



# **BRC OPENING CELEBRATION**

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

## BIODIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM

### Showcasing Recent Discoveries

12:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre

Jack Poole Hall

6163 University Boulevard

[UBC Wayfinding](#)

The Biodiversity Symposium showcases the diverse and innovative work happening across the Biodiversity Research Centre. It will highlight work and recent discoveries from BRC researchers and explore the breadth of biodiversity science they are engaging in. Discover how the BRC is advancing knowledge, collaboration and working to understand and protect life on Earth.

### Schedule of Speakers:

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 12:00 pm | <b>Mary O'Connor</b> – Opening remarks.   |
| 12:07 pm | <b>Patrick Keeling</b> – <i>Here be dragons: exploring invisible biodiversity in the microbial world.</i>     |
| 12:20 pm | <b>Judy Li</b> – <i>Can microbiomes help save polar bears?</i>  |
| 12:28 pm | <b>Claire Kremen</b> – <i>Fixing farming through biodiversity.</i>  |
| 12:41 pm | <b>Asher Leeks</b> – <i>The social lives of viruses.</i>  |
| 12:54 pm | <b>Wouter van der Bijl</b> – <i>Female choice, sexy sons, and the world's most fashionable fish.</i>          |
| 1:08 pm  | <b>Madison Earhart</b> – <i>Saving the sturgeon: a murder mystery of overheating, overeating and disease.</i> |
| 1:16 pm  | <b>Kaitlyn Gaynor</b> – <i>No room to roam: how animals navigate a human-dominated world.</i>                 |
| 1:29 pm  | <b>Sean Michaletz</b> – <i>The breath of the biosphere in a warming world.</i>                                |
| 1:40 pm  | <b>Mary O'Connor</b> – Closing remarks.   |

## RECEPTION AND OPEN HOUSE

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Beaty Biodiversity Centre,

Biodiversity Research Centre - Multipurpose Room 1024, lobby, labs & collaborative spaces

2212 Main Mall

[UBC Wayfinding](#)

Celebrate the new Biodiversity Research Centre expansion with this opportunity to connect with BRC members, colleagues, and partners from across campus and beyond. Discover the expansive and collaborative work being done while engaging with research and community partners in a relaxed, social setting. Explore new possibilities for interdisciplinary partnerships and help us kick off this next chapter in biodiversity research!

## Collaborations represented at the open house:

### **Partners -**

Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre  
Birds Canada  
British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Future Forest Ecosystems Centre  
Campus Biodiversity Initiative (CBIRD), SEEDS Sustainability Program  
Canadian Biogenome Project  
City of Surrey  
Genome British Columbia  
Green Labs Project & UBC Sustainability  
French Embassy  
Institute for Multidisciplinary Ecological Research in the Salish Sea (IMERSS)  
Liber Ero Fellowship Program  
Rivershed Society of British Columbia  
The Nature Trust of British Columbia  
Tula Foundation, Hakai Institute  
UBC Botanical Garden

### **Programs -**

Biodiversity Research: Integrative Training and Education (BRITE)  
Biology Undergraduate Diversity in Research (BUDR)  
British Columbia Biodiversity Network (BCBN)  
Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution (CIEE) & Living Data Project

### **Research clusters and collaborative grants -**

Alpine Horizons: Stewarding Mountain Systems in a Changing World  
Coastal Habitat Comprehensive Research Project  
Prepare for Pandemics through Advanced Research in Evolution (PrePARE)  
Interdisciplinary Biodiversity Solutions Collaboratory (IBioS)  
Pacific Rim Initiative for Sustainable Marine Systems (PRISMS)  
Perennial Ecosystem Restoration for Carbon Sequestration in Canadian Agricultural Landscapes (PERCS)  
The Road Salt and Salmon Success Project

### **Lab collaborative displays, posters and tours -**

Aviles lab	Irwin lab
Cronk lab	Jankowski lab
Gaynor lab	Mank lab
Sentinels of Change Alliance	Molecular Biology lab
Harley lab	O'Connor lab
IBioS	

## Reception Schedule and Tours:

2:30 pm — **Welcoming remarks in Multipurpose Room 1024.**

2:45, 3:00, 3:15 & 3:30 pm — **Hosted tours of the BRC leaving from the pollinator garden.**

2:45 & 3:15 pm — **Museum expansion 'behind the scenes' tours leaving from the pollinator garden, led by Chris Stinson.**