

Publications of the Week

Proteomic Profiling to Identify Blood Biomarkers Predictive of Response to Azithromycin in Children and Adolescents with Cystic Fibrosis

First Author: Kang Dong | Senior Author: Bradley Quon (pictured)
CHEST Journal | PROOF Centre of Excellence and UBC



The authors discovered blood protein biomarkers predictive of clinical response to azithromycin treatment in children and adolescents with cystic fibrosis. Early changes in the levels of 15 plasma proteins following 28 days of azithromycin significantly correlated with changes in FEV₁ percent predicted from day 0 to day 28, but this finding was not sustained to day 168. [Abstract](#)

Fixation Effects on Variant Calling in a Clinical Resequencing Panel

First Author: Jeremy Parker | Senior Author: Aly Karsan (pictured)
The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics | Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre, BC Cancer, St. Paul's Hospital and UBC



Formalin fixation is the standard method for the preservation of tissue for diagnostic purposes; however, this method is known to cause artifacts that can affect the accuracy of molecular genetic test results. The authors assessed the applicability of alternative fixatives to determine whether these performed significantly better on next-generation sequencing assays, and whether adequate morphology was retained for primary diagnosis. [Abstract](#)

Therapeutic Implication of Genomic Landscape of Adult Metastatic Sarcoma

First Author: Xiaolan Feng | Senior Author: Janessa Laskin (pictured)
JCO Precision Oncology | BC Cancer, BC Children's Hospital and UBC



The authors investigated the therapeutic potential of integrated genome and transcriptome profiling of metastatic sarcoma, a rare but extremely heterogeneous group of aggressive mesenchymal malignancies with few systemic therapeutic options. Outlier RNA expression as well as somatic copy number variations, structural variations, and small mutations together suggested the presence of one or more potential therapeutic targets in the majority of patients in the cohort. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

David Llewellyn Receives 2019 UNBC Distinguished Alumni Award

University of Northern British Columbia



Dr. David Llewellyn (pictured), the Senior Vice President for Business Operations at STEMCELL Technologies, earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) in 1997. He has received the 2019 UNBC Professional Excellence Award based on his outstanding professional contributions to the social, cultural and economic well-being of society. [Read More](#)

Dr. Erin Michalak Recognized for CREST.BD and Work in Patient Engagement

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Dr. Erin Michalak (pictured) has won the 2018 CIHR Gold Leaf Prize for Transformation: Patient Engagement. Dr. Michalak is being recognized for her work founding the Collaborative REsearch Team to study psychosocial issues in Bipolar Disorder (CREST. BD), and its groundbreaking participatory approach that allows people with bipolar disorder, researchers and clinicians to collaborate on research and knowledge translation projects. [Read More](#)

Bruce McManus and Kimit Rai Awarded Order of B.C.

UBC Medicine



Two members of the UBC Faculty of Medicine community will be appointed to the Order of British Columbia for 2019. Bruce McManus (pictured) and Kimit Rai are among 15 recipients and five from UBC to receive the honour this year. Since its inception, 447 British Columbians have been appointed to the Order of British Columbia and represent all regions of the province. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence for Cost-Effective Precision Medicine

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



When the human genome was sequenced 20 years ago and the genetic makeup of a person's disease was known, hopes were high that researchers could design specifically matched and targeted treatment for many patients. It turns out, dealing with real-world disease is not so straightforward. Scientists at the Ovarian Cancer Research Centre are trying to harness the power of artificial intelligence to enhance personalized medicine. [Read More](#)

Changes in the Brain Apparent in the Blood in New Traumatic Brain Injury Biomarker Study

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



New research from the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health has found that kids who have suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI) have more of a particular protein in their blood than uninjured kids, suggesting a possible biomarker for TBI and a potential variable to distinguish levels of injury in children who have suffered mild TBI. [Read More](#)

Federal Government Invests \$23 Million into HIV/AIDS Research

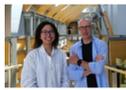
Providence Health Care



Despite strides in care around HIV/AIDS, the HIV virus continues to pose a threat to global health, with 63,000 Canadians living with the disease. With that in mind, the federal Ministry of Health has announced an investment of \$23 million towards HIV/AIDS research, spread over five years. The funding will support the renewal of the CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network, whose National Centre is based at St. Paul's Hospital. [Read More](#)

Indigenous Diversity in Science Research

Canadian Glycomics Network



Olivia Baptiste (pictured, left), a second-year undergraduate student at UBC, is conducting research with GlycoNet Investigator Dr. Joerg Bohlmann (left) from the Michael Smith Laboratories. Baptiste's journey into research may seem smooth; however, coming from an Indigenous origin and as a first-generation university student in her family, she recalls several roadblocks when she first thought about pursuing research. [Read More](#)

SFU Welcomes New Shrum Chair in Biological Mechanisms of Disease

SFU Faculty of Science



Mani Larjani's home base is in SFU's Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, but his research spills into evolutionary and cellular biology, genetics, immunology, oncology, computational science and health science. Larjani's multi-disciplinary research program on DNA/RNA mutating processes has led him to his new appointment as the Shrum Chair in Biological Mechanisms of Disease. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

New Tentative Contract for Canada's Scientists Would Enshrine Right to Speak to Media

CBC News



A tentative agreement reached between the Trudeau government and Canada's scientists would lock in their right to speak to the media about science and their work for another four years. The "scientific integrity" clause was first written into a 2017 collective agreement and enshrined the right to speak about science and research without being designated a departmental spokesperson. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- July 4 6:30 PM **RE-COMPOSITION Artist Showcase**
Science World at Telus World of Science
- July 5 4:30 PM **LGBTSTEM Day Career Networking**
Science World at TELUS World of Science
- July 9 6:30 PM **Vancouver STEMminist Book Club**
Hycroft Manor
- July 14 - 17 8:00 AM **STI & HIV 2019 World Congress**
Vancouver Convention Centre
- July 24 - 26 8:00 AM **17th Annual Precision Medicine and Ion Channel Retreat**
Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

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- Scientist, Contract Assay Services**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Scientist, Matrix Biology**
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STEMCELL Technologies
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STEMCELL Technologies

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- Canada Research Chair in Stem Cell Biology**
SFU Faculty of Science
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Zymeworks
- Research Scientist, In Vitro Biology**
Xenon
- Research Associate, Biochemistry**
Alectos
- Clinical Research and Trials Coordinator**
BC Cancer

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