



Upcoming Canadian conferences

In this issue

2- RNA Canada ARN President's Letter

6- Announcement of the new members of the board of directors of RNA Canada ARN

7- Message from the committees of RNA Canada

- The Research Funding Information & Coordination Committee
- Discounts available to RNA Canada ARN members
- The Rory Belle Foundation

11- Researcher highlight: Dr. Ryan Hili

13- News:

- The RNA Society 2026 Congress will be held in Canada
- RNA Innovation Program
- Winner of the latest design contest organized by RNA Canada!

18- Upcoming Canadian Conferences

24- RNA Salons



Spring 2026 (January to May)

Dear Members of RNA Canada ARN,

As we move through the first half of 2026, I would like to share an update on the work RNA Canada ARN has been doing and the priorities guiding our efforts. Our focus has been on four main areas: growing our network, increasing the value of membership, strengthening our national visibility, and building a more sustainable organization for RNA science in Canada.

These past months have been productive and encouraging. RNA Canada ARN continues to grow as a national organization that not only represents the Canadian RNA community, but also creates new opportunities for connection, visibility, support, and partnership. As the organization grows, an important part of our work is to make sure that this growth translates into clear benefits for our members across the country.

With that goal in mind, one important step this spring is the introduction of a new membership category that will allow principal investigators to register their entire research group through a simpler and more efficient process. This change is intended to reduce the burden of renewal, make membership easier for trainees, and help us broaden trainee participation in the network.

We have also worked to strengthen the practical value of membership in other ways. Members can now request letters of support through a clearer and more structured process. These letters are intended to support large-scale collaborative national and international grant applications, as well as other strategic opportunities where endorsement from a national RNA organization can add visibility and weight. More information is available on our website and elsewhere in this newsletter.

Beyond institutional support, we are also expanding the direct benefits available to members. These include discounts for the use of the RNomics Platform and the Protein Purification Platform (Université de Sherbrooke), with additional discounts from selected companies expected to follow (available discounts are listed in the newsletter and on the RNA Canada RNA website). These benefits



provide immediate added value while highlighting that RNA Canada RNA is a national community built on the sharing of resources and opportunities.

This commitment to member support also includes a strong focus on trainees. RNA Canada ARN is creating opportunities for trainees to develop and lead peer-to-peer workshops, while also receiving supplemental support that can help them during their studies. We are also expanding our reimbursement program to provide financial support to trainees who contribute significant time and effort to RNA Canada ARN activities and services.

Alongside these efforts to strengthen member support, we have also worked to increase the visibility and recognition of RNA Canada ARN. To support this, the organization has signed a memorandum of understanding with CSSN-RCPS. This partnership will help connect RNA Canada ARN members to opportunities in media outreach, public engagement, expert panels, and interdisciplinary activities. It will also help ensure that RNA Canada ARN researchers are more visible and accessible as experts for government, media, funding agency, student, and policy-related inquiries.

This growing visibility is also important in the context of major scientific meetings and community events. A key example is the RNA Society Annual Meeting in Montreal in May 2026, where RNA Canada ARN will have a visible presence to highlight the strength of the Canadian RNA community and to serve as an information and support hub for members and visitors. We are also working to build a meaningful presence at other meetings, including RiboClub, RiboWest, and TREnD, through membership tables, financial support, and community-oriented activities such as patient advocacy panels.

These meetings matter not only because of the science they showcase, but also because they help bring the community together. They create new collaborations, open opportunities for trainees, and strengthen the broader identity of the field. They also provide valuable opportunities to connect RNA science with patients, partners, and other stakeholders whose engagement is increasingly important for the future of the field. RNA Canada ARN also contributes to the success of these meetings by helping attract strong speakers and by supporting activities that increase their scientific and community value.



In the same spirit, we are working to extend RNA Canada ARN’s reach beyond the research community itself. We want to create more opportunities for patients affected by RNA-related diseases to participate in meetings and engage in discussion with researchers and clinicians. We are also increasing our engagement with industry. This includes support for new initiatives such as RiboContact at RiboClub, which aims to bring researchers and industry together. We are also exploring future panels that would include members of the agricultural sector, so that they can share their perspectives and contribute to discussions relevant to RNA science and innovation. This broader engagement is important for both our community and the wider public.

As our activities expand, it becomes even more important to strengthen the organization’s financial foundation. RNA Canada ARN was built first as a scientific network and a national voice for RNA research. We are now entering the next stage of development, where that scientific strength must be matched by a stronger fundraising and support structure. This is a normal and necessary step in the growth of a young national organization.

During the first months of 2026, we have continued to build this capacity. Our charitable framework gives us an important basis for fundraising, and we are now working to use it more actively and strategically. We have also begun developing relationships that may help connect promising Canadian RNA discoveries and innovations with potential supporters and donors.

In this context, I would like to encourage members who are able to support RNA Canada ARN through a donation to consider doing so, and to continue giving if they have already contributed. Donations of any size help us build the financial stability needed to support our activities, expand member benefits, and strengthen our national presence. Friends, colleagues, and family members can also support RNA Canada ARN while benefiting from charitable tax receipts. Small monthly donations are now possible through the RNA Canada ARN donation page, and I encourage you to help spread the word.

A strong financial base is important, but so is a strong and active membership. Membership dues are only one part of the picture. More importantly, a broad membership base gives RNA Canada ARN credibility, legitimacy, and strength.



It shows governments, donors, partners, industry, and the broader research community that RNA science in Canada is organized, connected, and ready to speak with a collective voice.

Membership is also how we build the network itself. We now have about 400 members, most of them principal investigators, and we want to continue growing by attracting more trainees and more members from industry and other sectors connected to RNA research and innovation. We need everyone with an interest in RNA science, whether as researchers, users, partners, or beneficiaries, to join and help give RNA Canada ARN the mandate to promote and support the field nationally. Every member increases the reach, credibility, and effectiveness of the organization. I therefore encourage all members not only to renew, but also to invite colleagues, students, postdoctoral fellows, collaborators, and institutional partners to join RNA Canada ARN.

As we continue to grow, it is equally important that we listen carefully to our community. We have recently completed our first equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) survey as part of our effort to better understand our members and their needs. Our EDI Committee is now reviewing the results and preparing recommendations on how RNA Canada ARN can better support the community. Soon, members will also receive a benefits and outlook survey to help us assess satisfaction, identify priorities, and guide future improvements. We are committed to listening to our members and responding to their needs.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the many volunteers whose time and effort continue to sustain RNA Canada ARN. Committee members, trainees, organizers, and community leaders have all contributed greatly to the progress made this spring. Their work supports communications, meetings, outreach, partnerships, member services, and strategic planning. This collective effort is one of the great strengths of RNA Canada ARN and reflects the commitment of a community that believes Canada needs a strong and visible national RNA organization.

Thank you for your support, your membership, and your continued engagement.

With best regards,
Sherif Abou Elela
President, RNA Canada ARN



Announcing New RNA Canada ARN Board Members

The RNA Canada ARN 2026 Annual General Meeting was held on Monday January 12, 2026. Turnout was strong and it was wonderful to see so many friendly faces from our community gathered together. Your support and participation are what drive RNA Canada ARN forward!

Election Results

During the meeting, we elected five new members of our Board of Directors:

Ontario Representative: Julie Claycomb, University of Toronto

Québec Representative: Sherif Abou Elela, Université de Sherbrooke

At-large Representatives: Steve Whyard (Prairies), University of Manitoba; Pascale Legault (Québec), Université de Montréal; John Calarco (Ontario), University of Toronto.

Thanks to all of the candidates for your willingness to serve, and congratulations to the newly-elected Directors. 🎉

Organization Report for 2025

President Sherif Abou Elela shared an overview of the achievements, challenges, and plans for the future of the organization. The President's Report and slide deck can be found [here](#). We encourage everyone to take a look.

Get Involved!

Finally, we invite anyone who is interested to reach out and get involved. There are many ways to get involved, and many levels of engagement, from becoming a member of standing committees to contributing content to the quarterly newsletter or website. There remains much work to do as we develop a national RNA strategy, cultivate relationships with different stakeholders, and advocate for increased funding for RNA research. Help us grow RNA Canada ARN in 2026! 🍁



The Research Funding Information & Coordination Committee

- The Research Funding Information & Coordination (RFIC) Committee has been actively updating its presence on the RNA Canada ARN website (<https://www.rnacanada.ca/about-us/>), including its mandate and newly recruited members.
- A new dedicated email (rfic@rnacanada.ca) was also created for the committee and you are all invited to reach us using that email, with any questions, requests and or suggestions regarding funding opportunities that you would like us to highlight, help identify potential collaborators or other.
- A new form has also been created on the website where members can submit requests for Support Letters from RNA Canada ARN. Please make sure to follow the instructions and guidelines outlined in the [Policy document](#) that can also be found linked on the website.

Help build the future of RNA in Canada

RNA Canada RNA is a national, non-profit charitable organization dedicated to promoting specialized RNA training, strengthening Canada's research capacity, and accelerating RNA innovation.

Your donation strengthens Canada's ability to address global health, environmental, and food security challenges, ensuring that innovation happens here, for the benefit of all Canadians.





Exclusive Member Perks from RNA Canada!

RNA Canada ARN is pleased to announce **exclusive discounts** for its members on essential research platforms :

- ✓ Enjoy **10% off** for the Université de Sherbrooke **Protein Purification Platform** services
- ✓ Receive **7% off** for the Université de Sherbrooke **RNomics Platform** services

These preferential rates are part of RNA Canada ARN's commitment to supporting the research community by improving access to high-quality technological platforms.

Don't miss out—make the most of your RNA Canada ARN membership!

Hello RNA Canada ARN Members,



At Immagina, we specialize in tools for RNA and ribosome biology, helping scientists study translation in action.

We offer a range of novel technologies, from high-throughput ribosome profiling to native-tRNA sequencing and more, available as wet-lab kits or complete services.

As a valued member of the RNA Canada ARN community, you can take advantage of our exclusive promotion:

- **20% off** on wet-lab kits
- **10% off** on complete services
- **25% off** on sequencing and BioIT analysis when you buy one of our Ribosome Profiling kits

Have questions? Contact us anytime at info@immaginabiotech.com.

We look forward to connecting with you.

Sincerely,
The Immagina Team



The Rory Belle Foundation is a patient advocacy organisation dedicated to supporting families affected by NARS1 Disorder. Its mission, to accelerate and fund research, ensure access to exceptional care, and build a strong, connected community, is deeply embedded in the way it works with researchers around the world.

NARS1 Disorder is an umbrella term for disorders caused by mutations in the gene encoding the cytoplasmic asparaginyl-tRNA synthetase, NARS1. Prof. Ilka Heinemann's group at Western University and the Cui lab at the University of Toronto, along with other researchers and clinicians in Canada, work closely with The Rory Belle Foundation. This partnership between researchers and patient advocates is highly rewarding, as the stakes and relevance of our contribution are very clear.

Through meetings that bring together researchers, patients, and their families, The Rory Belle Foundation ensures that we are all aware of who we are helping and how each piece of the puzzle fits in bringing treatments closer to clinical use. These interactions provide invaluable context for our work and reinforce the real-world impact of even small scientific advances.

The Foundation also organises regular virtual meetings with researchers from around the world, creating opportunities to share results, build connections, and find synergy across different areas of research. This collaborative approach helps ensure that progress is shared and that efforts across the field are aligned wherever possible.

Partnership with The Rory Belle Foundation offers graduate student trainees a unique opportunity to place their day-to-day research within the broader context of the rare disease community. Trainees benefit from connections with both patient advocates and research collaborators, gaining a clearer understanding of how their work fits into the wider research and care landscape. Additional support comes in the form of research grants, fundraised by members of the Rory Belle community, which can kick-start new projects, accelerate existing research, and provide important financial incentives for trainees.



By promoting both basic research and pre-clinical studies, the Foundation ensures that progress is continuing and that different, complementary, experts are engaged to pursue diverse research streams and opportunities. The Rory Belle Foundation also coordinates access to patient samples, such as skin fibroblasts and blood cells, as well as collects family reported symptom information. These invaluable resources, alongside the time and dedication the Foundation invests in the research community, have inspired many of us to look more deeply into the underlying biology of NARS1 Disorder and to contribute to the development of treatment options for the affected children we have come to know. In the end, integration of researchers with patient advocacy organisations provide an on-going symbiotic relationship that delivers on the core mission of both researchers and the community - providing answers where none existed.

The Rory Belle Foundation: Catherine Woolrich, Rachel Heilmann, Ingrid Vallee
Canadian RNA researchers: Sascha Woolcott, Ilka Heinemann, Haissi Cui



DR. RYAN HILI



Dr Ryan Hili

Department of Chemistry,
York University

Dr. Ryan Hili is an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry at York University, where his research focuses on nucleic acid chemical biology. His group is particularly interested in how the intrinsic properties of nucleic acids can be harnessed to create functional molecules and to probe biological systems. Ryan completed his Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of Toronto in the laboratory of Prof. Andrei K. Yudin, where he worked on the development of highly strained molecules as tools for organic synthesis.

He then carried out postdoctoral research at Harvard University in the laboratory of Prof. David R. Liu, where he developed an interest in nucleic acid chemical biology. This transition - from synthetic methodology to biomolecular function - continues to guide his research program.

In his independent career, Ryan initially focused on expanding the chemical and functional capabilities of nucleic acids. His group developed approaches for the combinatorial synthesis of nucleic acid polymers that enable the construction of sequence-defined libraries with substantial chemical diversity. These systems were used to evolve highly modified single-stranded nucleic acids as antibody mimetics. In parallel, his lab developed novel ways of generating and screening DNA-encoded libraries (DELs) for applications in drug discovery.

Inspired by the rich chemical diversity of RNA, his research has shifted toward RNA epitranscriptomics. His group develops chemistry driven sequencing technologies to map post-transcriptional RNA modifications with high precision. These include “[nitrite sequencing](#)” for detecting m⁶A and “[PhOxi-seq](#)” for detecting m²G in RNA at single-nucleotide resolution. We tend to approach RNA as organic chemists,” says Ryan. “Rather than relying on affinity or enrichment strategies, we ask whether there are intrinsic chemical differences between modified and unmodified nucleobases that we can exploit. If we can selectively transform a modified base while leaving the



canonical bases untouched, we can effectively ‘write’ that information into the sequence itself.” These tools are now being applied to understand how specific RNA modifications regulate gene expression and contribute to human disease, while also using his DEL platforms to discover small molecules to interrogate these biological pathways.

Ryan is excited to see the growing interest of organic chemists in nucleic acids research. “What I find exciting about RNA biology right now is that many of the key biological questions hinge on chemical details,” he notes. “Canada has a large and growing nucleic acids chemistry community, which are pushing the envelope in this research space.”

Outside of his research, Ryan plays multiple instruments and composes music spanning several genres. He is also engaged in the Canadian RNA community through conference organization and outreach activities through RNA Canada ARN and Canadian Society of Chemistry.

Click [here](#) to visit the Hili Lab website. Thank you, Ryan!

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If you would like us to write short articles to highlight your research or share your job openings, please don't hesitate to contact us!

We invite students and postdocs to share their perspectives by writing articles on topics they are passionate about, whether it's upcoming events, their own research journey in RNA biology, or insights into what drew them to this fascinating field – your perspective matters, and we would love to hear it!

Click [here](#) to provide information about yourself and your research for a short biography, or to share new publications, advances in RNA research, awards, and other news.



RNA SOCIETY 2026 IS COMING TO CANADA

In a short 4 weeks, the RNA Society is returning to Canada by holding its annual meeting at the Palais des Congrès in Montréal from May 26-31st. This marks the return of the annual meeting to Canada for the first time since the 2014 meeting in Quebec City. The meeting is co-organized by RNA Canada ARN's own vice chair Julie Claycomb (University of Toronto) and frequent contributor Eric Lécuyer (Université de Montréal and IRCM). It will feature three stellar keynote lectures from Archa Fox (University of Western Australia), Jørgen Kjems (Aarhus University) and Montreal local Nahum Sonenberg (McGill University).

The annual meeting will also be followed by a satellite meeting, the 3rd Codon Usage Conference: function mechanism and evolution, held May 31-June 3rd at the BAnQ Grande Bibliothèque. The 3rd Codon Usage Conference is dedicated to understanding the functions of codon usage, mechanisms of codon usage-mediated regulatory processes and evolution of codon usage biases in genomes and is co-organized by RNA Canada ARN members Maria Vera Ugalde and Alex Palazzo.

RNA Canada ARN and the RNA Society have partnered to offer current RNA Canada ARN members a 10% discount on a 2026 RNA Society membership. Becoming an RNA Society member makes you eligible for the RNA society member registration rate — a savings of \$300-400 USD compared to the non-member registration rate. To take advantage of the exclusive discount for RNA Canada ARN members to join the RNA Society:

1. Visit the RNA Society membership sign-up page.
2. Complete the membership form (as a new or renewing RNA Society member) and enter the code **RNACan10** in the discount field.
3. Register for RNA 2026 as an RNA Society member and receive the reduced member registration rate: <https://www2.rnasociety.org/conferences/rna-2026/registration/> (You will need to provide your RNA Society membership number during registration.)



RNA Canada ARN will have a booth at RNA 2026, and we hope you will stop by to connect with colleagues. We are also planning several activities to engage and highlight the RNA Canada ARN community during the meeting – more details to come. Our goal is to ensure this meeting is not only scientifically outstanding, but also a visible celebration of Canadian RNA research.

So, register for RNA 2026 today, take advantage of discounted RNA Society membership pricing exclusive for RNA Canada ARN members and receive RNA society member pricing. RNA 2026 in Montréal promises to be an exceptional gathering of the world-wide RNA community, and we encourage strong participation from RNA Canada ARN members.

Attention RNA Society 2026 Annual Meeting Attendees!

You are warmly invited to join us for the **RNA Canada ARN sponsored networking BBQ on Thursday night, May 28th**, at the **McGill Campus West Field!**

This is your free evening of the conference –and what better way to spend it than enjoying great food and connecting with RNA friends and colleagues? Family members are welcome, even the littlest ones. To help us with planning, all attendees must purchase a **nominal \$10 ticket** [here](#) .

We'll be serving **vegan and carnivore burgers, hot dogs, snacks, and beverages**. Some tables and chairs will be available, but we recommend bringing a blanket or towel. **Lawn games and music** will keep the evening lively and fun!



Tickets are limited, so don't wait!

Come join us! We hope to see many of you there for a memorable evening!





RNA INNOVATION PROGRAM

n a true success story illustrating the power of collaboration between industry and academia, researchers from the universities of Lethbridge and Sherbrooke partnered with NSERC and a group of private-sector companies to develop the RNA INNOVATION training program for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

RNA Innovation is a research training program that provides real-world, hands-on experience in an industry setting. In addition to academic and research skills, trainees develop “soft” skills in management, leadership, communication, teaching, research and business integrity and ethics through additional workshops and courses.

Trainees gain industry experience through two key components, (1) an entrepreneurial research and development challenge (the deepYellow Challenge), and (2) an extensive internship program (the Twinning Program). In the deepYellow Challenge, trainees will collaborate as a team to solve a complex scientific problem proposed by the program’s industry partners. Through the Twinning Program, all trainees will be matched with a specific industry internship, providing students with mentorship and a personalized networking experience.

Trainees from this program emerge as highly skilled scientists who are uniquely prepared to launch their careers in industry settings.

RNA Canada ARN aims to use the RNA Innovation program as a model for developing academic-industry training opportunities in the future. This type of tailored training program will better equip the next generation of RNA researchers with the skills to successfully launch their research careers.

To learn more, click [here](#).



WINNER OF THE 2025 RNA CANADA ARN DESIGN CONTEST



Huge congratulations to François Major and his team from Université de Montréal for creating the winning design for the 2025 RNA Canada ARN design contest!

The winning design will be featured on merchandise offered for sale, showcased at upcoming RNA Canada ARN meetings, and available through the RNA Canada ARN online store.

Here's what inspired the winner to create this logo:

"The logo for RNA Canada ARN was born not from a single image, but from the convergence of symbols, disciplines, and identities, all woven together in a spirit of inclusion, creativity, and national pride.

The initial inspiration came from the Hockey Canada logo, one of the most iconic emblems in Canadian culture. At its core stands the unmistakable red and black maple leaf, a symbol that signals Canada across the globe. But rather than the silhouette of a hockey player in the middle of the maple leaf, our version uses a structure more at home in the RNA world, an hairpin loop. In this emblem, RNA is not just represented as a sequence or a code, but as a form, a graceful, folded structure that hints at function, specificity, and life's most subtle instructions.



Around this central emblem, the circular inscription RNA Canada ARN appears twice, in both English and French, completing the structure like a molecular ring or celestial orbit. The repetition echoes symmetry in biology and language alike. The use of dots between the words mirrors networks, molecules, or stars, connecting the symbolic to the scientific.

This logo is more than a design. It is a structure. It is a narrative. It is an emblem for a community of researchers, dreamers, and makers, a symbol that binds together the rigor of science, the beauty of structure, and the diversity of the people from which it arises. Like RNA itself, the logo folds into something meaningful, precise, and dynamic, a molecular flag for those who see regulation not as constraint, but as possibility.”

Congratulations, François!

All RNA Society 2026 Annual Meeting Attendees!

Discover our new RNA Canada ARN merchandise, available for a **limited time only**—orders are open until **May 15, 2026**.

All purchases will be delivered **ONLY in person (NO shipping!)** at the **RNA Society Annual Meeting in Montreal**, taking place May 26–30, 2026.

👉 Don't miss out—grab yours now:
<https://gametime.gearware.com/stores/rna>





3rd Conference on Codon Use: Function, Mechanism and evolution, May 31 – June 3, 2026, Montreal

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce that registration is now open for the **3rd Conference on Codon Use: Function, Mechanism, and Evolution**, which will be held in **Montreal, Canada**, from **May 31 to June 3, 2026**. The conference will take place at the **Grande Bibliothèque – Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ)**, 475 de Maisonneuve Blvd. E, Montreal, QC H2L 5C4, Canada.

This meeting is being held as a satellite **conference to the 31st Annual Meeting of the RNA Society (RNA 2026)**, which will be held at the Palais des Congrès de Montréal from May 26 to 31, 2026. Participants are encouraged to attend both meetings, as each requires separate registration.

Registration information for the 3rd Codon Utilization Conference:

Late registration will be accepted until **May 31, 2026**:

- Students and Postdoctoral Fellows: GBP 500
- Faculty and PIs: GBP 600
- Industry participants: GBP 900

Registration includes access to all presentations and poster sessions, coffee breaks, dinners, lunches, and the conference reception.

The conference will feature invited talks, a limited number of selected presentations, and poster sessions, covering codon utilization in translational regulation, mRNA metabolism, protein folding, fitness, and genome evolution, as well as computational and experimental methods.



At the end of the meeting, special sessions on **RNA-based therapies** will be held in collaboration with **AReNA, Quebec's RNA hub** (<https://arenapole.ca/en/>), highlighting the opportunities and challenges related to translating codon usage and RNA biology into therapeutic applications.

You will find all the details regarding registration, abstract submission, travel, and accommodation on the conference website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/codonusage/home>

We look forward to seeing you in Montreal for this exciting meeting dedicated to understanding codon usage bias, its mechanisms, and its roles in gene expression, RNA biology, and genome evolution.

Sincerely,
Alex Palazzo
On behalf of the organizing committee



**RiboWest 2026 Conference, University of British Columbia,
June 14-17, 2026**

The RiboWest committee is proud to announce the **20th annual RiboWest 2026 Conference (June 14th-17th 2026)**. This annual event brings together RNA researchers from across Canada and the northwest United States. This special anniversary edition is taking place for the **University of British Columbia Okanagan Campus in Kelowna BC** - the first time at this location.

RiboWest 2026 will be a three-day event featuring keynote and special guest lectures, multiple sessions of oral presentations by trainees, two poster sessions, social events, and opportunity for discussion.

Our confirmed keynote speakers are Nobel Laureate Dr. Thomas Cech (University of Colorado) and Dr. Lynne Maquat (University of Rochester). Invited speakers include Dr. Karin Choquet (Université de Sherbrooke) and Dr. Marc Fabian (McGill University).

All RNA Canada members, both on trainee and faculty levels, will benefit from an **exclusive discount** on the registration fee. A limited number of rooms have been reserved in residence for attendees. Don't wait - register today: <https://event.fourwaves.com/ribowest2026/>.

Early Bird Registration Deadline has been extended to **May 9th!**

Join us in beautiful wine country to celebrate RNA science and discovery. We look forward to welcoming you in Kelowna BC.



Sincerely,
The Organizing Committee

Perry Howard, Peter Unrau,
Tim Audas, Eric Jan, and Jessica Willi



Toronto RNA Enthusiasts' Day (TRENd), University of Toronto, August 20-21, 2026



10TH ANNUAL TORONTO RNA ENTHUSIASTS' DAY

Keynote Speaker

DR. BRITT GLAUNSINGER
U.C. Berkeley

August 20th, 2026
Virtual Trainee Talks

August 21st, 2026
In Person Trainee Talks & Posters
Mentoring Lunch
RNA-based Disease Advocacy Panel

Join us!

Key Dates

- Registration Opens: May 1st, 2026
- Oral Abstracts Due: July 3rd, 2026
- Poster Abstracts Due: July 24th, 2026
- Registration Deadline: July 24th, 2026

AND FRIENDS:

- RNA Canada ARN
- RoboClub
- Montreal RNA Solon
- Vancouver RNA Club

TRENd **ARTI**

We invite you to the 10th Annual [Toronto RNA Enthusiasts' Day \(TRENd\) 2026](#). The meeting will encompass two days of RNA-related talks by trainees across multiple organisms and systems, taking place virtually on August 20th and in person on August 21st, and welcoming RNA researchers from across Canada. TRENd & Friends 2026 is a trainee-led and trainee-focused event that will bring together researchers of every level to share their research and scientific approaches - TRENd is by trainees for trainees.

We are delighted to host keynote speaker, **Dr. Britt Glaunsinger**, from the University of California, Berkeley, whose research is centered on virus-host interactions that influence gene expression, primarily in the context of herpes virus infection.

TRENd & Friends 2026 also aims to provide an outstanding networking and scientific forum for our community, focused on fostering new collaborations and career development opportunities for our trainees all across Canada. we will have **exciting virtual talks from trainees across Canada on August 20th**. On August 21st, we invite all who can to meet in person in Toronto, where we will hear **talks from talented trainees**, share our work in a **dynamic poster session**, and discuss career topics during a **mentoring lunch**. All in person talks on August 21st will also be available virtually!

Finally, you won't want to miss a **RNA-based Disease Advocacy Panel Discussion**, in **partnership with RNA Canada ARN**, and including clinicians patients and families.



TREnD & Friends 2026 has something to offer for everyone; we look forward to two inspiring and lively days of RNA-related discussion, networking, and community building, both online and in Toronto!

August 20th: Virtual Symposium engaging RNA Trainees across Canada (talks from trainees in each of Canada's RNA Clubs and Salons)

August 21st: In Person Symposium in Toronto (PGCRL)/Virtual access across Canada, including:

- Keynote: Dr. Britt Glaunsinger
- Talks from Trainees
- Mentoring lunch
- Poster Session
- RNA-based Disease Advocacy Panel Discussion

Registration is now open at <https://event.fourwaves.com/trend26/pages!> **RNA Canada ARN Members receive a registration discount!**

TRAINEES: We would love to hear about your work!! Submit an abstract to present your research by July 3rd, 2026 for an oral presentation or by July 24th, for an poster presentation!

For more information, visit our website trendrna.ca and follow us on X [@trendrna](https://twitter.com/trendrna) or Bluesky [@trendrna.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/trendrna.bsky.social) !

We look forward to seeing you!



Riboclub 2026, Orford, October 4 to 8, 2026



RiboClub

Sherbrooke, Québec
27th Annual Meeting

October 4–8, 2026
Orford, Québec, Canada



Keynote Speakers



Marina Rodnina
Max Planck Institute



Anita Hopper
Ohio State University



Hagen Tilgner
Weill Cornell Medicine



Itai Yanai
New York University

Featured Topics

- tRNA Biogenesis & Function
- RNA in Health & Disease
- RNA Structure-Function
- RNA Modification & Organization
- Translation mechanisms
- RNA Synthesis & Processing

Special Session: RNA and Antimicrobial Resistance

Invited Speakers

- Artem Babaian (U Toronto)
- Katrin Karbstein (Vanderbilt)
- Liana Lareau (UC Berkeley)
- Kate Meyer (Duke)
- Marie Sissler (Université de Strasbourg)
- Kristin Hope (Princess Margaret Hospital)
- Ute Kothe (U Manitoba)
- Aaron Hoskins (UW-Madison)
- Kristen Lynch (U Penn)
- Maureen McKeague (McGill)
- Sylvain Moineau (ULaval)
- Sharon Amacher (Ohio State)

- Hailing Jin (UC Riverside)
- Vlad Belyy (Ohio State)
- Andrei Korostelev (UMass Chan)
- Karin Musier-Forsyth (Ohio State)
- Jane Jackman (Ohio State)
- Kurt Fredrick (Ohio State)
- Mike Kearse (Ohio State)
- Joaquin Ortega (McGill)
- Venkat Gopalan (Ohio State)
- Jessica Willi (Ulethbridge)
- Nicolas Moitessier (McGill)
- Michael Gebhardt (U Iowa)

RiboContact Academia-Industry Day

- Sevag Sahakian (Moderna)
- Frédéric Vaillancourt (ReMix Therapeutics)
- David Guay (Feldan Therapeutics)
- Mohamad Gabriel Alameh (RNA Technologies & Therapeutics)
- Sam Osseiran (Axelys)
- Venkat Gopalan (Ohio State)

Alumna of the Year Presentation

- Mélissa Léger-Abraham (Harvard)



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR RNA BIOLOGY
Partner Institution



RNA Canada ARN

Early bird registration: April 1-July 12
Abstract submission: July 12
Late registration deadline: September 4



gairdner
125th PREX CANADA GAIRDNER AWARDS

**RiboClub**

<https://home.riboclub.org/schedule/>

12pm EST first or second Monday or Tuesday of each month.

Montreal RNA Salon

<https://www.mtlrna.org/>

4pm, first Thursday of each month

Toronto RNA Club

<https://torontornaclub.com/>

4pm, first Wednesday of each month

ARRTI at ULeithbridge (Alberta RNA Research and Training Institute)

<https://www.ulethbridge.ca/research/centres-institutes/alberta-rna-research-and-training-institute>

Vancouver RNA Club

<https://www.vanrnaclub.com/>

RNA Collaborative Seminars Series (RNA society)

<https://www.rnasociety.org/rna-collaborative-seminar-series>

[Youtube channel](#)

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