A Message
from UCalgary President Ed McCauley

In June 2020, UCalgary launched UCeed, a unique group of early-stage investment funds that accelerate UCalgary and community-based startup companies to advance problem-solving research, create jobs and fuel the economy. In October of that same year, it announced its first investments, and to date encompasses four funds: Health, Child Health and Wellness, Haskayne Student Fund and Social Impact.

The launch of UCeed was ground-breaking. Ranked the #1 university in Canada for startups, UCeed marked a significant milestone for our university, completing the link between discovery, entrepreneurship, and impact. It is the largest university based startup investment fund in the country, and after the first year of investments, $14 million is currently under management and $1.95 million is invested into 15 UCalgary and community-based startups.

And it is still early days.

As UCeed enters its second year of operations, its ambitions are high. Work to expand local and international reach, build connections to the broader investment community, expand the number of funds, and develop higher levels of venture creation is already underway. By introducing disruptive ideas and technology and tackling some of society’s greatest challenges, UCeed will pave the path to a better future.

Much has changed for our university, our province, and the economy. Through the hardships, there has been no institution better equipped to rise to the challenge of these times than UCalgary. UCeed’s momentum would not be possible without the tireless support and generosity of our community partners and philanthropists who believe in its game-changing impact.

I look forward to UCalgary continuing to lead the country in venture creation and UCeed’s achievements as it invests in the next generation of entrepreneurs, brings new innovations to the community, diversifies the economy, and shapes the future of talent in our province.

Ed McCauley
President and Vice-Chancellor
University of Calgary
UCeed sits at the intersection of philanthropy, research and business. Supported through the generosity of private donors and strategic partnerships, it is advancing the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators by filling a funding shortfall between research grants and private investment capital.

Activated by UCalgary’s knowledge-transfer and business incubator, Innovate Calgary, UCeed operates at the centre of UCalgary’s thriving innovation ecosystem, bridging the gap between innovation, demonstration and commercialization.
After the first year of operations, UCeed is having a strong impact on UCalgary and the greater community’s venture ecosystem by making investments into 15 ventures and committing $1,950,000.

UCeed investee companies are taking their ideas and scientific insights to create real impact on our regional economy. Each venture goes through a detailed selection process and only those who have the greatest potential to strengthen our economy, have a powerful impact on the community, and create jobs are chosen to receive investment. UCeed’s investment in these companies is unleashing the power of innovative thinking and advancing the leaders who will be architects and builders of Alberta’s future.”

John Wilson, President and CEO, Innovate Calgary
UCalgary’s Innovation Ecosystem

UCeed operates at the heart of UCalgary’s thriving innovation ecosystem. It leverages important centres, including Innovate Calgary, the Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking, the Life Sciences Innovation Hub, W21C, IMPACT and Creative Destruction Lab — Rockies to advance research, provide real-world learning to students and create community impact.

UCeed is bridging the gap between research and commercialization by:

- Providing funds to support the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators;
- Offering commercialization expertise, advisory mentorship, and networking support to help companies become investor-ready, more quickly;
- Supporting business and technology development programming to help transform research findings into community impact.

“ As a great research university, UCalgary is driven by our commitment to changing the world and helping communities through research. UCEEED is a unique way that we create a direct connection from research and innovation to economic and social benefit. By opening doors for promising new ventures, UCEEED is enabling real-world impact.”

William Ghali, Vice-President (Research), University of Calgary

Leveraging Leadership and Expertise

UCeed has a network of champions from the startup, tech, science, business and innovation communities who make up Investment Advisory Groups (IAG) for each of the funds. Each member generously volunteers their time to provide knowledge, expertise and mentorship, backed by years of deep sector experience and proven leadership. The IAG members meet regularly, as often as quarterly, to make decisions on investments. The dedicated commitment from IAG members is an important part of UCEEED’s success and its ability to make an impact.

Investment Advisors

**GENERAL HEALTH AND CHILD HEALTH AND WELLNESS FUNDS**

Dr. Jehangir Appoo  
Founding Partner, AIoT Health  
Research Associate Professor, University of Calgary

Mike Begin  
Former Chair, CEO, Spartan Controls  
Director, Alberta Children’s Hospital Foundation Board

Mark Blackwell  
Partner, Canadian Office Lead, Builders VC  
Former CEO, GNS3

Dr. Chen Fong  
Co-founder, Calgary Scientific  
Former Head of Radiology, University of Calgary

Derrick Hunter  
President, Blusky Equities  
Co-founder, Wild Rose Properties

James Lochrie  
Co-founder, Wave Accounting  
Founder, Thin Air Labs  
Director, IT, Farm  
Business Consultant

Alice Reimer  
CEO, F-Hip  
Site Lead, Creative Destruction Lab – Rockies  
Co-founder, The51

Dr. Chen Fong  
Co-founder, Calgary Scientific  
Former Head of Radiology, University of Calgary
Clinical Advisory Board

The marketplace success of novel therapeutics, diagnostics, medical devices, and other healthcare products often depends on nuanced factors that require frontline clinical feedback to assess. The Clinical Advisory Board is a group of physician volunteers who leverage their networks to connect UCeed team members to frontline clinicians who provide feedback on the clinical utility and feasibility of healthcare products and services in development by prospective investee companies. We are deeply grateful for their valuable assistance.
The Funds

ALBERTA CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION
UCEED FUND FOR CHILD HEALTH AND WELLNESS

$700,000
Invested as of September 30, 2021

June 2020
Launch date

$5 Million
Child Health
Capital Managed

5 Investments*
*Three companies are co-investments with the General Health Fund

Child Health and Wellness is funded by the generosity of our community through the Alberta Children’s Hospital Foundation (ACHF) and their mission to inspire our community to invest in excellence in child health, research and family-centred care. Serving a robust pipeline of UCalgary and community-based child health enterprises, the UCEED Child Health and Wellness Fund is Canada’s first early-stage investment fund for child health and wellness, which is a priority research area for UCalgary.

The UCEED Child Health and Wellness fund represents a unique step in the commitment of the Alberta Children’s Hospital Foundation to innovation and greater impact on child health and wellness. The fund was launched in June 2020 as the first UCEED fund with a commitment of $5M over five years. Its mandate is to help fund start-up ventures to accelerate the application and commercialization of research findings into the products and services that will make real differences in child and maternal health and wellness. The first year out of the gates has been very encouraging. The innovative research and world-class venture opportunities we get to see, the depth and diligence of the UCEED team, the candid insights and advice from my fellow Investment Advisory Group members, and a program working hard to help both the initiative and the ventures succeed — are exciting and energizing for Alberta, Canada, and especially for child health.”

Mike Begin,
Director, Alberta Children’s Hospital Foundation Board

Thanks to support from our partners, advisors, and a dedicated and experienced team working hard behind the scenes, UCEED has made tremendous progress in its first year of operations. We have launched four funds that reflect the strategic priority areas for UCalgary, our city and our province. I am very proud of what the UCEED team has accomplished in its first year and the impact that these ventures will bring to our community and the local economy.”

Peter Santosham,
Executive Director, Seed Funds, Innovate Calgary
Venture Profile: Trexo Robotics

Through its investments, the UCeed Child Health and Wellness Fund is creating positive change for children and families living with real challenges.

Trexo Robotics received investment from the UCeed Child Health and Wellness Fund in 2020, but their story began in 2011. When Founder and CEO, Manmeet Maggu, learned that his nephew, Praneit, was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and would not be able to walk, Manmeet’s eyes were opened to what many children with disabilities go through. With a lot of their time spent sitting and not being able to walk, it is more difficult to exercise and stay active which can lead to negative health outcomes. Manmeet decided to create a solution, and with co-founder Rahul Udasi, they created Trexo Robotics and the Trexo Plus prototype.

Trexo Plus is a novel, wearable robotic device designed for children with walking impairments. It consists of two wearable legs which transform a passive walking apparatus into a fully powered robotic device. Since it is designed to accommodate a wide range of conditions and needs and is adjustable in height, it can be used by children as young as 18 months old.

Investment from UCeed has allowed Trexo to scale production and, as a result, reach more families living with disabilities and make a transformative impact on the lives of children. They have collaborated with Dr. Elizabeth Condliffe, Assistant Clinical Professor at UCalgary’s Hotchkiss Brain Institute, whose research focuses on improving interventions for people living with cerebral palsy and other neurologic disabilities.

“Support from UCeed has helped us double down on our partnership with Dr. Elizabeth Condliffe, in researching the benefits of the Trexo for children with walking impairments. Her work in validating the long-term health and economic benefits is a critical part of ensuring Trexo’s widespread adoption so that the Trexo can reach every child that needs it.”

Manmeet Maggu, Founder & CEO, Trexo Robotics

tréxō robotics

The Health Fund is supported by the generosity of the River Fund at the Calgary Foundation and their mission to build a healthy and vibrant community where everyone belongs. Serving a robust pipeline of UCalgary and community-based health enterprises, the Health Fund is transforming the future of human and community health.
Venture Profile: Fluid Biotech

Fluid Biotech is revolutionizing the treatment of vascular disease through the world’s first hybrid polymer-metal, flow-diverting stent. The stent is made almost entirely out of a material that will naturally absorb into the body after the stent has treated an aneurysm and can drastically improve a patient’s quality of life. The technology allows them to undergo convenient MRIs and CT scans, instead of the traditional uncomfortable and invasive angiograms required by conventional stents and removes the need for life-long blood thinners.

Fluid Biotech was founded by two University of Calgary neurosurgeons, Dr. John Wong and Dr. Alim Mitha. About five percent of people harbour a brain aneurysm that, if it bursts, can cause devastating stroke and be fatal in one-third of cases. The research team is currently evaluating the stent in pre-clinical laboratory testing and in August 2021, they successfully completed $4.7M USD financing. Receiving investment through UCeed has been incredibly important to the company’s growth, providing them with rewarding opportunities and opening doors to further funding sources.

Looking back, it was not necessarily the magnitude of investment from UCeed that was critical, but the validation it provided to professional investors.”

Dr. John Wong,
CEO, Fluid Biotech

“As a long-time investor in early-stage technology, it is clear to me that if we want to see transformational innovation from our universities, we need to do more to support our brightest minds on campus. UCeed represents an important step in the process by directing philanthropic dollars into areas where they can have the most impact. By establishing a process for identifying the best opportunities, and creating a structure with which to support them, I believe we can create significant impact in our communities. As one of the first funds in the UCeed portfolio, the General Health Fund, supported by the River Fund at the Calgary Foundation, represents a commitment by like-minded individuals who see the need to support local innovation for the benefit of all Albertans. On behalf of my fellow IAG members, we look forward to building on our first year of operations and demonstrating the impact venture philanthropy can have on our ecosystem.”

Derrick Hunter,
President, Bluesky Equities
Innovere is a Canadian startup within the medical accessories industry. Founded by University of Toronto graduates Garry Liu and Kevan Anderson, Innovere’s breakthrough came through their involvement with the Creative Destruction Lab which helped them make important connections within the medical field.

Innovere’s technology allows audio-visual entertainment systems to be built into MRI machines, where patients can watch videos, see visuals or communicate with the MRI technician. This is incredibly impactful as it significantly reduces patient anxiety which currently affects up to 33% of MRIs and can become very costly. By providing a means of communication and entertainment for patients, it can decrease claustrophobia, noise and anxiety that they can experience during an MRI.

In December 2020, the UCeed Haskayne student fund made its first investment in Innovere with the support and guidance of fund mentors and its Investment Advisory Group.

“I had the opportunity to pitch with UHSF in 2020. It is an innovative program with high-calibre business students managing an investment fund. I was impressed by the fund managers at every stage, by their curiosity at the pitch, professionalism at the follow-on engagements, and thoroughness in due diligence. It was a pleasure to engage with UHSF. The coordinators have created a special and unique educational program. Congratulations!”

Gary Liu,
CEO, Innovere
I want to congratulate the 2020/21 students, who were the Founding Partners of the UCeed Haskayne Student Fund on an extremely successful first year. UHSF launched September 2020 with 15 students and over $1mm of capital raised and then made its first two investments this year in early-stage startups Innovere Medical (Toronto) and Cohesic Inc. (Calgary). I am especially proud of the success the students have had securing top quality internships and full-time career jobs with venture capital, private equity and investment banking firms across Canada. I also want to thank mentors, teachers and supporters from Innovate Calgary, The Haskayne School of Business, The Creative Destruction Lab and the broader business community who have helped guide the students this past year - I am confident that UHSF will be career defining for many of its students and that we can feel proud that we have made a difference in their lives.”

Vincent Chahley,
UCeed Haskayne Student Fund Founder and Investment Advisory Group Chair

The Social Impact Fund is supported by the generosity of United Way of Calgary and Area and their mission to mobilize communities for lasting social change. This unique partnership between a leading university and a leading community partner is the first of its kind and represents the innovative thinking and leadership our community is bringing to this sector.
Chroma is much more than marketplace technology. We are building a platform that aims to fundamentally transform the relationship between renters and landlords. Our industry-leading technology helps landlords manage their business while also delivering a better renting experience. With over 1/3 of Canadians in the rental market, it’s time to reimagine this experience to truly serve the needs of Canadians and their families. This is how it should have worked all along.”

Myles Shedden, CEO, Chroma Property Technologies

Ventre Profile: Chroma Property Technologies

With over one-third of North Americans living in long-term rental arrangements, and housing price growth showing few signs slowing, Chroma is setting out to radically transform the future of renting. The Chroma platform is the first renter-centric property technology platform in existence. Their technology helps renters make and track their rent payments, build their credit, and connect with other renters in their community.

Chroma's team has extensive experience both in building and scaling operationally complex technology platforms and in multi-family real estate. Their advisory board comprises leading experts in key areas such as B2B/SaaS and consumer technology, multi-family real-estate, and homelessness and affordable housing. Now, in beta across 10 cities, Chroma will continue to build out its platform and marketplace across Canada.

The UCeed Social Impact Fund launched this year with United Way of Calgary and Area supporting the fund with a lead donation of $2.5 million over five years. The mandate of the fund is to promote social innovation as a solution to community challenges. Innovation in the social services space is a key to addressing the complex problems faced by many people in our community, helping to drive systemic change and address the root causes of complex issues. By investing in social ventures founded by members of the University or local entrepreneurs, the fund will create opportunities for the University and United Way to integrate entrepreneurial thinking, talent development and research impact in the community. I am excited to work with this fund as it expands its fundraising efforts and accelerates its investments in local social enterprises over the coming year.”

John Rossall, Director, Pipestone Energy Corp. and Peyto Exploration and Development Chair, United Way of Calgary and Area
Building the Leaders of Tomorrow

Through UCeed, students are given a unique, experiential learning opportunity. The knowledge that students have gained through their participation has given them an advantage with employers, who often struggle to fill junior roles with experienced students and new graduates. Many of the students who participated in the first year of UCeed have gained the skills needed to land internships and job placements.

Through cross-campus collaboration, students involved with UCeed gain access to the BLG Business Ventures Clinic, run out of the Faculty of Law, which is an experiential learning and mentoring program that partners local entrepreneurs with law students who provide free legal assistance. The partnership has allowed students to gain valuable experience conducting corporate due diligence and helps them understand and mitigate corporate issues specific to early-stage innovation.

The UCeed Social Impact Fund supports entrepreneurial thinking for the next generation of social impact through UCalgary’s partnership with the National Social Value Fund and its local chapter, the Calgary Social Value Fund. Working together, students lead investments in companies and non-profits that have the potential to create meaningful social change in our communities.

An important part of the UCeed Haskayne Student Fund is gender diversity among the student associates, and half of the 2020/21 cohort were female. In order to ensure women are included and well-represented in finance and venture capital, it is important to have learning experiences like this at post-secondary institutions. UCalgary and Innovate Calgary are proudly creating these opportunities through UCeed.

“The UCeed Haskayne Student Fund was one of the most unique and valuable university experiences I’ve had. It gave me real-world exposure to the venture capital space, introducing me to some incredibly supportive mentors and innovative entrepreneurs. Through this experience, my peers and I have built important networks and gained the critical skills necessary for a successful career post-graduation.”

Cristin Mullen, BComm’21
Portfolio of Investments

In its first year, UCeed has made investment in 15 companies. These young ventures are advancing ideas and technology that are having a real-world impact.

**Deep Surface AI** is developing cosmetic surgery software that uses artificial intelligence and high-resolution models of human facial shape variation to provide fast and accurate cosmetic surgery planning.

**Fluid Biotech** is developing a bioabsorbable flow diversion stent to treat brain aneurysms that offer improved safety and post-surgical brain imaging over conventional metallic stents.

**HelpWear** is developing a non-invasive, wearable, heart monitoring system to record and diagnose heart rhythm disorders that offers substantial ease-of-use and longer patient recording time over conventional medical devices.

**ILLUCIDx** is developing an ultra-sensitive point-of-care diagnostic device that utilizes multiple disposable cartridges each containing assay chemistry for a different infectious disease.

**Nimble Science** is developing an ingestible medical device capsule that samples small intestine contents for microbiome diagnostic applications obviating the need for invasive endoscopy procedures.

**PurposeMed** has developed a digital platform, Freddie, to provide quick, discrete, and expert telemedicine services to prescribe and deliver HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) drugs to vulnerable populations, reducing the incidence of HIV infection and healthcare costs.

**Qualisure Diagnostics** is developing a precision diagnostic test to guide the treatment of thyroid cancer, improving patient outcomes by reducing unnecessary surgical procedures and chemotherapy treatments and saving healthcare costs.

**Syantra Diagnostics** is developing a blood-based diagnostic test to detect breast cancer.

**Tactile Orthopaedics** manufactures anatomically accurate human joint models that incorporate artificial bone, cartilage, and tendon components that have material properties that mimic that of living human tissue for arthroscopic surgical training, providing a cost-effective alternative to human cadaveric samples.

**Zymedyne** is developing therapeutics for the treatment of chronic pain that targets a recently discovered biological process that is abnormally activated in chronic pain conditions, offering an alternative to opioids.
CHILD HEALTH FUND

AazeinTx is commercializing a novel, fast-acting, orally delivered compound for the treatment of acute and chronic asthma.

Fluid Biotech is developing a bioabsorbable flow diversion stent to treat brain aneurysms that offer improved safety and post-surgical brain imaging over conventional metallic stents.

Nimble Science is developing an ingestible medical device capsule that samples small intestine contents for microbiome diagnostic applications obviating the need for invasive endoscopy procedures.

tréxö robotics

Trexo Robotics has developed a sophisticated wearable robotic device (Trexo) to provide physiotherapy for children with walking impairments. The device monitors a child’s ability to move his/her legs with artificial intelligence algorithms and provides a level of assistance that maximizes therapeutic benefit.

Zymedyne is developing therapeutics for the treatment of chronic pain that targets a recently discovered biological process that is abnormally activated in chronic pain conditions, offering an alternative to opioids.

HASKEYNE STUDENT FUND

Innovere Medical has developed the world’s first wireless TV that operates inside an MRI scanner. With this innovation, Innovere hopes to improve patient comfort during MRI exams, which cause anxiety in one out of three patients.

Cohesic Solutions provides decision intelligence to physicians and healthcare executives that harnesses cutting-edge data science to inform care, reduce uncertainty, improve communication, increase efficiency, and accelerate research.

SOCIAL IMPACT FUND

Chroma is a renter-centric platform technology that helps renters to find a place to live, pay rent, build credit, connect with their local community, and earn savings on daily purchases.
Philanthropy at Work

Donor Recognition

UCeed Child Health and Wellness is funded by the generosity of our community through the Alberta Children’s Hospital Foundation and their mission to inspire our community to invest in excellence in child health and wellness, research and family centred care.

UCeed Health Fund is supported by the generosity of the River Fund at the Calgary Foundation and their mission to build a healthy and vibrant community where everyone belongs.

UCeed Haskayne Student Fund is supported by the generosity of the Cannonball Sport and Education Foundation and UCalgary donors wanting to make an impact.

UCeed Social Impact Fund is supported by the generosity of United Way of Calgary and area and their mission to mobilize communities for lasting social change.

UCeed venture education and entrepreneurial support services are provided by the generosity of the TD Ready Commitment program and their mission to create the conditions so everyone has the chance to succeed in a changing world, making the world a better, more inclusive place.

At UCalgary, philanthropy makes an immediate impact on the lives of real people in our community. The generosity of Uceed donors is driving innovation, creating jobs, delivering social change, and building future leaders. We are very grateful for the support of these champions whose commitment has accelerated UCeed’s success and impact. This momentum would not be possible without you. Thank you.”

Andrea Morris,
Chief Development Officer, University of Calgary

University of Calgary

Andrea Morris
Chief Development Officer

Kathleen MacPherson
Executive Director, Institutional Development

Vanessa Ferreira
Executive Director, Principal Gifts and Strategic Initiatives

Melanie McDonald
Development Communications Specialist, Principal Gifts and Strategic Initiatives

Helen Dunlop
Development Strategist and Writer, Principal Gifts and Strategic Initiatives

Innovate Calgary

John Wilson
President and CEO

Pete Santosham
Managing Director UCeed
Executive Director Seed Funds

Adam Cragg
Fund Manager UCeed Haskayne Student Fund
Executive Director New Ventures

Jordan Armstrong
Fund Manager UCeed Social Impact

William S. Szczepaniak
Fund Manager UCeed Child Health & General Health

Greg Mack
Fund Operations Lead

Travis Inlow
Senior Manager, Portfolio

Nikhil Bedi
Manager, Business Development

UCeed Team

UCeed is one of Alberta’s most active investors. Our team brings together expertise across multiple departments at UCalgary and Innovate Calgary. The depth of experience in entrepreneurship, investment, innovation, and commercialization is essential to the fund’s success, but it’s the overall community of experts, clinicians, investment advisors, and partners that provides us with a foundation on which to build. We are committed to the continued development of this ecosystem through investments in the best and brightest ideas from our communities.