

Publications of the Week

## Successful Targeting of the *NRG1* Pathway Indicates Novel Treatment Strategy for Metastatic Cancer

First Author: Michael Jones | Senior Author: Janessa Laskin (*front, sixth from right*)  
Annals of Oncology | BC Cancer Agency, UBC and SFU

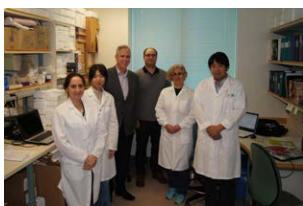


*NRG1* fusion-positive lung cancers have emerged as potentially actionable events in lung cancer, but clinical support is currently limited and no evidence of efficacy of this approach in cancers beyond lung has been shown. The authors describe two patients with advanced cancers refractory to standard therapies found to be positive for *NRG1* gene fusions. Both patients were treated with the pan HER-family kinase inhibitor afatinib and both displayed significant and durable response to treatment.

[Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

## CD56bright NK Regulatory Cells in Filgrastim Primed Donor Blood or Marrow Products Regulate Chronic GvHD

First Author: Amina Kariminia (*left*) | Senior Author: Kirk Schultz (*third from left*)  
Haematologica | Michael Cuccione Childhood Cancer Research Program, BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, and UBC



While controlling for the potential impact of filgrastim on marrow, the authors demonstrated that CD56bright natural killer regulatory cells had a much stronger impact on filgrastim-stimulated apheresis peripheral blood than on filgrastim-stimulated bone marrow. This supports the conclusion that a lower proportion of CD56bright natural killer regulatory cells results in the high rate of chronic graft-versus-host disease seen in filgrastim-stimulated apheresis peripheral blood. [Profile](#)

| [Abstract](#)

## REVIEW: Asthma-COPD Overlap Syndrome: Pathogenesis, Clinical Features, and Therapeutic Targets

First Author: Janice Leung | Senior Author: Don Sin (*pictured*)  
BMJ | Centre for Heart Lung Innovation and UBC

Asthma-COPD overlap syndrome (ACOS) or asthma-COPD overlap captures the subset of patients with airways disease who have features of both asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Although definitions of ACOS vary, it is generally thought to encompass persistent airflow limitation in a patient older



than 40 years of age with either a history of asthma or large bronchodilator reversibility. ACOS affects about a quarter of patients with COPD and almost a third of patients who previously had asthma. [Abstract](#)

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#### Awards

## UBC Faculty of Medicine Bestows Bill and Marilyn Webber Lifetime Achievement Award on Bruce McManus!

Centre for Heart Lung Innovation



Congratulations to Dr. Bruce McManus (*pictured*) on being awarded the UBC Faculty of Medicine Bill and Marilyn Webber Lifetime Achievement Award! The award is made in recognition of sustained scholarly achievement in the areas of research, teaching and/or service and honours extraordinary members of the Faculty of Medicine who have had sustained distinguished careers at UBC.

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## Dr. Brett Finlay Among The New 2018 Laureates Inducted Into The Canadian Medical Hall Of Fame

Michael Smith Laboratories



Dr. Brett Finlay (*pictured*) is among six new laureates who have been selected for induction into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. Dr. Finlay is a Professor in the Michael Smith Laboratories, with joint appointments in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, and the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He is internationally recognized in the field of host-microbe interactions and a major leader in efforts to improve Canadian health. [Read More](#)

## Drs. Aly Karsan, Connie Eaves, Andrew Weng, and Martin Hirst Have Been Awarded a 5-Year Terry Fox New Frontier Program Project Grant

Terry Fox Laboratories



Program leader Dr. Aly Karsan and principal investigators Drs. Connie Eaves (*pictured*), Andrew Weng, and Martin Hirst have been awarded nearly \$7.5 million over five years from the Terry Fox Research Institute (TFRI) for the Terry Fox New Frontier Program Project Grant in exploiting pathogenic mechanisms in acute leukemia for clinical translation. [Read More](#)

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#### Local News

## From Patient to Survivor: Madeline's Inspiration to Study Pediatric Cancer

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



In 2012, 14-year-old Madeline Lauener (*pictured*) received a stem cell transplant from her sister as treatment for a rare type of blood cancer. This past summer, Madeline worked with Dr. Kirk Schultz, an oncologist and Director of the Michael Cuccione Childhood Cancer Research Program at BC Children's Hospital, investigating how a particular type of immune cell impacts the survival rate of stem cell transplant recipients. [Read More](#)

## Response to Novel Immune Therapy for Ulcerative Colitis Associated with Genetic and Immune Biomarkers

Qu Biologics



Qu Biologics Inc. has identified specific ulcerative colitis genetic markers that may predict response to QBECO site specific immunomodulators therapy and important immunological biomarkers that may be used to track response. These discoveries came from genetic and cytokine analyses of Qu Biologics' recently completed phase II study in ulcerative colitis. [Read More](#)

## Top Global Translational Science Organizations to Catalyze Translational Innovation through New Initiative – Translation Together

The Centre for Drug Research and Development



Five of the world's top translational science organizations, including the Vancouver-based Centre for Drug Research and Development, have joined forces under the new banner of *Translation Together*. This new collaboration will enable the leveraging of complementary scientific and operational strengths of member organizations, provide a platform to share insight of the challenges facing translation, and put forth a collective voice to advance the science and understanding of biomedical translation. [Read More](#)

## VIDEO: Dr. Allen Eaves of STEMCELL Technologies: At the Epicentre of Biotech

Conversations that Matter



SFU's Centre for Dialogue presents the latest *Conversations That Matter*, featuring Dr. Allen Eaves, the founder, CEO and President of STEMCELL Technologies. Not only is STEMCELL Technologies fostering growth and employing scientists, it is also playing a significant role in generating export sales. Where does he go from here? For Eaves there are no limits. Not only does he plan to work for the rest of his life, he plans to do so with gusto. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

# The Future of DNA Sequencing

Nature



The evolution of DNA sequencing has occurred at a breathtaking pace. Nearly 30 years of exponential growth in data generation have given way, in the past decade, to super-exponential growth. And the resultant data have spawned transformative applications in basic biology and beyond — from archaeology and criminal investigation to prenatal diagnostics. What will the next 40 years bring? [Read More](#)

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## Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- October 17**  
9:00 AM **Career Connect : STEMCELL Technologies**  
STEMCELL Technologies
- October 18 - 19**  
11:00 AM **UBC Careers Days 2017**  
AMS Student Nest
- October 19**  
4:00 PM **2017 Don Rix Distinguished Keynote Address**  
Vancouver Convention Centre
- October 20 - 22**  
8:00 AM **Hackseq**  
Life Sciences Institute, UBC
- October 23**  
3:30 PM **Gairdner Symposium**  
Life Sciences Institute, UBC

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## Science Jobs in Vancouver

- Scientist, Immunology**  
STEMCELL Technologies
- Research Associate, Bioengineering**  
STEMCELL Technologies
- Assistant Professor, Tenure Track**  
UBC Department of Microbiology and Immunology
- Co-op Student, Screening**  
The Centre for Drug Research and Development
- Scientist, Modelling & Simulations**  
Zymeworks

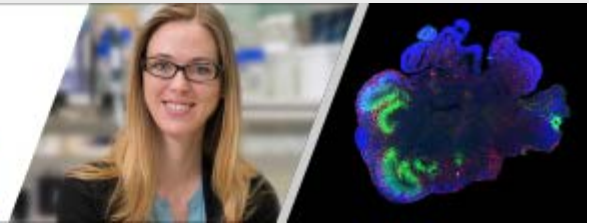
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## Brain Organoids

Webinar by Dr. Madeline Lancaster



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