFERENCES

World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioprocessing; Biotechnology Innovation Organization

| 2021

Annual Meeting and Exhibition Canadian Ophthalmological Society

| 2023

American Society of Human Genetics – Annual meeting

| 2026, 2031

CONFERENCE INFRASTRUCTURE

27,000
TOTAL GUEST ROOMS

92,903 sq m
1,000,000 sq FT
TOTAL MEETING SPACE

PALAIS DES CONGRÈS DE MONTREAL CONVENTION CENTRE

51,280 sq m
551,520 sq FT
3,240 Gala

*Source: Montréal international sector brochures

#meetincanada

QUÉBEC CITY

Home of world-renowned research centres in biotech and neurology, Québec City, the cradle of North America's French civilization, leads in the biopharmaceutical, medtech and natural health product sectors. A hub for vaccine R&D, the city is a natural draw for life science events, offering access to some of the world's greatest minds in life sciences.

9,200
JOBS

Source: Québec International

121
COMPANIES

Source: Québec International

\$1.3B
ANNUAL REVENUE

Source: Québec International

QUÉBEC CITY BOASTS 84
R&D CENTERS, CHAIRS &
RESEARCH LABORATORIES

Source: Québec International

COMPANIES

- BD Diagnostics
- B-Temia Human augmentation
- Feldan Therapeutics
- Icentia
- Lucas Meyer Cosmetics by IFF
- Medicago
- Meridian Biosciences/ GenePOC
- PetalMD
- SiliCycle
- Steris
- Syneos Health

NOTEWORTHY INNOVATIONS

Québec City's GenePOC developed a simple and integrated portable instrument that can prevent and detect disease early on using a unique centripetal technology platform.

Bodycad is a Québec City company revolutionizing the world of orthopedics with its proprietary software and orthopedic solutions designed for each person's unique needs.

By automating the delivery of oxygen to patients, **Oxynov**, based in Québec City, is preparing to create a revolution in health-care with its device developed at the Institut universitaire de cardiologie et de pneumologie de Québec (IUCPQ).

The Research Centre at **IUCPQ** has made an important step forward in the strategy to prevent *Clostridium difficile* (C-difficile) infections by using DNA analysis technology to reduce the time it takes to detect microbes from 48 hours to just one hour.

Source: Québec City Business Destination

SUB-SECTORS

- Biotech
- Cosmeceuticals
- Digital health
- Infectious diseases research
- Medtech
- Nutraceuticals



Did you know...

Université Laval is ranked among the top 10 research universities in Canada.

Source: Quebec International

“In 2018, I organized an international symposium on macrocyclic and supramolecular chemistry, a highly specialized meeting [in Québec City]. It's easy to travel within the city. You arrive at the airport and in 20 minutes you're at the hotel. Everything is close by, it's so easy to go around and enjoy the city. I got tons of comments from participants saying that anytime I want to organize a meeting in Québec City, they'll come back.”

Normand Voyer, Research professor, Université Laval

ACCELERATING INNOVATION

- CERVO Brain Research Centre
- Laboratoire d'organogénèse expérimentale
- Québec Heart and Lung University Institute
- Université Laval Hospital Research Centre
- Université Laval Infectious Disease Research Centre
- Université Laval Laval University's L'Oréal Innovation & Research Chair in Digital Biology

CONFERENCES

American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine 75th Annual Meeting

| 2021

Canadian Cardiovascular Congress

| 2021

23rd International Symposium on Fluorine Chemistry and 9th International Symposium on Fluorous Technologies

| 2021

CONFERENCE INFRASTRUCTURE

17,250
TOTAL GUEST ROOMS

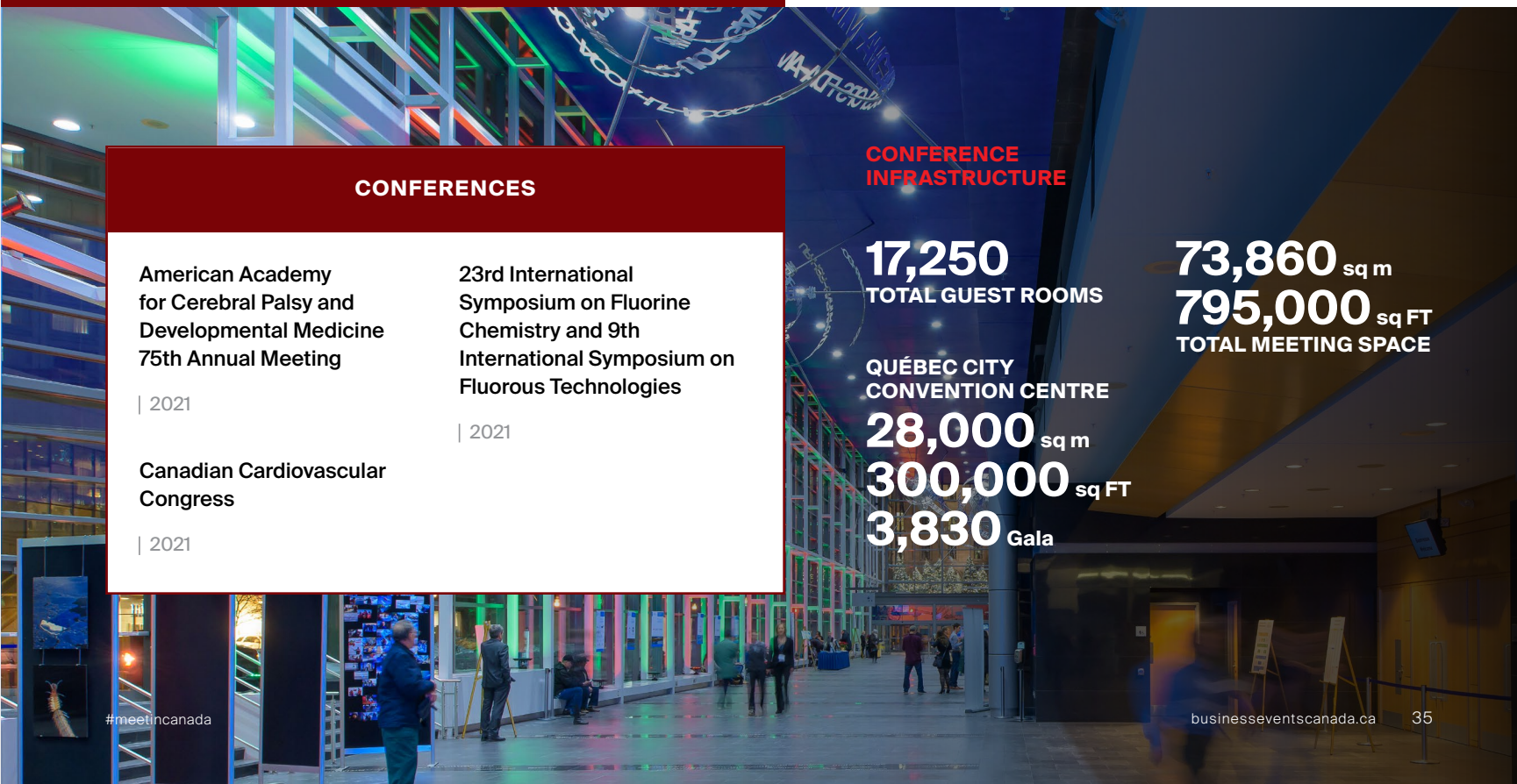
QUÉBEC CITY
CONVENTION CENTRE

28,000 sq m
300,000 sq FT
3,830 Gala

73,860 sq m
795,000 sq FT
TOTAL MEETING SPACE

“We have had marvellous collaborations with many event partners. We couldn't have pulled it off without the Québec City's Ambassadors' Club and Québec City Convention Centre.”

Denis Laurendeau, Professor, Université Laval
Co-organizer of the International Conference on 3D Vision



HALIFAX

With world-renowned research institutions, a growing startup community and established leadership in life sciences, Halifax's diversified neurology, diagnostics and biotechnology sectors help attract a host of health-related business events and talent to the region.

22,000+
EMPLOYED IN THE LIFE SCIENCES SECTOR PROVINCE-WIDE IN FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL, POST-SECONDARY, & PRIVATE SECTOR INSTITUTIONS

Source: Nova Scotia Business Inc.

1,500
BUSINESSES

\$300M
ANNUAL REVENUES

Source: Nova Scotia Business Inc.

RESEARCH INSTITUTES

- BIOTIC (BIOmedical Translational Imaging Centre)
- Brain Repair Centre
- Canadian Center for Vaccinology
- Dalhousie University
- IWK Health Centre
- QEII Health Sciences Centre

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

- Dalhousie University
- Mount Saint Vincent University
- Nova Scotia Community College
- Saint Mary's University

CONFERENCES

International Council of Nurses ICN Nurse Practitioners/Advanced Practice Nursing Network

| 2021

World Muscle Society Conference

| 2021

International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology ISPE Annual Conference

| 2021

ACCELERATING INNOVATION

BioNova, the industry association for life sciences companies in Nova Scotia, leads, accelerates and advocates for the province's growing health and life sciences sector.

Creative Destruction Lab Atlantic, a seed-stage program for massively scalable, science-based companies, leverages Dalhousie University's world-class research expertise in bioproducts and other technologies.

Innovacorp is Nova Scotia's early-stage venture capital organization that helps startups start and scale, with a focus on tech, life sciences, cleantech and oceantech.

COMPANIES

- Appili Therapeutics
- IMV Inc (Immunovaccine)
- Nature's Way
- Precision Biologic
- Spring Loaded Technologies

The Brain Repair Centre researchers are shedding light on the mysteries of the brain and nervous system:

- Discovering how our nervous system develops, wires itself and functions to enable us to learn, remember, see, grasp objects with the right amount of force and move in coordinated ways
- Learning how the brain and nervous system react to such stressors as lack of sleep, chemical insults, strokes and traumatic injuries — and finding ways to protect against and recover from disruption and damage
- Uncovering how genetics, environmental influences and other factors contribute to neurodevelopmental, neurodegenerative and psychiatric disorders, and devising means of early detection, diagnosis and treatment to minimize the impact on people's lives
- Pioneering new technologies and approaches in terms of diagnostic tests, surgical procedures, medical treatments, disease-management protocols, rehabilitation programs and other therapeutic interventions

“Life sciences conference organizers will find Halifax home to a major medical complex, university research facilities, a broad talent pool, incubators and established companies that combine into a unique ecosystem. Expertise in areas such as cancer care, medical technologies, natural health products, bioproducts, pharmaceuticals, vaccines and brain repair make Halifax Canada's East Coast life sciences hub.”

Jeff Nearing, Vice President, Sales, Discover Halifax

NOTEWORTHY INNOVATIONS

The Canadian Centre for Vaccinology (CCFV) at Dalhousie University developed Canada's first COVID-19 vaccine approved for trial.

BlueLight Analytics, founded out of Dalhousie University in 2009, uses data to make dental practices run as efficiently as possible.

Source: halifaxpartnership.com

Appili Therapeutics matches novel drug development programs with clearly defined patient needs in infectious diseases.

Source: halifaxpartnership.com

Immunovaccine, a clinical-stage immuno-oncology company, is working to transform the way we engage human immunity to address some of the most complex and devastating diseases in today's medical landscape, including COVID-19.

Source: halifaxpartnership.com

Sona Nanotech, a nanotechnology life sciences firm, is developing a rapid, point-of-care COVID-19 antigen test.

Halifax is home to **ABK Biomedical**, a medical device company dedicated to improving treatment options for patients with hypervascular tumours.

Source: abkbiomedical.com

SUB-SECTORS

- Digital health
- Medtech
- Neurology
- Nutraceuticals
- Pharmaceuticals



CONFERENCE INFRASTRUCTURE

5,400
TOTAL GUEST ROOMS

64,475 sq m
694,000 sq FT
TOTAL MEETING SPACE

HALIFAX CONVENTION CENTRE

11,148 sq m
120,000 sq FT
2,000 Gala

CHARLOTTETOWN

Canada's smallest province is big on island hospitality. With a growing life sciences sector focused on drug discovery, nutraceuticals, wearable medtech, microbial fermentation and more, it's easy to connect with innovators, thought leaders and islanders alike.

1,900
EMPLOYED

Source: PEI BioAlliance

60
COMPANIES

Source: PEI BioAlliance

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

- Holland College
 - Centre for Applied Science and Technology
- University of Prince Edward Island
 - Centre for Health and Community Research
 - Duffy Research Centre

SUB-SECTORS

- Nutraceuticals
- Pharmaceuticals
- Diagnostics

National recognition with the award of a Centre of Excellence for the Commercialization of Research (\$14M). Natural Products Canada is a National center with nodes across the country. The award of these highly competitive funds to a PEI based entity demonstrates the wealth of expertise, collaborative abilities, and drive to grow the natural products sector in Canada.

Source: PEI BioAlliance

“Our life sciences ecosystem continues to exceed expectations. When you combine our regional bioscience leadership with PEI's cultural and culinary attractions and experiences and our warm, island welcome, it's easy to understand why life sciences organizations choose to host their conferences, symposia and incentive reward events in Charlottetown.”

Susan Freeman, Executive Director,
Meetings & Conventions Prince Edward Island



NOTEWORTHY INNOVATIONS

Affinity Immuno provides high-quality R&D support services for biological drug discovery – specializing in antibodies, antibody lead discovery, protein engineering and assay development for novel targets for cancer and autoimmune diseases as well as endocrine disorders.

BioTraceIT™ focuses on novel technologies at the cutting edge of wearable health-care to quantify pain.

BioVectra is an industry leader in microbial fermentation, focused on contract manufacturing and product development of active pharmaceutical ingredients, pharmaceutical intermediates and bio-reagents.

GRW Laboratories is a pharmaceutical research organization that specializes in the PEGylation of small molecules for medicinal development.

Somru BioScience is a biotechnology company focused on specialized reagent and technology, with research, diagnostic and therapeutic applications in drug development.

COMPANIES

- Affinity Immuno
- AlphaCognition Inc.
- BioTraceIT
- BioVectra
- Nutracelle
- RPS Biologiques
- Sekisui Diagnostics
- Somru Bioscience

CONFERENCE INFRASTRUCTURE

1500
TOTAL GUEST ROOMS

18,116 sq m
195,000 sq FT
TOTAL MEETING SPACE

PEI CONVENTION CENTRE

4,645 sq m
50,000 sq FT
1,344 Gala

Did you know...

PEI Bioscience Cluster includes over 50 bioscience companies and seven research institutions, and is home to Natural Products Canada, North America's first business accelerator dedicated to the commercialization of products and technologies based on natural product chemistry.



Did you know...

The Canadian Alliance for Skills and Training in Life Sciences (CASTL) is a first-of-its-kind partnership between academia, industry and government to address the future skills needs of the Canadian life sciences sector.

Led by the PEI BioAlliance, along with partners Acadia University, Holland College, Université de Moncton, University of Prince Edward Island, BioTalent Canada, the National Research Council and numerous industry partners, CASTL offers multiple applied learning streams and pathways for individuals to acquire the academic knowledge, and technical and professional skills to have a successful career in life sciences.

ACCELERATING INNOVATION

- EmerGence
- PEI BioAlliance
- Natural Products Canada Inc.

CONFERENCES

NeuroConX

| 2018

WHY CANADA FOR LIFE SCIENCES CONFERENCES?



Leadership across the spectrum of life sciences industries not only makes Canada a competitor on the world stage, but an innovation leader. **Business events, like life sciences, accelerate progress and provide a platform for a year's worth of business to take place over the course of just a few days.** Such events lead to the innovation and reinvention so critical to the economic recovery of businesses and the communities in which they operate and meet.



Business events are **a fundamental source of learning, research and information sharing** – all critical to the advancement of technologies. While business events may drive knowledge sharing and engagement, purposeful collaboration is a hallmark of Canadian culture. **The strides being made in research and technological advancements are collectively reshaping the future of global business.** Organizations that meet here gain access to Canadian industry and thought leadership through business-to-business exchanges, hosted innovation tours and the sharing of best practices.



With over 650 AI startups and some of the world's brightest minds in the field, Canada is a natural draw for business events in this sector. **Business events allow communities of researchers, entrepreneurs and others to come together in one place at one time.** Prime conference locations like Montréal, Toronto and Edmonton offer global life sciences communities opportunities to explore Canada's innovation ecosystems on technical tours, through B2B exchanges and at networking events.



Advancements in modern medicine – from medical treatments to medical technologies – **are discussed, debated and debuted at business events annually. International business events are magnets for content-hungry individuals and for those with investment resources.**



Impressed by Canadian infrastructure, talent and ready access to key markets, **the largest medtech and pharmaceutical companies in the world are expanding or relocating to Canada to conduct research and manufacture their products.** These local subject-matter experts can enhance your speaker schedule and help champion your event to grow your membership and revenues.



Canada is committed to fighting emerging infectious diseases and offers solutions for governments, health-care and the communities they serve. Innovation hubs in Saskatoon, Montréal, Winnipeg and Québec City offer conference organizers plenty of opportunities to connect with Canadian innovators to create compelling events.



Events of all kinds (exhibits, conferences and festivals) **feed every industry, connecting supply with demand and people with each other.** As these events grow, so do regional economies.



The architects of modern medicine live, work and conduct research here. **Canada's leadership in data analytics and AI in health are fuelled by the research being done at organizations like the Vector Institute, Amii, Mila, OIRM, VIDO-InterVac, Université Laval and others.** Such depth of knowledge not only helps draw internationally renowned conferences to Canada, but it also helps to build and maintain productive networks that can generate economic benefits for organizers, host industry champions and host destinations.



Business events have the power to inspire the next generation, fuelling discovery and innovation. Today's advancements in remote medicine, robotic surgery, wearable technologies for health monitoring and studies in One Health systems will transform patient care in the coming years. Many of **the emerging technologies, therapies and treatments driving the life sciences industry forward are being developed in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montréal, Québec City, Halifax and Charlottetown** – coincidentally some of Canada's most sought-after locations for conferences and incentive reward events.



As emerging ML technology makes **robotic surgery** more accessible, organizers are looking to innovation and cultural leaders like Montréal, Toronto and Edmonton to host global events. **Such events become the launch pad or testing ground for new technologies,** creating real-time feedback from top users for companies.



Around the world researchers and corporations are putting AI to work to understand the COVID-19 pandemic. Technologies developed in medtech leaders like Toronto, Saskatoon, Québec City and Vancouver **create unique opportunities for cross-industry or cross-institution collaboration by spotlighting innovation during events hosted here.** In Canada, inclusion is more than a way of doing business – it's a way of life.



The core technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, such as big data, cloud computing, IoT and blockchain are being deployed across Canada to modernize supply chains. Such future-focused technologies are being developed in health-care innovation hubs like **Québec City, Edmonton, Montréal and Toronto** to better understand patient data, and to improve efficiencies and ultimately patient care. **The unintentional connections made at in-person meetings** have a great impact on the individuals attending, and can help advance the field in which they work, **translating directly to economic diversity and resilience for host organizers and destinations.**



Canada's dynamic cities and urban innovation centres may be a natural draw for business events, but they also provide international travellers with a taste of Canadian culture, cuisine and our vast, dramatic landscapes, **fuelling the desire to return with family and friends for future leisure travel.**

CANADA:

A NATURAL REWARD
FOR TOP PERFORMERS

A place not just to explore, but to connect. Where the extraordinary is rewarded and celebrated. Where open minds, intrepid spirits and glowing hearts are welcome. A place that inspires and refreshes. A place to discover the potential within each one of us.

Around the world life sciences organizations, researchers and pharmaceutical companies are racing for a cure to the world's most pressing illnesses. **Recognizing and rewarding their teams' efforts in Canada** will leave an indelible mark on the heart of their organizations. **Let Canada show you the way.**



Toast your peak performers. Toast your peak performers. Untamed glaciers, frozen rivers, lakes and snow-covered meadows are Canada's background for a team celebration unlike any other. Soar by helicopter to touch down in a remote backcountry valley or atop a mountainside far from civilization but hardly uncivilized when a champagne toast or a gourmet picnic is on the agenda.

Canadian Rockies



Dine under the Northern Lights. A gourmet dinner served on the Hudson Bay coast, under the Northern Lights provides a foodie experience few ever get to savour. Stories of legendary trailblazers and ingredients foraged from the land and sea chronicle a culinary legacy of Canada's most northern reaches. For adventuresome incentive winners, this only-in-Canada event pairs history and nature with delicious cuisine and spirits.

Churchill, MB



Mont Tremblant, QC

Take your group off the grid and into the wild. Discover luxe coastal resorts accessible only by helicopter, floatplane or by sea. Each offering an unparalleled stage for exclusive corporate gatherings, naturally fostering creativity, and fresh perspectives, making them some of the best places in Canada to reward peak performance and for corporate incentive winners to connect with nature, and with each other.

Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge, BC



Fort MacLeod, AB

Raise your glass in celebration of your team's accomplishments. Life science centres like Toronto and Vancouver are a stone's throw away from Niagara and Kelowna, two of the country's most productive, picturesque wine regions — both exceptional locations in which to reward and recognize your top performers.

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON



Get vertical. Ski, snowshoe, heli-ski and snowboard at the top-ranked ski resorts in eastern and western North America. In the east, Tremblant Resort is a short drive from life sciences centres in Ottawa and Montréal. In the west, Whistler is a 90-minute scenic drive from Vancouver.

Looking for more inspired incentive ideas? Connect with us to learn more.

→ businessevents@destinationcanada.com



NO ONE KNOWS CANADA LIKE WE DO

Destination Canada's Business Events Team offers in-depth knowledge of Canada. Our team can help you deliver compelling content audiences want to consume when they meet in Canada. Connect with us for solutions and support on the fundamentals of meeting in Canada, including where to meet and recommended innovation hubs best suited to your specific event. Allow us to make introductions to our cross-country network of meeting and event partners, life sciences experts, leaders and innovators, and those who can help champion your event, augment your program, grow your membership and event audiences, and deliver a return on your event investment.

Consider Destination Canada your first point of contact when considering Canada for your event.

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