

Publications of the Week

**Gene Expression Profiles Complement the Analysis of Genomic Modifiers of the Clinical Onset of Huntington Disease**

First Author: Galen Wright (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Michael Hayden  
bioRxiv | Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics, BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and UBC



In an attempt to identify genomic modifiers that contribute towards the age of onset of Huntington disease, the authors performed a transcriptome wide association study assessing heritable differences in genetically determined expression in diverse tissues, employing genome wide data from over 4,000 patients. This identified genes that showed evidence for colocalization and replication. [Abstract](#)

**Modulation of Innate Immunity by Amyloidogenic Peptides**

First Author: Clara Westwell-Roper | Senior Author: Bruce Verchere (*pictured*)  
Trends in Immunology | BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and UBC



Amyloid formation contributes to the development of progressive metabolic and neurodegenerative diseases, while also serving functional roles in host defense. The authors review recent evidence of innate immunomodulation by distinct forms of amyloidogenic peptides produced by mammals, bacteria, and fungi, as well as the corresponding cell-surface and intracellular pattern recognition receptors in these interactions, in human and mouse models. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

**July 2019 Award Winners**



Dr. Zachary Laksman (*pictured*) of the UBC Faculty of Medicine and St. Paul's Hospital has been named as one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40, which recognizes Canada's next leaders. He is a clinician scientist with a specific focus on stem cell disease modelling and drug screening, cardiogenetics and personalized medicine. Find out who else in Vancouver won grants, awards, fellowships, or scholarships in the month of July by reading our awards summary! [Read More](#)

**Faculty of Medicine Researchers Receive Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Awards**

UBC Medicine



Members of the UBC Faculty of Medicine research community, including Dr. Sheila Teves (*pictured*), have received 2019 Scholar and Research Trainee Awards from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. The researchers' areas of study range from support and treatment for people with mental health challenges, rehabilitation to improve walking balance after a stroke and improving sepsis outcomes with antibody therapy. [Read More](#)

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Local News

**High Insulin Production May Contribute to Pancreatic Cancer**

UBC News



Researchers co-led by Dr. James Johnson (*pictured*), a Professor and member of the Diabetes Research Group in the Life Sciences Centre at UBC, have demonstrated for the first time a causal link between high insulin levels and pancreatic cancer. The scientists lowered insulin levels in mice predisposed to developing pancreatic cancer, and found that these lower levels protected the mice against developing the disease. [Read More](#)

**Supporting the Fight against Fungal Pathogens**

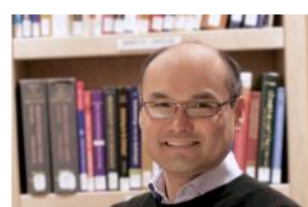
Michael Smith Laboratories



When it comes to fungi, most people think of mushrooms. Some mushrooms are used as food all over the world and can be a kitchen staple for many people. As delicious as mushrooms are, this article focuses on a different type of fungus. A fungus that is not a pizza topping, but rather one that is dangerous to human health and responsible for life-threatening brain infections. [Read More](#)

**Driving Ahead With CAR T-therapy for Cancer**

Research2Reality



Immunologist Julian Lum (*pictured*) has been awarded a \$1.08 million grant to further study the relationship between cancer, our diet, and immune cells. Lum, a scientist with BC Cancer, is currently exploring the link between nutrition and immune cell function in hopes of expanding the scope and efficacy of CAR T-therapy. [Read More](#)

**Dampening the Inflammatory Response to *P. aeruginosa* Infection using a Synthetic Immunomodulatory Peptide**

Centre for Blood Research



Antibiotic resistance and the lack of novel antibiotics pose a real threat to health, and therefore new solutions to fight resistant bacteria are required. The Hancock Lab at UBC is using host defense peptides to tackle the problem of antibiotic resistance. These peptides, which occur naturally, are also known as innate defense regulator peptides. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

**Gender Equality in Science**

Vice



For much of scientific history, the study of women's health has been thought to be complex and wildly unpredictable, as if men's health issues are stable and static. As government funding agencies in North America are starting to understand the importance of including the female sex in research, there has been a movement toward acknowledging how sex differences affect drug efficacy and disease outcomes. [Read More](#)

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 **Upcoming Events in Vancouver**

- August 7  
7:30 PM **Live Podcast: Public Health Superheroes**  
Science World at Telus World of Science
- August 8  
10:30 AM **CIHR Project: "Insights from Peer Review" Roundtable Discussion**  
UBC
- August 13  
12:00 PM **CBR Research Day**  
UBC Life Sciences Centre
- August 14  
6:00 PM **Open Science Network Open Lab**  
MakerLabs
- August 19 - 23  
8:00 AM **TRIUMF Science Week**  
TRIUMF

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 **STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver**

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[STEMCELL Technologies](#)
- Scientist, Matrix Biology**  
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[STEMCELL Technologies](#)
- Associate Product Manager, Routine Diagnostics**  
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UBC Faculty of Medicine
- Research Associate, Pharmacogenomics**  
UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Formulation Scientist, Formulation Solutions**  
Precision Nanosystems
- Project Manager, CMC**  
Xenon
- Senior Manager, Quality Assurance**  
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