

Publications of the Week
Cellular Metabolism Constrains Innate Immune Responses in Early Human Ontogeny

First Authors: Bernard Kan (*not pictured*) and Christina Michalski (*third from right*) | Senior Author: Pascal Lavoie (*second from right*)
 Nature Communications | BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and UBC



Pathogen immune responses are profoundly attenuated in fetuses and premature infants, yet the mechanisms underlying this developmental immaturity remain unclear. The authors showed transcriptomic, metabolic and polysome profiling and found that monocytes isolated from infants born early in gestation displayed perturbations in PPAR-γ-regulated metabolic pathways, limited glycolytic capacity and reduced ribosomal activity. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

IVIg and LPS Co-Stimulation Induces IL-10 Production by Human Monocytes, which Is Compromised by an FcγRIIA Disease-Associated Gene Variant

First Author: Lisa Kozicky (*left*) | Senior Author: Laura Sly (*back row, centre*)
 Frontiers in Immunology | BC Children's Hospital and UBC



Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIg) is used to treat autoimmune or inflammatory diseases, but its mechanism of action is not completely understood. IVIg increases IL-10 production and reduces pro-inflammatory cytokine production in response to bacterial lipopolysaccharide (LPS), which requires FcγRI and FcγRIIB and activation of MAPKs, extracellular signal-regulated kinase 1/2, and p38. [Abstract](#)

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Local News
In 1998, Poul Sorensen's Lab Discovered a Cancer Mutation. Twenty Years Later, There's a Drug for It

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Dr. Poul Sorensen (*pictured*) was finding it immensely difficult to distinguish congenital fibrosarcoma, a rare and deadly type of connective tissue tumour in very young children, from a similar but benign version called fibromatosis. From that inquiry, Dr. Sorensen wound up making a discovery with long-term dividends – the development of a cancer drug approved by the U.S. FDA, based on its demonstrated ability to shrink many different kinds of tumours. [Read More](#)

MSFHR Introduces Gender Neutral Peer Review Processes to Foster Equity in BC Health Research

Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR)



Although gender bias is a complex and systemic issue, by introducing a new, gender neutral review process, MSFHR is taking steps to mitigate the effects of systemic bias in their own peer review process. To support gender neutral peer review, applications and the CV that MSFHR peer reviewers receive will list only the applicant's last name (rather than first and last). [Read More](#)

Is There a Way to Keep *E. coli* Out of Romaine Lettuce?

CBC News



Scientists are studying ways to kill *E. coli* in irrigation water and in harvested crops through sterilization, irradiation or bio-pesticides. But what about tackling *E. coli* at its primary source, in the intestines of livestock? That's what UBC scientist Brett Finlay was trying to do when he developed a made-in-Canada vaccine for cattle that would reduce the amount of *E. coli* they shed into the environment. [Read More](#)

An Innovative Investigational Treatment for Crohn's Disease

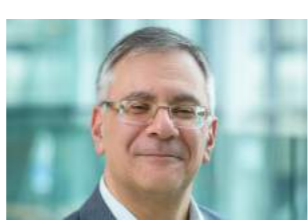
Personal Health News



The prevalence of Canadians living with Crohn's disease is growing at a rapid rate. One Canadian biotech company hopes to provide a new way to treat patients living with Crohn's disease. Qu Biologics Inc. is developing site specific immunomodulators, a novel platform of immunotherapies intended to restore — instead of suppress — particular elements of innate immune function. [Read More](#)

Canadian Open Parkinson Network Funding Begins Collaboration Platform to Accelerate Parkinson's Disease Research and Knowledge

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Parkinson Canada and Brain Canada have announced the creation of the Canadian Open Parkinson Network, including a \$2-million Platform Grant that will support the initial development and maintenance of a large-scale research network in the field of Parkinson's disease and related disorders. Dr. Jon Stoessl (*pictured*) and Dr. Martin McKeown have been appointed Principal Investigators at the UBC. [Read More](#)

SFU Team Leads \$12-Million Effort to Expand System of Worldwide Health Research Databases

SFU News



The European Commission and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research have announced more than \$12 million in funding to expand SFU's iReceptor initiative. iReceptor is a newly developed platform for managing massive repositories of worldwide distributed data that researchers can securely access in their quest to develop new therapies for cancer and autoimmune and infectious diseases. [Read More](#)

Michael Smith Laboratories Faculty among Highly Cited Researchers in 2018

Michael Smith Laboratories



Three researchers from the Michael Smith Laboratories, Drs. Jörg Bohlmann, Brett Finlay (*pictured*), and Martin Hirst, are on this year's Highly Cited Researchers list, published by Clarivate Analytics and Web of Science. The annual list identifies researchers who rank in the top 1% by citations for specified field and publication year from the Web of Science citation index. [Read More](#)

An Innovative New Study Advances Personalized Medicine for Prostate Cancer Patients

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



A new clinical trial, opening across Canada, is considered a major advancement in precision medicine for prostate cancer and the first of its kind in the world. The clinical trial uses liquid biopsy technology to screen for genomic markers in prostate cancer patients. Dr. Alexander Wyatt (*pictured*) is leading the DNA analysis and is a Senior Research Scientist at the Vancouver Prostate Centre and the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute. [Read More](#)

Signature for Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder Suggests Changes in the Cellular Makeup of the Brain

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Dr. Paul Pavlidis (*pictured*) and his team are taking a novel approach to cellular data analysis. Last year, the team launched NeuroExpresso, an online resource for researchers looking to parse the genetic details of different brain cell types. Using NeuroExpresso and some recently-developed bioinformatics methods, Dr. Pavlidis and colleagues are beginning to look at genomic data to identify a signature for schizophrenia and bipolar disorder at the cellular level. [Read More](#)

AbCellera Collaborates with Autolus on Antibody Discovery Project

AbCellera



AbCellera has announced its collaboration with Autolus Therapeutics plc, a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company developing next-generation programmed T cell therapies. Under the partnership, AbCellera is applying its microfluidic single-cell screening platform to find novel antibodies which can be used for the development of new CAR-T cell therapies. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- December 20 3:00 PM **D.R.I.N.K.S. (Discussions Relevant to Inspiring New Knowledge and Science)**
Mahony and Sons, Stamps Landing
- January 8 1:00 PM **Career Connect : Applied Biological Materials**
Applied Biological Materials
- January 11 7:30 PM **Nerd Nite North Van 1.3 – The Quantum Leap Show**
Eagles Club
- January 16 6:30 PM **Nobel Prize Lectures**
Telus World of Science
- January 30 8:00 AM **LifeSciences BC Access to Innovation Conference 2019**
Vancouver Convention Centre West

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USING hiPSCs TO STUDY GENETIC VARIANTS LINKED TO SCHIZOPHRENIA

Webinar by Dr. Kristen Brennand

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