

Publications of the Week

### Common Variation near *IRF6* Is Associated with IFN-β-Induced Liver Injury in Multiple Sclerosis

First Author: Kaarina Kowalec | Senior Author: Bruce Carleton *(pictured)*  
Nature Genetics | BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and UBC



Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a disease of the central nervous system treated with disease-modifying therapies, including the biologic, interferon-β (IFN-β). Up to 60% of IFN-β-exposed MS patients develop abnormal biochemical liver test results, and 1 in 50 experiences drug-induced liver injury. The authors aimed to identify biomarkers of IFN-β-induced liver injury using a two-stage genome-wide association study. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

### Metagenomics Reveals Functional Synergy and Novel Polysaccharide Utilization Loci in the *Castor canadensis* Fecal Microbiome

First Author: Zachary Armstrong | Senior Author: Steven Hallam *(pictured)*  
The ISME Journal | The Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies and UBC



The North American beaver (*Castor canadensis*) has long been considered an engineering marvel, transforming landscapes and shaping biological diversity through its dam building behaviour. The authors use a combination of shotgun metagenomics, functional screening and carbohydrate biochemistry to chart the community structure and metabolic power of the beaver fecal microbiome. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

### Competitive Organelle-Specific Adaptors Recruit Vps13 to Membrane Contact Sites

First Author: Bjorn Bean *(pictured)* | Senior Author: Elizabeth Conibear  
The Journal of Cell Biology | The Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics and UBC



Yeast Vps13 dynamically localizes to membrane contacts that connect the endoplasmic reticulum, mitochondria, endosomes, and vacuoles and is recruited to the prospore membrane in meiosis, but its targeting mechanism is unclear. The authors identified the sorting nexin Ypt35 as a novel adaptor that recruits Vps13 to endosomal and vacuolar membranes. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

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Awards

### July 2018 Award Winners



Dr. Lindsay Eltis *(pictured)*, Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the UBC Life Sciences Institute, was announced as one of 39 BC researchers to be awarded CIHR Project Grants in the latest round of funding. Find out which other UBC researchers won grants, awards, fellowships, and scholarships in our July awards summary! [Read More](#)

### CIHR Awards \$5.8M Foundation Grant to Dr. Brett Finlay for His Research on Microbes in Health and Disease

Michael Smith Laboratories



Dr. Brett Finlay *(pictured)*, the Peter Wall Distinguished Professor in the Michael Smith Laboratories, received \$5.8 million over seven years in grant funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to support his research on host-microbe interactions in health and disease. The work done in the Finlay Lab has significant potential to impact intestinal infections, asthma and allergies, malnutrition, and degenerative brain diseases. [Read More](#)

### Alvin Qiu and Mihai Cirstea Receive 2018 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships

Michael Smith Laboratories



Alvin Qiu *(pictured)* and Mihai Cirstea from the Michael Smith Laboratories have been named recipients of the 2018 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, Canada's most prestigious scholarship for doctoral students in the social sciences and humanities, natural sciences, and/or engineering and health. Of the 167 recipients, 21 are pursuing graduate degrees at UBC. [Read More](#)

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Local News

### Dr. David Knapp and Colin Hammond on the Stem Cell Podcast

The Stem Cell Podcast



Dr. David Knapp *(pictured)* is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Oxford, who completed his graduate studies in the laboratory of Dr. Connie Eaves at the BC Cancer Agency. Colin Hammond is a current graduate student supervised by Dr. Eaves. David and Colin talk about their recent publication in *Nature Cell Biology* regarding stem cell populations in cord blood cells. [Read More](#)

### HIV Strains Mutating in Saskatchewan

SFU News



SFU Health Sciences Professor Dr. Zabrina Brumme *(pictured)* has shown that HIV strains circulating in Saskatchewan have adapted to evade and undermine host immune responses. These genetic mutations are being transmitted frequently and, when HIV is left untreated, can accelerate the disease's progress. The multi-year analysis compared more than 2,300 anonymized HIV sequences from Saskatchewan with data sets from sites across the US and Canada. [Read More](#)

### Back on the Beat: Who are the CDRD?

CKNW



John Daly brings nearly 40 years of reporting to investigating what's going on today. In this episode, John investigates the Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD), based at UBC. He discusses how they develop and commercialize drugs, and their partnerships with academia, industry, government, and foundations. [Read More](#)

### Qu Biologics Enrolls the First Patient in New Phase 2 Crohn's Disease Clinical Trial

Qu Biologics



Qu Biologics Inc., a biopharmaceutical company developing site specific immunomodulators, a novel platform of immunotherapies designed to restore innate immune function, has announced that the first patient in the RESTORE Phase 2 clinical trial for patients with moderate to severe Crohn's disease has been enrolled. [Read More](#)

### Case Western Reserve Enters Licensing Agreement with Canadian Company NervGen Pharma

Crain's Cleveland Business



Case Western Reserve University has entered into a licensing agreement with Vancouver NervGen Pharma Corporation with the goal of developing therapies for spinal-cord injuries and other nerve-damage conditions. The technology was developed in the laboratory of Jerry Silver, a spinal-cord injury and regenerative medicine researcher at the university. [Read More](#)

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### Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- August 16 12:00 PM **Centre for Blood Research Research Day 2018**  
Life Sciences Institute
- August 16 5:00 PM **Beaty Nocturnal: Making Wave[form]s**  
Beaty Biodiversity Museum
- August 24 4:00 PM **SCWIST at the Whitecaps**  
BC Place
- August 24 4:00 PM **D.R.I.N.K.S. (Discussions Relevant to Inspiring New Knowledge and Science)**  
Mahony and Sons, Stamps Landing
- September 19 4:30 PM **Serving up Science: Plant Genomics and the Future of Food**  
Vancouver Convention Centre

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### STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

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### Other Science Jobs in Vancouver

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Xenon Pharmaceuticals
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BC Cancer Agency
- Clinical Research Coordinator, Surgical Research**  
Department of Surgery, Providence Health Care
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