



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Over 500 researchers meet in Ottawa to discuss the future of RNA International RNA Conference to take place September 30 - October 4, 2024

OTTAWA, Canada – September 5, 2024 — The inaugural RNA Canada ARN conference, organized by RiboClub in collaboration with RiboWest and TRENd, will take place in Ottawa from September 30 to October 4, 2024. This event aims to promote RNA research collaboration, spur innovation, and strengthen relationships with funders and policymakers. This milestone gathering celebrates 25 years of RiboClub and 20 years of RiboWest while officially launching RNA Canada ARN. Renowned RNA scientists from Canada and around the world will convene to discuss the future of RNA research and advocate for continued support in this crucial field.

The event represents an exceptional opportunity for Members of Parliament, Senators, leaders of funding agencies, government officials and media to witness firsthand the numerous achievements in RNA research, particularly Canadian achievements, the potential of RNA research for the future of health, biotechnology and agriculture, and the pressing need for strategic investments in this rapidly advancing field.

Conference Highlights:

- **Opening Ceremony (Sept. 30) and Gala (Oct. 3rd):** Hosted by renowned broadcaster Tasha Kheiriddin. The Gala will feature over 450 participants celebrating Canadian RNA achievements and a keynote by Derrick Rossi, Canadian researcher and entrepreneur, and co-founder of Moderna, on the future of RNA technology.
- **Conference Keynote Speakers:** Nobel Prize laureates Phillip Sharp and Thomas Cech, alongside Canada-Gairdner International Award recipients such as Lynne Maquat, Pieter Cullis, and Nahum Sonenberg.
- **Presentations and Panel Discussions:** Featuring academic, industry, and funding agency leaders, there will be a total of about 120 presentations and 7 panel discussions.
- **Future-Focused Conversations:** Discussions on the future of RNA research funding with leaders from key funding agencies and industry partners.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with over 450 national and international RNA researchers, clinicians, and patients who hope to benefit from RNA research in the near future.
- **Cutting-Edge Insights:** Learn about the latest applications of RNA research in fields such as health, agriculture, and more.
- **Community Engagement:** Build lasting relationships with the RNA research community and provide valuable feedback to early-career scientists. The conference will also serve as a platform to announce new initiatives in RNA research.



- **Special Sessions for Policymakers and Journalists (Oct. 2):** Tailored sessions for members of parliament, senators, and journalists, offering a unique opportunity to engage directly with leading scientists and explore the impact of strategic investments in RNA research.

RNA's Role and Impact:

RNA (Ribonucleic Acid) is a fundamental molecule at the forefront of medical research and developing innovative treatments. Highlighted by the development of RNA-based vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic, its significance continues to grow as current research unveils RNA's vast potential across various fields, from agriculture to personalized medicine.

RNA Canada ARN's Contributions:

Formed in 2023, RNA Canada ARN has become a cornerstone in advancing Canadian RNA research. This pan-Canadian not-for-profit organization brings together over 300 researchers and 400 trainees, dedicated to driving forward RNA-related discoveries that offer widespread benefits. By enhancing fundamental research and fostering industry collaborations, RNA Canada ARN is pivotal in translating RNA innovations into practical applications.

This landmark event will help shape the future of RNA research in Canada and beyond while engaging policymakers to highlight the critical need for ongoing support and investment in this rapidly evolving field. **For more details on the agenda and all conferences and panel discussions that will take place, and to register, visit the official conference page: [RNA Canada ARN Annual Meeting](#).**

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