



LIFE SCIENCES BC

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Life Sciences
British Columbia



Message from LSBC President & CEO

Wendy Hurlburt

The past year marked another period of momentum for Life Sciences BC (LSBC) and for our province's thriving life sciences community. We continued to strengthen our role as trusted partners, earning seats at both provincial and federal decision-making tables. I was honoured to serve on the Premier's Life Sciences Council, helping shape policies that propelled our sector forward, while maintaining close collaborations with government and non-government partners across Canada.

Representing more than 300 member organizations, LSBC is a leading voice championing British Columbia's dynamic and innovative life sciences ecosystem. Our commitment to delivering value to members—through visibility, connections, and representation—remains at the heart of everything we accomplished, and continue to do.

Throughout 2025, our events and programs expanded in reach and impact, connecting the community and driving global recognition for BC innovation. Key highlights included the continued evolution of Invest in BC, which once again showcased the province's world-class companies to international investors, and the successful launch of our Growth Catalyst Program, designed to accelerate the scale-up journey for emerging ventures.

Talent is a cornerstone of sustainable growth in our sector. Building on insights from our 2024 Labour Market Intelligence Study, we proudly launched a sector Talent Council, a collaborative initiative to address BC's evolving workforce needs and strengthen our future talent pipeline.

BC continues to stand out as Canada's fastest-growing life sciences hub, with homegrown research and innovation gaining global recognition. In 2025, LSBC led delegations to international events including the J.P. Morgan Health Care Conference, The BIO International Convention, Bio Europe, and the Canadian Mission to Hong Kong for International Healthcare Week. We were also proud to showcase BC innovation on the global stage at Web Summit's Life Sciences Day in Vancouver in collaboration with our partners.

We were delighted welcome Lana Janes as LSBC Vice Chair, and new board members Sandra Wong and Christina Zacharuk at our Annual General Meeting and extended our deep gratitude to outgoing directors Max Blouw, Bev Holmes, and David Llewellyn for their dedicated service and leadership.

LSBC remains steadfast in our goals to convene our community, champion innovation, and advance British Columbia's life sciences leadership on the world stage. It was an extraordinary year, made possible through the collaboration, creativity, and commitment of our members, partners, and supporters.



LSBC Board of Directors



Anne Stevens
VP Business Development
AbCellera
LSBC Chair



Dr. Lana Janes, PhD
Co-Founder & COO
Abdera Therapeutics
LSBC Vice Chair



Rajveer Hundal
Partner
PWC
LSBC Treasurer



Ali Ardakani
Founder and Managing Director
Novateur Ventures Inc.



Sherry Aulin
Former Chief
Financial Officer
Xenon



Kevin Chaplin
CEO
Kardium



Tom Frohlich
CEO
Jade Biosciences



Suzanne Gill
Life Sciences
Business Executive



David Helliwell
Co-Founder & CEO
Thrive Health



Wendy Hurlburt
President & CEO
Life Sciences BC



Michael R. Martin
Life Sciences Executive Leader,
Founder & Former COO /
Business Officer
Aurinia Pharmaceuticals



Scott Phillips
President,
Starfish Medical



Dr. David Poon, PhD
Co-Founder, Head of Corporate
Development
DCx Biotherapeutics
Corporation



Sandra Wong
Senior Manager, Access
and Government Affairs,
Pfizer Canada



Christina Zacharuk
CEO
Research Universities'
Council of British Columbia



Dr. Peter Zandstra, PhD
Director
School of Biomedical
Engineering, UBC



Joseph Garcia
Partner,
Blake, Cassels &
Graydon LLP
LSBC Board Observer



Roger Kuypers
Partner,
Fasken, Martineau,
Dumoulin LLP
LSBC Board Observer



Hector Mackay-Dunn K.C.
Senior Partner,
Farris, Vaughan
Wills & Murphy LLP
LSBC Board Observer



Message from LSBC Board Chair

Anne Stevens

As we reflect on the past year, British Columbia's life sciences sector stands at a historic inflection point, with unprecedented momentum. Life Sciences BC remained at the heart of this ecosystem—connecting innovators, fostering strategic partnerships, and catalyzing the investments that continue to drive our sector forward.

The provincial government has solidified our sector's role as a key driver of economic growth within its "Look West" industrial strategy. This 10-year vision acknowledges what we in the industry have long known: our sector is not only a health asset, but a global economic powerhouse. The government's commitment to doubling our workforce to 40,000 jobs and increasing our economic impact by 75% sends a bold signal to the global market that BC is a premier destination for innovation.

This provincial support was seen this year by several landmark achievements that have strengthened our foundational infrastructure. The opening of the Phase I clinical trials unit at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital has significantly enhanced our clinical trial ecosystem.

Infrastructure for early company growth has been further accelerated by a \$16 million joint federal and provincial commitment to establish adMare BioInnovations' new 30,000-square-foot innovation centre, expected to open in 2026. These physical expansions provide the necessary space for our home-grown discoveries to transition into market-ready solutions.

Our growth is only as sustainable as the talent that fuels it, and another standout milestone this past year was the \$8 million collaboration between Mitacs and Health Research BC announced in October. By embedding high-level expertise directly into our ecosystem, we are ensuring our member companies have the perspective and specialized skills needed to navigate complex industrial challenges. These government investments act as a catalyst, empowering our industry to continue to grow and scale in BC while attracting multi-national partnerships that put our innovation on the global map.

Together, we are building a resilient economy that delivers life-saving solutions while securing BC's reputation as a global leader in life sciences. Looking ahead, LSBC's role in uniting the community, advocating for strategic investments, encouraging talent development, and identifying opportunities to sustain this strong growth trajectory remain more important than ever.





For our Members, Because of our Members

In 2025, LSBC amplified its impact as an essential voice for BC's thriving life sciences sector, driving member value. LSBC elevated member visibility both in-person and online while collaborating to support scaling companies.

LSBC highlighted member achievements across digital platforms—including social media, website features, and the BioLinks newsletter—reaching more than 4,200 engaged subscribers weekly, and over 900,000 social media impressions in the past year. We showcased funding milestones, strategic partnerships, clinical trial advancements, regulatory approvals, and global market expansions. This visibility strengthened member profiles, garnered investor interest in our sector, and reinforced BC's position as a thriving life sciences ecosystem.

Select Member News Highlights from 2025

- **AbCellera** [Doses First Participants in a Phase 1 Clinical Trial of ABCL575](#)
- **Abdera Therapeutics** [Presents Phase 1 Clinical Data on ABD-147, a Radiopharmaceutical](#)
- **Acuitas Therapeutics** [Showcases Collaboration for Personalized CRISPR Therapy](#)
- **Alpha-9 Oncology** [Announces the Advancement of A9-3408, an Actinium-225-based Radiotherapeutic](#)
- **Aspect Biosystems** [Raises US\\$115 Million Series B Financing to Advance Bioprinted Tissue Therapeutics](#)
- **Augurex Life Sciences** [Granted FDA Breakthrough Designation for SPINEstat®](#)
- **CereCura** [Secures \\$1.4 million to Tackle Brain Disorders with COVID-era Vaccine Tech](#)
- **DCx Biotherapeutics** [In-Licenses Discovery Platforms and Retains Talent and Infrastructure](#)
- **Eupraxia Pharmaceuticals** [Announces Closing of US\\$80.5 Million Public Offering](#)
- **Jade Biosciences** [Announces \\$135 Million Private Placement](#)
- **Kardium** [Receives FDA Approval of the Globe® Pulsed Field System](#)
- **Moderna** [Announces Made-in-Canada mRNA Vaccines Delivered to Canadian Provinces and Territories](#)
- **Molecular You** [Partners With NKCL Bio Group to Expand into Korea](#)
- **Rakovina's** [AI-Driven ATR Inhibitors Enter Preclinical Testing](#)
- **Sonic Incytes** [receives FDA 510\(k\) Clearance for Velacur ONE™](#)
- **STEMCELL Technologies** [receives \\$49.9 million investment from the Federal Government](#)
- **Variational AI** [Enters Collaboration with Merck to Apply Generative AI to Drug Discovery](#)
- **ViewsML** [Expands to Asia Pacific, In-Licensing Technology from A*STAR](#)
- **Zymeworks** [Announces Strategic Initiative to Optimize Value of Licensed Products](#)



300+
MEMBERS



Talent Development

LSBC worked with key partners on targeted initiatives to address critical talent gaps and accelerate sector growth, many of which now run annually as ongoing programs.

- **Life Sciences Talent Council:** Informed by insights from the 2024 Labour Market Intelligence Report LSBC brought together industry experts to discuss emerging trends and advocate for talent-focused policies aimed at building a strong, skilled pipeline to drive sector innovation and growth.
- **LSBC Co-op Program:** Delivered hands-on placements for university students, providing valuable experience in LSBC's daily operations. To date, the program has been part of over 50 students' academic careers.
- **Career Connect Day:** Drew more than 500 attendees for presentations, employer exhibits, and networking opportunities with leading life sciences employers across British Columbia.
- **Business Development Course:** Partnered with Novateur Academy to deliver a hands-on Business Development course, offering participants the opportunity to network with and learn directly from global industry leaders.
- **Talent Development Collaborations:** Partnered with the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) through our Investor Readiness Program (IRP), Canadian Alliance for Skills and Training in Life Sciences (CASTL) through the Elevate BC Bioscience Reskilling Program, and New Ventures BC through the Accelerate IP program, to deliver specialized training and professional development opportunities for scaling companies. We're also partnering with British Columbia's Institute of Technology (BCIT) to reimagine our science for non-scientist courses launching in 2026.



Business Development Course, March 2025



Convening the Community

BC's life sciences community thrives on collaboration, which LSBC actively nurtured through a robust annual calendar of events including conferences, receptions, forums, workshops, and industry roundtables. LSBC also connected with regional partners in Victoria, Prince George, and Kelowna to strengthen engagement province-wide.

In 2025, LSBC hosted a range of signature events, including Career Connect Day, Access to Innovation, the Annual Awards Gala, and Invest in BC. The year also featured events leading up to Web Summit, multiple speaker series in collaboration with Gowling, Blakes, and McCarthy, as well as several networking socials.

20+ EVENTS



J.P. Morgan Healthcare week, Jan, 2025

2,700+ ATTENDEES



200+ SPEAKERS



Access to Innovation, Feb, 2025



LSBC Annual Awards Winners, Oct, 2025



Fostering Investment & Helping Companies Scale

LSBC fostered investment and supported scaling companies through strategic events and global outreach, positioning British Columbia as a premier life sciences destination.

- **Investor Readiness Program:** Paired early-stage BC companies with entrepreneurs-in-residence (EIRs) to strengthen investor narratives and prepare for funding opportunities. 2025 marked the program's fifth anniversary of this annual program.
- **Invest in BC:** Presented by Lumira Ventures, Invest in BC, attracted nearly 100 investors in 2025. Since inception, the event has tripled in attendance, generating measurable impact for participating companies.
- **Web Summit:** In 2025, LSBC played a key role in organizing Life Sciences Day at the BC Pavilion during one of the world's largest tech conferences. Drawing over 15,700 attendees from 117 countries to Vancouver, the event offered extensive networking and investment opportunities. LSBC also co-hosted road to Web Summit events, an investor bus tour and the Health Tech Connect networking event.



Invest in BC, Oct, 2025



Web Summit, May 2025



Investor Readiness Program, 2025



Fostering Investment & Helping Companies Scale

- **Growth Catalyst Program:** In partnership with Pacific Economic Development Canada (PacifiCan), LSBC developed a pilot accelerator to support the expansion of BC's high-growth life sciences companies. The Growth Catalyst Program fosters regional economic development through capital attraction, revenue growth, and job creation. The 25 participating cohort companies expanded their networks, opportunities, and capabilities to scale in Canada and abroad.
- **International Delegations:** LSBC led BC delegations to J.P. Morgan Healthcare Week, Bio Boston, Bio Europe, and events in Hong Kong, creating investor and partnership opportunities, and expanding market access globally for BC companies.



Bio Europe, Nov, 2025



Team BC at BIO Boston, Jun, 2025



International Healthcare Week, Hong Kong, May, 2025



Team BC at Bloom Burton Gala. 2025



LSBC Team



Wendy Hurlburt
President & CEO



William Burrows
Director, Business Operations
& Programs



Ryan Butt
Director, Partnerships &
Events



Joanna Caraan
Executive Assistant & Office
Manager



Rosabel Bong
Manager, Marketing &
Communications



Alysia Golka
Manager, Events



Elyse Hope
Manager, Growth Catalyst
Program



Niall Sendemir
Coordinator, Program and
Partnerships



Thank you to our Annual Sponsors

We are extremely grateful for the support of our sponsors, which allows us to offer many of our industry-building initiatives. We are proud to partner with the organizations listed below.

Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors

