

Meet Your Indigenous Summer Studentship Advisors!

Do you have questions about the BioCanRx Indigenous Summer Studentship? Below, you will find individuals who are here to answer them! Topics can be anything from what it's like to conduct research generally, to conduct cancer immunotherapy research, to work away from home, to set your own work-life balance – you name it! Each advisor offers something a little bit different. Don't hesitate to reach out to more than one - they are excited to help.

Joshua Tobias



I am a manager on the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis team at the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC). As the steward of the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control, CPAC facilitates collaboration across key stakeholders in Canada to accelerate work that improves the effectiveness and efficiency of cancer control. Working on the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Engagement team, I strive to ensure that respectful and reciprocal relationships are fostered between the cancer system and Indigenous partners across the country. Prior to joining CPAC, I worked as a Partnership Liaison Officer in Ontario Health's Indigenous Cancer Care Unit. Here, I worked closely to ensure connections between cancer service providers, Cancer Care Ontario, and Indigenous communities, governments, and organizations.

I am also an adjunct professor and sessional instructor at Western University, where I teach a course on environmental hazards and human health. I received my PhD in Geography from Western University in 2015, where I had the honor of working alongside 46 Elders from two Anishinaabe communities. I also completed a Postdoctoral study at the University of Toronto/Sunnybrook Research Institute that was focused on identifying ways to improve First Nations' participation in cancer screening by identifying barriers created by existing policies. I am originally from Russell Ontario and currently live in London with my beautiful wife and two amazing children.

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Julian Lum



I obtained my Ph.D. from the University of Ottawa and pursued a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. My research program is interested in understanding how cellular metabolism regulates tumorigenesis (growth of tumours). I am studying how autophagy promotes tumour cell survival and whether these pathways can be used as novel targets for T cell therapy. Other areas of interest include: cancer stem cells, metabolic control of T cells, and immunotherapy.

I am a BioCanRx Network Investigator, and have trained BioCanRx Summer Students in previous years. I also sit on the BioCanRx's Highly Qualified Personnel Development Committee and Adjudication Committee that adjudicates summer studentships.

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Megan Mahoney



I currently work at BioCanRx, a federally funded Networks of Centre of Excellence focused on cancer immunotherapy. Since joining BioCanRx in 2017, she has developed and overseen training initiatives aimed at bridging the gap and growing the talent pool in translational expertise related to cell and virus-based therapies. Prior to joining BioCanRx, I was Operations Manager for the Biotherapeutics Manufacturing Centre (BMC) Virus Facility at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute. In this role, I oversaw the operational activities of the BMC, which specializes in virus and vaccine development and manufacturing services for products destined for pre-clinical and clinical research. I am also a program advisor for the Science to Business Network and a program committee member for the Canadian Science Policy Centre. I received my PhD in Neuroscience from Queen's University in 2014.

I have led the Summer Studentship program for many years and would be glad to answer any questions that you have about the application process or cancer-related careers, make introductions or help you find researchers. Email is the best way to reach me, and we can follow up with a call or Zoom.

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Sarah Ivanco



I currently work at BioCanRx as the Manager of EDI and Training Programs. In my role I am responsible for developing and carrying out BioCanRx's EDI Action Plan and working with my colleague Megan on various training programs for our HQP network. I completed a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Neuroscience at Carleton University where I was given the incredible opportunity to work with Inuit youth from Igloodik, Nunavut on my thesis project. Outside of work I enjoy singing, dancing, and trying new makeup looks.

I am the lead point of contact for the Indigenous Summer Studentship program so please feel free to email me at anytime.

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Taylor Jamieson



I am a Métis student, originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba. I completed a Bachelor of Science Honours degree at the University of Winnipeg and am presently in my fifth year of the MD/PhD program at the University of Ottawa. I am currently completing my PhD under the supervision of Drs. Ilkow and Bell at the Cancer Centre within the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute. My research aims to explore the expression of microRNAs from oncolytic viruses to overcome resistance to conventional cancer drug therapies. I look forward to chatting with applicants who might want to learn more about cancer research and what a summer studentship might look like in our centre, I also welcome the opportunity to discuss potential career paths in both academic and clinical settings while I navigate both as an MD/PhD student.

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