

Publications of the Week

Identification of a Novel Caspase Cleavage Site in Huntingtin that Regulates Mutant Huntingtin Clearance

 First Author: Dale Martin (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Michael Hayden
 The FASEB Journal | Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics and UBC


Wild-type and mutant huntingtin (HTT) are regulated by different posttranslational modifications that can positively or negatively regulate their function or toxicity. The authors describe the identification of a new caspase cleavage site at position D572 that is mediated by caspase-1. Inhibition of caspase cleavage at D572 significantly decreased mutant HTT aggregation and significantly increased the turnover of soluble mutant HTT. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Sources of Erroneous Sequences and Artifact Chimeric Reads in Next Generation Sequencing of Genomic DNA From Formalin-Fixed Paraffin-Embedded Samples

 First Author: Simon Halle (*left*) | Second Author: Richard Corbett (*right*) | Senior Author: Marco Marra
 Nucleic Acids Research | Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre and BC Cancer


One important consideration in repurposing formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded material for next generation sequencing analysis is the sequencing artifacts that can arise from the significant damage to nucleic acids due to treatment with formalin, storage at room temperature and extraction. The authors provide a conceptual framework for the mechanistic basis of the genesis of chimeric artifacts. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

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Awards

November 2018 Award Winners


Dr. Peter Zandstra (*pictured*), Director of the School of Biomedical Engineering and Director at the Michael Smith Laboratories at UBC, has been named the Canada Research Chair in Stem Cell Bioengineering. Find out which other Vancouver researchers won grants, awards, fellowships, or scholarships this November! [Read More](#)

Congratulations to Fiona Brinkman, 2018 Royal Society of Canada Fellow

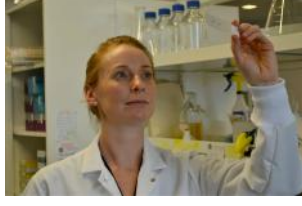
SFU via Youtube



Congratulations to Fiona Brinkman (*pictured*) on being named a 2018 Royal Society of Canada (RSC) Fellow. Fiona is developing sustainable infectious disease control methods including better ways to track and control microbes more effectively, and ensuring that children get appropriately vaccinated. A fellowship in the RSC is Canada's highest academic honour. [Watch Now](#)

UBC Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor Receives Canada Research Chair in Oncology

UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences



Dr. Karla Williams (*pictured*), Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at UBC, has received a Canada Research Chair in Oncology. Her research program is focused on cancer cell dissemination and the development of evidence based medicine for cancer detection and prognostication. Dr. Williams is one of 187 new and renewed Canada Research Chairs at 49 institutions across the country, and one of 12 new chair holders at UBC. [Read More](#)

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Local News

How Ancient Viruses Got Cannabis High

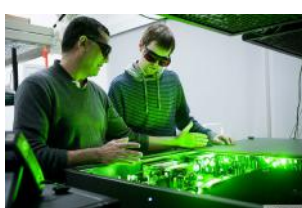
Science Daily



THC and CBD, bioactive substances produced by cannabis and sought by medical patients and recreational users, sprung to life thanks to ancient colonization of the plant's genome by viruses. The world's first cannabis chromosome map reveals how hemp and marijuana, which belong to the same species *Cannabis sativa*, evolved as separate strains with distinct chemical properties. [Read More](#)

SFU's 4D LABS Receives Over \$1.9 Million Investment from Western Economic Diversification Canada

Simon Fraser University



Simon Fraser University's core facility, 4D LABS, has received a generous investment of \$1,921,700 from Western Economic Diversification Canada. The funding will be used to equip 4D LABS' new Centre for Advanced Manufacturing and Integration with state-of-the-art machinery to help prototype and manufacture advanced micro and nanotechnology. [Read More](#)

MSFHR Wins at Canadian Online Publishing Awards

Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR)



MSFHR has won two Canadian Online Publishing Awards for *Forward Thinking* and *Spark*, their blog and digital magazine that showcase the best of BC research. *Spark*, which won the best industry feature category, is a quarterly publication that uses digital storytelling to share the work of MSFHR-funded researchers, and the impact of their work on British Columbians. [Read More](#)

Study Suggests Abused Children Carry Trauma in Their DNA

Boston Globe



Research has shown that children with profound stress are more at risk of developing autoimmune diseases, obesity, mental health disorders, and heart disease. A preliminary study from Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health and UBC suggests that abused children literally carry their darkest experiences with them in their DNA. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Genome-Edited Baby Claim Provokes International Outcry

Nature News



He Jiankui, a genome-editing researcher at the Southern University of Science and Technology of China in Shenzhen, says that he impregnated a woman with embryos that had been edited to disable the genetic pathway HIV uses to infect cells. The announcement has provoked shock and outrage among scientists around the world. [Read More](#)

Open Access and Open Science: The Call for More Transparency in Science

Centre for Blood Research



In May of this year, a group of Swedish universities made the decision not to renew their contracts with publishing giant Elsevier. To researchers who rely on these journals for their day-to-day work, this may seem like a drastic move, but this new stand-off is part of a movement toward an open-access model in publishing research. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- December 4
6:00 PM **Understanding Harm Reduction Strategies**
Science World at Telus World of Science
- December 6
6:00 PM **LifeSciences BC Holiday Social**
St. Regis Bar and Grill
- December 6
6:00 PM **Vancouver Bioinformatics Users Group (VanBUG) Career Night & Holiday Social**
BC Cancer Reserach Centre
- December 6
7:30 PM **Universe of the Brain**
H.R. MacMillan Space Centre
- December 20
3:00 PM **D.R.I.N.K.S. (Discussions Relevant to Inspiring New Knowledge and Science)**
Mahony and Sons, Stamps Landing

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STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

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STEMCELL Technologies
- Product and Scientific Support Specialist, Immunology**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Business Analyst, Strategic Pricing**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Research Associate, Business Operations Products**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Scientific Marketing Specialist, Business Operations Products**
STEMCELL Technologies

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Other Science Jobs in Vancouver

- Lead Pharmacologist**
Inception Sciences Canada
- Tenure-Track Faculty Position in Environmental Microbiology**
SFU Department of Biological Sciences
- Research Associate**
UBC
- Business Development Specialist – Innovate BC**
Mitacs
- Senior Clinical Research Manager**
Xenon Pharmaceuticals

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**ORGANOID MEDICINE:
HURDLES TO TRANSLATION**

Recorded panel discussion moderated by Dr. James Wells

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