

Dear BCIA Nominations Committee,

I am writing to formally nominate myself for a position as a board member of the British Columbia Institute of Agrologists (BCIA). With over sixteen years of combined experience in the food, agricultural, and pharmaceutical sectors, and eight years in leadership and management roles, I am confident that my background, skills, and commitment to professional excellence will contribute meaningfully to the continued success and advancement of BCIA.

Throughout my career, I have demonstrated a strong dedication to the agrology profession. My journey began with rigorous academic training, earning a Master of Agriculture in Tea Science and a Master of Science in Agricultural, Food, and Nutritional Science. These foundations have enabled me to approach complex challenges with analytical rigor and scientific integrity. My ongoing pursuit of a Doctorate in Business Administration with a focus on Global Strategic Management further reflects my commitment to lifelong learning and strategic leadership.

Professionally, I have held a variety of roles that have honed my expertise in research and development, project management, and continuous improvement. As a Project Management Professional (PMP) and Certified Six Sigma Black Belt, I have led multidisciplinary teams in developing innovative products, optimizing processes, and delivering substantial cost savings. My experience spans global pharmaceutical companies, agricultural enterprises, and consulting roles, where I have consistently reported to boards of management, collaborated with cross-functional teams, and driven projects to successful completion.

My involvement with BCIA has been both meaningful and rewarding. As a Professional Agrologist (PAg) and current member of the Credentials Committee, I have gained valuable insight into the governance and standards that uphold our profession. Serving as Director of the Vancouver Branch has allowed me to engage directly with members, support professional development initiatives, and advocate for the interests of agrologists across British Columbia. These experiences have deepened my understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our organization and have inspired me to seek a greater role in shaping its future.

I believe that BCIA stands at a pivotal moment, with opportunities to enhance member engagement, promote ethical standards, and foster innovation in agrology. If elected to the board, I will bring a collaborative spirit, strategic vision, and a commitment to transparency and accountability. My diverse background in science, management, and governance equips me to contribute to informed decision-making and to represent the interests of our members with integrity.

Thank you for considering my nomination. I am eager to continue serving BCIA and to work alongside fellow board members in advancing our shared mission.

Sincerely,

Kyrie Zhang, P.Ag., P.Chem., PMP, CSSBB

Kyrie Zhang

PMP®, P.Ag., P. Chem.

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Professional Summary

Senior Scientist with 17+ years of academic and industry experience advancing regulated product development in pharmaceutical-adjacent and cannabinoid sectors.

Specialized in in vitro digestion (IVD), gut permeability modeling, formulation science, and supercritical CO₂ extraction systems.

Experienced in leading cross-functional technical programs and translating complex experimental data into decision-ready insights for global R&D teams.

Core Expertise

- In Vitro Digestion (IVD) & Gut Permeability Modeling
- Bioavailability & PK-Alternative Study Design
- Oral & Inhalable Formulation Development
- Supercritical CO₂ Extraction & Process Optimization
- Experimental Design, Data Modeling & Root Cause Analysis
- GMP & Health Canada Compliance (CTRS)
- Tech Transfer, Scale-Up & Continuous Improvement (Lean/Six Sigma)

Selected Scientific Impact

- Designed and validated integrated IVD + permeability platform enabling bioavailability assessment as structured alternative/adjunct to traditional PK studies
- Directed formulation optimization across multiple oral dosage formats within global R&D program
- Delivered \$200K+ annual cost savings through data-driven process optimization and root cause analysis
- Transferred four completed product development programs to global parent organization with aligned technical documentation

Professional Experience

PDS-Cannabinoid – Project Lead, Medical Cannabinoid Product Development

Fertin Pharma, Philip Morris International | Langley, BC, Canada | Jan 2025– Jan 2026

- Directed formulation and performance optimization of gum and lozenge dosage formats to meet defined release and efficacy targets
- Designed and executed structured stability and performance studies; synthesized complex datasets into decision-ready technical recommendations
- Authored scientific development reports supporting global portfolio progression and investment planning
- Partnered cross-functionally with QA and Regulatory teams to align evidence packages with compliance and documentation standards
- Contributed to structured milestone governance within enterprise R&D program

Cannabinoid Scientist II, IVD Project Lead

Centre of Excellence, British American Tobacco & Organigram | Moncton, NB, Canada | Nov 2023– Nov 2024

Selected to lead a high-priority, high-investment program supporting next-generation IVD capability development.

- Built and validated novel in vitro digestion (IVD) and collaboratively gut permeability model to characterize cannabinoid absorption potential
- Developed experimental protocols, validation frameworks, and performance benchmarks to establish model reproducibility and robustness
- Interpreted complex biological datasets to define predictive value and technical limitations of platform
- Oversaw scientific planning and budget alignment for multi-million-dollar R&D initiative
- Presented technical findings, risk assessments, and development recommendations to senior scientific leadership.

Science Plan Manager II

Centre of Excellence, British American Tobacco & Organigram | Moncton, NB, Canada | Jan 2023– Jan 2024

- Coordinated experimental design alignment across seven concurrent R&D projects and four development teams
- Elevated study rigor through structured milestone planning and cross-functional scientific review
- Prepared four development programs for transfer to global parent organization with aligned data packages
- Collaborated with QA, Compliance, and Toxicology to ensure scientific validity and safety rationale

R&D Scientist, CI Analyst, Extraction Technologist

Pure Sunfarms Inc. | Delta, BC | Aug 2020– Oct 2022

- Engineered and optimized supercritical CO₂ extraction systems improving yield, purity, and operational reproducibility
- Established vape-filling process capability within regulated commercial manufacturing environment
- Led continuous improvement initiatives delivering \$200K+ annual cost savings
- Supported innovation pipeline across three premium and two value product categories

Extraction Manager, QA Manager

Benchmark Botanics Inc. | Kelowna / Pitt Meadows, BC, Canada | Aug 2018– Aug 2020

- Designed and renovated supercritical CO₂ extraction processes supporting regulated cannabinoid production
- Led technical build-out of 11,000 sq ft extraction facility
- Oversaw quality management across cultivation, drying, and extraction workflows
- Managed Health Canada CTRS compliance documentation and regulatory responses

Education

Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA), Global Strategic Management

Luis Business School | 2026–2028 (Part-time)

Master of Science, Food, Agricultural and Nutritional Science

University of Alberta | 2015–2017

Master of Agriculture in Tea Science

Northwest A&F University | 2012–2015

Bachelor of Agriculture in Tea Science
Huazhong Agricultural University | 2008–2012

Professional Designations

Project Management Professional (PMP®)

Professional Chemist (P.Chem.)

Professional Agrologist (P.Ag.)

Certified Six Sigma Black Belt (CSSBB)

Board & Professional Leadership

Director (Vancouver Branch) – British Columbia Institute of Agrologists

Audit Committee Member – Association of Chemical Professionals of BC

Credential Committee Member – BC Institute of Agrologists