



3:00 PM	WELCOME	Peter Goodhand , President (acting), FACIT
	OPENING REMARKS	Jeff Butler , Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence & Security
	MASTER of CEREMONIES	Brian Bloom , Co-Founder & CEO, Bloom Burton & Co.
3:15 PM	PANEL: Cancer Start-ups Take Off – Navigating the flight path to innovation successes	Zaid Atto , Founder & CEO, Xpan Saumik Biswas , Founder & CEO, Tenomix Yvonne Bombard , Founder & CEO, Genetics Adviser Nicole Baryla (<i>moderator</i>), Sr. Director, Corporate Affairs, FACIT
3:45 PM	PITCH COMPETITION	
	PITCH 1	Agata Kieliszek , Co-Founder, Block Biosciences
	PITCH 2	Piyush Garg , Founder & CEO, Cellgel Biosystems
	- Break -	
4:35 PM	PITCH 3	Shalini Gupta , Founder & CEO, Asima Health Inc
	PITCH 4	Ati Zarabadi , Co-Founder & CEO, AiimSense Inc.
	PITCH 5	Tony Tsui , Founder & CEO, Solaris Innovations Canada
	PITCH 6	Mann Parikh , Founder & CEO, NerView Surgical
5:45 PM	PATIENT PARTNER REFLECTIONS	Bill Mantel , Principal, Innovation Strategy & Capital Consultancy, OICR Board of Directors
	CLOSING REMARKS and AUDIENCE CHOICE VOTING	
6:00 PM	RECEPTION	Ernsting Entrepreneurship Award and Audience Choice Award winners will be announced at ~7:00 pm.

Panel

Cancer Start-ups Take Off - Navigating the flight path to innovation successes



Zaid Atto
Founder & CEO



Saumik Biswas
Founder & CEO



Yvonne Bombard
Founder & CEO









About FACIT

FACIT is an award-winning commercialization venture firm that builds companies with entrepreneurs to accelerate oncology innovation, with a portfolio that has attracted more than \$1.7 billion in investment to Ontario. Blending industry experience, capital and the unsurpassed clinician-scientist network of its strategic partner the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR), FACIT capitalizes on the province’s investment in research and healthcare to the benefit of the local economy and patients worldwide. **Cancer Breakthroughs. Realized.** facit.ca

Entrepreneur Finalists 2026



FALCONS'
FORTUNES

- pitch 1  **Agata Kieliszek** | Block Biosciences
Intercepting cancer spread to the brain
- pitch 2  **Piyush Garg** | CellGel Biosystems
CellGel's Onco-Shield: Advancing reconstruction after oral cancer
- pitch 3  **Shalini Gupta** | Asima Health Inc.
Rapid, low cost lab-on-a-chip platform for frequent cancer monitoring
- pitch 4  **Ati Zarabadi** | AiimSense Inc.
Portable brain imaging for oncology care
- pitch 5  **Tony Tsui** | Solaris Innovations Canada
ClearAE: Real-time safety intelligence for cancer trials
- pitch 6  **Mann Parikh** | NerView Surgical
NerveSense: real-time, dye-free nerve visualization for cancer surgery

Audience Choice Award

VOTE!

for your favourite pitch



facit.ca/vote

sponsored by:

NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT

voting will open after the closing remarks

Falcon Judges



Jung-Kay Chiu

Partner
Norton Rose Fulbright Canada



Elizabeth Douville

Life Science Business Executive
(former) President & CEO, IRICoR



Sarah Farr

Principal
Genesys Capital



Joel Liederman

President
ELARAD Venture Management

About Falcons' Fortunes

Falcons' Fortunes is FACIT's premier pitch competition and networking event to celebrate Ontario's cancer innovators and entrepreneurs with partners from across the ecosystem. The annual event, now in its thirteenth year, attracts entrepreneurs to pitch their early breakthrough cancer innovation and compete for the \$100,000 *Ernsting Entrepreneurship Award*. Falcons' Fortunes is an integral part of FACIT's continuum of commercialization capital and entrepreneurial support programs bridging the seed and early venture funding gap. Many past pitch finalists have leveraged the opportunity and subsequently secured follow-on investment capital from FACIT, propelling their cancer start-up to take-off.

The six entrepreneur finalists in the competition will each present a 10-minute pitch, followed by 5-minutes of Q&A with the Falcon Judging Panel, who will then determine the winner. The audience will also have the opportunity to vote for their favourite pitch to win the *Audience Choice Award*. For more information, visit facit.ca/falcons-fortunes

