

# REALISE *the News* – November 2019

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## IN THIS EDITION:

1. Meet your HBITO executives
2. Upcoming HBI REALISE modules
3. Other UCalgary workshops, events, and seminars

## MEET YOUR HBITO EXECUTIVES

### Faizan Malik, Vice-President/Treasurer, HBITO

Written by Charmaine Szalay-Anderson



Faizan Malik is a Master's student in Dr. Deborah Kurrasch's lab. His research is focused on the gut-brain axis, particularly the ecosystem of bacteria within the human body, known as the microbiome. Faizan is exploring how the microbiome can modulate the brain's immune cells known as microglia. Specifically, his research delves into how the composition of the maternal microbiome can affect the development of the fetus's brain, and subsequent postnatal brain development.

"My interest in science stems from wanting to understand and breakdown the intricacies of the world around us... Contributing to and pushing the boundaries of scientific knowledge combined with

positively impacting humanity, are significant factors that drove me to pursue medical research."

His first venture into research was in an evolutionary biology lab working with Parks Canada exploring how invasive species are pushing native species to the brink of endangerment. However, Faizan was fascinated with neuroscience, particularly the development of the brain. This led him to complete two undergraduate projects with Dr. Kurrasch.

Beyond the lab bench, Faizan is passionate about the implementation of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, sensor and computing advancements, and rapid prototyping in healthcare, technology he believes has the potential to transform how we approach medicine. This passion led him to found Rapid Prototyping, a platform that provides education and awareness about rapid prototypical technologies and their implementation in medical research. He has also been a key member of Innovation 4 Health having acted as Technology Lead, Co-Executive Director of a neuroscience-specific health hack competition Neuro Nexus 2019, and is currently the Executive director of a flagship competition for child health and wellness.

Faizan is the vice-president/treasurer for the HBITO. Learn more about the HBITO at <https://hbito.ucalgary.ca/>

## UPCOMING HBI REALISE MODULES

To register for upcoming modules, sign in to the [REALISE Intranet site](#) with your UCIT username and password

### Basics of fMRI Preprocessing and Analysis

October 28 - November 6 | various times

Multiple day sessions, hands-on and theory, designed to acquaint trainees new to fMRI to preprocess (prepare data for further analyses) and perform first-level analyses. Attendees will be able to: appreciate and understand

4D datasets, convert scanner acquired data to nifti format, use FSL (comprehensive library of analysis software tools) to perform basic preprocessing steps (filter, motion and time corrections, spatial smoothing, brain registration), and initial within-subject analysis (multiple regression, experimental design, data fitting, statistical output).

*These workshops are designed to allow trainees to attend any or all topics on any or all days. Visit the [REALISE Intranet site](#) for details. Two more sessions left: Nov. 1 and 6!*

## Science Speed Dating

**November 8 | 2 to 4 pm**

Looking to collaborate with other researchers but don't know how? Curious about the different research projects happening all over campus? This is the event for you! In a "speed dating" style format, you will have three minutes to share your research project with another researcher before moving to the next person. This is a great opportunity to network and advance your communication skills. A social event will follow where you can connect with people whose project you found interesting. This social event is open to all members of the HBI, including Principal Investigators, as an opportunity to network and collaborate.

## A Reader-Centred Approach to Clear and Effective Science Writing and Editing

**November 21 and 27 | 9:00 am - 4:30 pm**

This 14-hour workshop is an excellent opportunity for participants to strengthen their science writing and editing skills and become more confident and efficient writers. The workshop will be an engaging and comprehensive mix of mini-lectures and presentations, discussions, and individual and group practice.

Participants will review writing basics (e.g., grammar, punctuation, and mechanics); strengthen their ability to write clearly, concisely, and efficiently; learn some of the key strategies and tools that professional editors use; and leave with resources to help them continue to refine their writing skills.

*Offered in partnership with ACHRI. Enrollment in this workshop is limited. Visit the [REALISE Intranet site](#) for details.*

## OTHER UCALGARY WORKSHOPS, EVENTS, AND SEMINARS

### [Social Media: Tips and Strategies to Give You the Cutting Edge](#)

**November 1 | 2 to 4 pm**

Learn how various social media platforms such as LinkedIn and Twitter can enhance your professional online presence. You will also develop a plan to connect with influential people within your discipline.

### [2019 Gairdner International Symposium: Child Health and Wellness – A Precision Health Approach](#)

**November 6 | 8:15 am - 3:30 pm**

Hear about the latest discoveries from researchers who are trailblazers in Precision Health for Child Health and Wellness at the prestigious 2019 Gairdner International Symposium, hosted by ACHRI.

### [The Brain-Computer Interface \(BCI\) Game Jam](#)

**November 8 - 10**

An opportunity for you to create unique BCI controlled games for children with motor disabilities, meet some of the children that are in need of these new games and win some cool prizes!

### [Knowledge translation in research grant applications](#)

**November 12 | 12 to 1:30 pm**

Partnered with ACHRI, the Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program (CCHCSP) is excited to offer a series of CCHCSP Certificate eligible sessions in Calgary. *All are welcome, trainees of any level or discipline and faculty.*

### **Mitacs: Foundations of Project Management 1**

**November 13 & 14 | 9 am to 5 pm**

This 2-day course provides an experiential, collaborative learning experience to enable participants to integrate the principles of project management, team building, group dynamics and leadership in their future careers.

### **Communications Boot Camp Pt 1: Written Communication**

**November 15 | 2 to 4 pm**

Join the GSE on November 15 for a workshop focused on written communication. Content will include tips on getting started, staying organized, how to format documents.

### **Think Big: Are We Wired To Be Social?**

**November 15 | 6 to 8 pm**

Join host Jay Ingram and experts from the Hotchkiss Brain Institute and Faculty of Arts in a lively, interactive discussion about the social life of the brain.

### **Career Services appointments: Fall 2019**

**November 15, 29 & December 6**

A Career Development Specialist will visit Foothills campus every 2nd Friday to meet with PhD and Master's students for 1-on-1 appointments. Topics include: career planning and exploration, resumes/CV/cover letter review, job search/networking, LinkedIn, interview preparation, and more!

### **Mitacs - Practice Your Presentation Skills 1**

**November 18 | 9 am to 5 pm**

In this one-day course, theory is introduced in short bursts and participants spend the majority of time practicing their presentation skills while receiving immediate feedback.

### **Mitacs - Foundations of Project Management 2**

**November 27 & 28 | 9 am to 5 pm**

This 2-day course provides an experiential, collaborative learning experience to enable participants to build on the principles of project management learned in Level I, while exploring key concepts in greater detail to further develop skills and knowledge in the area of project planning and management.

### **Networking & Etiquette for Graduate Students**

**November 29 | 2 to 3 pm**

Gain more confidence by learning what networking really is and how to best leverage your personality style.