

Publications of the Week

A Comprehensive Haplotype Targeting Strategy for Allele-Specific *HTT* Suppression in Huntington Disease

First Author: Chris Kay (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Michael Hayden
American Journal of Human Genetics | Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics



Suppression of mutant *HTT* has emerged as a leading therapeutic strategy for Huntington disease (HD), with allele-selective approaches targeting *HTT* SNPs now in clinical trials. The authors have extended comprehensive haplotype analysis of the HD mutation to key populations of Southern European, South Asian, Middle Eastern, and admixed African ancestry. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Identification and Analyses of Extra-Cranial and Cranial Rhabdoid Tumour Molecular Subgroups Reveal Tumours with Cytotoxic T Cell Infiltration

First Author: Hye-Jung Chun (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Marco Marra
Cell Reports | Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre and UBC



To understand the genome-wide molecular relationships between extra-cranial malignant rhabdoid tumours (MRTs) and cranial atypical teratoid RTs (ATRTs), the authors analyzed multi-omics data from 140 MRTs and 161 ATRTs, identifying five DNA methylation subgroups. Groups 1, 3, and 4 exhibited cytotoxic T cell infiltration and expression of immune checkpoint regulators, consistent with a potential role for immunotherapy in rhabdoid tumour patients. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Biodiversity of Protists and Nematodes in the Wild Nonhuman Primate Gut

First Author: Allison Mann | Senior Author: Laura Wegener Parfrey (*pictured*)
The Multidisciplinary Journal of Microbial Ecology | UBC



Despite the ecological significance of gut-associated eukaryotes, little is known about the factors that influence their assembly and diversity in mammals. The authors used an 18S rRNA gene fragment metabarcoding approach to assess the eukaryotic assemblage of 62 individuals representing 16 nonhuman primate species. They did not find a consistent signal of phyllosymbiosis or host-species specificity. [Abstract](#)

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Local News

Large-Scale Analysis of Mutant Worms Reveals Functions of Autism Spectrum Disorder Risk Genes

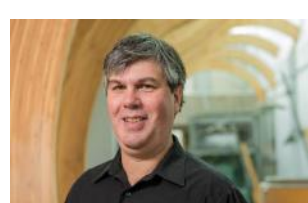
Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



New collaborative research from Troy McDiarmid (*pictured*), and headed by Dr. Catharine Rankin at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, has revealed shared roles for many autism spectrum disorder risk genes in promoting normal developmental timing and proper habituation. Habituation is a simple form of learning that allows all animals, including humans, to filter out irrelevant sensory stimuli. [Read More](#)

Mega-Analysis Finds Consistency in Gene Dysfunction in Models of Alzheimer's Disease

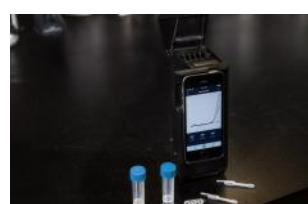
Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



An important part of understanding the changes in the brain in the early stage of Alzheimer's disease (AD) is making sense of the abundant genomic data that exists in the scientific literature. To find commonalities in the data on expression patterns early in the disease course, Dr. Paul Pavlidis (*pictured*) and colleagues have conducted a large-scale analysis of ten different studies of hippocampal gene expression in mouse models of AD. [Read More](#)

Genomics to Bring Cost Savings to the Pulp and Paper Industry

Genome BC



One of the challenges of the forest industry is to provide rapid, timely and accurate identification of the tree species present in the fine woody outputs of pulp and paper processing, also known as feedstock. A team at UBC will be utilizing the revolutionizing science of genomics, which offers compelling information to unravel this challenge by providing new tools to identify the tree species present in the feedstock accurately and efficiently. [Read More](#)

UBC Alumni Career Stories: Crystal Chau, BSc'15

Alumni UBC



Crystal Chau, BSc'15 works for STEMCELL Technologies Inc. as a Research Associate. In this article, she shares her experience leading students and guiding them through their new roles and working together to reach a common goal. Crystal also shares her leadership experience with the Royal Canadian Air Cadet Unit managing and leading youth, as well as the importance of stepping out of your comfort zone. [Read More](#)

Meet the Researcher: Dr. Christian Kastrup

Centre for Blood Research



Dr. Christian Kastrup (*pictured*) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at UBC, and a member of the Centre for Blood Research. His cutting-edge research is primarily concerned with understanding mechanisms of blood clot formation and degradation. Learn more about him in this edition of "Meet the Researcher." [Read More](#)

UBC iGem Wins Gold at MIT Competition

The Ulyssey



The International Genetically Engineered Machinery (iGEM) competition at MIT is where teams across the globe develop a biosensor to solve modern issues from scratch over the summer. At iGEM's Giant Jamboree, UBC's team won two golds for their Paralyte-STX project. The UBC iGEM team has been running in UBC's Halem labs since 2009. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- December 4
8:00 PM **Collider Cafe: Art. Science. Analogies.**
Pizzeria Barbarella
- December 5
6:00 PM **LifeSciences BC Holiday Social**
St. Regis Bar and Grill
- December 11
6:00 PM **UBC Postdoctoral Association Holiday Party**
East is East, Kitsilano
- December 12
7:30 PM **Universe of the Brain: Build a Better Brain**
H.R. MacMillan Space Centre
- December 16
9:00 AM **BCRegMed Workshop: Data Science for the Regenerative Medicine Lab**
Biomedical Research Centre, Room 351

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SFU Faculty of Science

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Scientist, Membrane Protein Biochemistry
AbCellera

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Zymeworks

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Chinook Therapeutics

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USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO ADVANCE YOUR SCIENTIFIC CAREER

Webinar by Dr. Kristina McBurney & Leanna Bedell

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