

Publications of the Week

The X-Linked Intellectual Disability Gene *Zdhc9* Is Essential for Dendrite Outgrowth and Inhibitory Synapse Formation

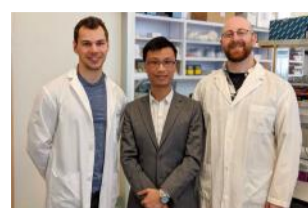
First Authors: Jordan Shimell (pictured, left) | Senior Author: Shernaz Bamji (second from left) | Cell Reports | Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health and the Michael Smith Laboratories



Loss-of-function mutations in ZDHHC9 have been identified in patients with X-linked intellectual disability (XLID) and associated with increased epilepsy risk. *Zdhc9* knockout mice exhibited seizure-like activity together with increased frequency and amplitude of both spontaneous and miniature excitatory and inhibitory postsynaptic currents. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Identification of Hypermutation and Defective Mismatch Repair in ctDNA from Metastatic Prostate Cancer

First Author: Eile Ritch (pictured, right) | Senior Author: Alexander Wyatt | Clinical Cancer Research | Vancouver Prostate Centre and BC Cancer



DNA mismatch repair defects and tumour hypermutation are rare and under-characterized in metastatic prostate cancer. The authors analyzed plasma cell-free DNA targeted sequencing data from 433 metastatic prostate cancer patients with circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA). ctDNA was concordant with mismatch repair protein immunohistochemistry and DNA sequencing of tumour tissue. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Systematic Phenomics Analysis of Autism-Associated Genes Reveals Parallel Networks Underlying Reversible Impairments in Habituation

First Author: Troy McDiarmid (pictured, back row right) | Senior Author: Catharine Rankin (front row, second from right) | PNAS | Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, Michael Smith Laboratories and UBC



The authors developed a pipeline to discover functions of autism spectrum disorder-associated genes by inactivating each gene in the model organism *C. elegans*, and observing the phenotypic consequences using machine vision. They quantified 26 phenotypes spanning morphology, locomotion, tactile sensitivity, and learning in >27,000 animals representing 135 genotypes, allowing them to identify disruptions in habituation as a shared impairment. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

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Awards

November 2019 Award Winners



Dr. Sheila Teves (pictured) has been selected as a Peter Wall Institute Wall Scholar for 2020-2021, during which she will explore and generate new computational models that integrate genomics data with imaging analysis. Check out which other Vancouver-based researchers received grants, awards, scholarships and fellowships in the month of November in our Monthly Award Summary! [Read More](#)

Chatelaine Woman of the Year 2019: Dr. Connie Eaves

Chatelaine



Dr. Connie Eaves has been named a Chatelaine Woman of the Year for her award-winning research on leukemia and breast cancer. But her legacy goes beyond research; she was also recognized for her efforts to encourage more women to enter STEAM fields, and for her support of early-career female scientists. It's simple: "Science needs more women because science needs smart people," says Eaves, who has trained more than 100 scientists over her career. [Read More](#)

Professor Wilfred Jefferies Becomes the First Canadian Immunologist to Be Elected as a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors

Michael Smith Laboratories



Professor Wilfred Jefferies' (pictured) innovative strategies and outstanding inventions that enable cancer immunotherapies and vaccines have been recognized, as it was announced that he has been elected as a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). Election as a Fellow of the NAI is the highest professional distinction accorded solely to eminent academic inventors. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Experimental Drug Would Be First to Reverse Decline of Alzheimer's

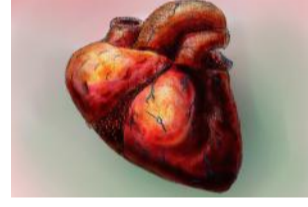
The Daily Scan



The recent announcement that an experimental Alzheimer's drug is being resurrected after it was previously deemed a failure has made international headlines. St. Paul's Hospital and UBC Hospital neurologist Dr. Robin Hsiung was one of the many people surprised by the news. The UBC Centre for Brain Health was an aducanumab study site, and Dr. Hsiung and his research team were disappointed with the cancellation of the clinical trials. [Read More](#)

Novoheart to Co-Develop First of its Kind Human Heart-in-a-Jar Model of Heart Failure with AstraZeneca

Novoheart Holdings Inc.



Vancouver-based Novoheart has announced a collaboration with global biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca in an effort to develop the world's first human-specific *in vitro*, functional model of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction, a common condition especially among the elderly and in women, with the reported prevalence approaching 10% in women over the age of 80 years. [Read More](#)

IGF2R Blood Levels May Help Predict Antibiotic Response in CF Pulmonary Exacerbations, Study Says

Cystic Fibrosis News Today



Researchers at the Centre for Heart Lung Innovation at UBC have found that measuring the levels of insulin-like growth factor 2 receptor (IGF2R) during the first days of treatment with intravenous antibiotics could help predict treatment response in cystic fibrosis patients experiencing pulmonary exacerbations. Pulmonary exacerbations are frequent among people with cystic fibrosis. [Read More](#)

Joining Forces For Responsive and Responsible Research Funding

Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research



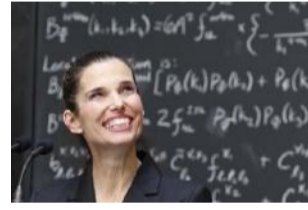
In this *Forward Thinking* article from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR), Dr. Bev Holmes (pictured) discusses a new partnership opportunity that is strengthening the evidence base for health research funding, enabling the MSFHR to maximize the impact of their investments on behalf of British Columbians. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Scientists Disappointed by Elimination of Federal Cabinet Post

The Globe and Mail



Canadian researchers are raising concerns that the loss of a dedicated science minister signals a reduced voice for their agenda around the federal cabinet table. The announcement of the new federal cabinet included the revelation that Kirsty Duncan (pictured), most recently the Minister of Science and Sport, has been moved from that post to Deputy House Leader. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- 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**
UBC Biomedical Research Centre
- December 18
4:00 PM **D.R.I.N.K.S. (Discussions Relevant to Inspiring New Knowledge and Science)**
Mahony and Sons, Stamps Landing
- December 18
7:00 PM **Nerd Nite Solstice Spectacular**
Fox Cabaret
- January 18
11:00 AM **LifeSciences BC Career Connect Day**
Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

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STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

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STEMCELL Technologies
- Associate Product Manager, Hematology**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Scientist, Hematopoietic Stem and Progenitor Cell Biology**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Product and Scientific Support Specialist**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Research Associate, Particle Chemistry**
STEMCELL Technologies

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Other Science Jobs in Vancouver

- Associate Scientist, Antibody Generation**
Zymeworks
- Product Manager, Preclinical & Clinical Scale-Up Products**
Precision Nanosystems
- Scientist, Protein Technologies**
Amgen
- Research Associate, Infectious Diseases**
BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, Steiner and Levings lab
- Assistant Bioinformatics Coordinator**
BC Cancer

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