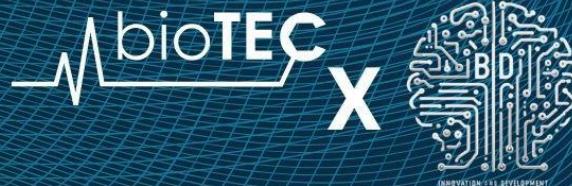
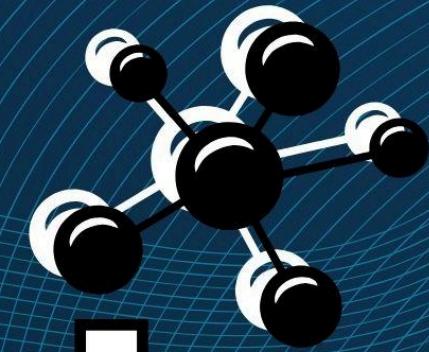


Bio Catalyst



Event Information Package

Officially Partnered with

Coopērathon

Event Overview

BioCatalyst, hosted by Biotechnology & Bioengineering (BioTEC) and Biotechnology Innovation & Development Club (BIDC), is an up-and-coming open-poster style pitch competition scheduled for 2026. We aim to combine the worlds of biology and entrepreneurship to foster the development of future biopreneurs by providing a platform to express their ideas, meet like-minded individuals, and interact with industry professionals.

Objective

- Introduce participants to the world of bio-entrepreneurship
- Provide constructive feedback on ideas for further improvement
- Provide a platform for industry networking
- Foster innovation and creativity
- Encourage entrepreneurial spirit and ventures

Vision

Igniting the next generation of biopreneurs by providing a dynamic platform to showcase their bold ideas, cultivate entrepreneurial spirit, and foster BioTech innovation.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide aspiring biopreneurs with a platform to express their ideas, gain professional feedback, and access a network of industry professionals and like-minded individuals

Theme

Biotechnology x Entrepreneurship

Major Themes:

- Biotechnology
- Medtech
- Healthcare

Format

The format of the event will be an open-poster style pitch competition, where pitching teams will present their start-up ideas through a poster presentation. All teams will be within the same venue to allow for members of other teams to listen in and learn from each other. Judges will rotate around between the pitching teams to listen to the pitches. When pitching to Judges, each team will have a 5 minute pitching session followed by a 5 minute question and answer session.

Tentative Event Information

LOCATION: Hart House Great Hall,
University of Toronto (7 Hart House Cir, Toronto, ON M5S 3H3)

DATE AND TIME: Feb 27th 2026 | 11:30 AM - 3:30 PM EST

We understand if you cannot attend the full conference but ask that you please arrive on time to ensure enough time to set up for the opening ceremony.

Key Details of the event:

Date: Feb 27th, 2026

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Expected participants: 80

Expected judges and speakers: 7

Schedule highlights: The event will officially begin with an opening ceremony, featuring speeches from Desjardin's team. After the opening remarks, participants begin their pitch presentations as judges evaluate each team during the first round. Following this, there will be the final round of pitching. The day will end with a closing ceremony, during which the winners are announced and recognized for their achievements.

| Time | Duration | Event |
|-------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:30 | 30 min | Participant Poster Setup and Opening Speaker Setup |
| 12:00 | 30 min | Opening Ceremony |
| 12:30 | 60 min | Participant Pitching and Judging (5 min pitch & 3 min Q&A per team) |
| | 15 min | Break |
| 13:45 | 45 min | Participant Pitching and Judging (5 min pitch & 3 min Q&A per team) |
| 14:30 | 30 min | Judges determine winner (top participants will get one final final pitch round if judges cannot determine order of the top 3) |
| 15:00 | 15 min | Closing ceremony |
| 15:15 | 15 min | Announcement of winners |

Why should participants attend?

The BIDCxBioTec Pitch Competition is an opportunity for students interested or focused in entrepreneurship in the biotech, medtech and healthcare field to showcase and validate their ideas in front of fellow entrepreneurs and professionals. It offers valuable network opportunities, connecting attendees with industry professionals and fellow innovators. The winners of the pitch competition will get a special entry into Desjardin cooperathon. It includes a free 6 week program in Montreal which provides all the support needed for a startup.

Prizes

| | Monetary Prize | Additional Prize |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| First Place | \$2000 | Entrance into Desjardin Cooperathon as Finalist Train ticket + Hotel at Cooperathon |
| Second Place | \$1500 | Entrance into Desjardin Cooperathon as Finalist |
| Third Place | \$1000 | Entrance into Desjardin Cooperathon as Finalist |

Food and Drink

All judges, speakers, and sponsors will have access to our dedicated Speakers Lounge. Refreshments will be available here for all speakers throughout the event and we welcome you to use this space to prepare for your presentations or network with your fellow speakers. Please let the conference team know if you have any dietary restrictions. Water will be available on stage during your presentation.



Contact

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact your contact liaison. Additionally, do not hesitate to reach out to the Director of Speakers at elakshi.jain@uwbiotec.ca and jaden.paltoo@uwaterloo.ca, or the Conference Co-Chairs at robinson.meng@uwbiotec.ca and mahnoor.moin@uwbiotec.ca