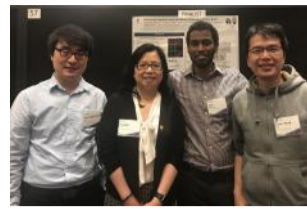


**Publications of the Week**
**Spatio-Temporal Characterization of the Antiviral Activity of the XRN1-DCP1/2 Aggregation against Cytoplasmic RNA Viruses to Prevent Cell Death**

 First Author: Chen Seng Ng (*pictured, right*) | Senior Author: Honglin Luo (*second from left*)  
 Cell Death & Differentiation | Centre for Heart Lung Innovation and UBC


Host nucleases are implicated in antiviral response through the processing of pathogen-derived nucleic acids. The authors have highlighted that the 5'→3' exonuclease XRN1 and decapping enzymes play a critical role in limiting several groups of RNA viral infections. Mechanistically, infection with RNA viruses induced the enrichment of XRN1 and DCPs in viral replication complexes, hence forming distinct cytoplasmic aggregates. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

**Optimizing Nervous System-Specific Gene Targeting with Cre Driver Lines: Prevalence of Germline Recombination and Influencing Factors**

 First Author: Lin Luo | Senior Author: Ann Marie Craig (*pictured*)  
 Neuron | Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health


The Cre-loxP system is invaluable for spatial and temporal control of gene knockout, knockin, and reporter expression in the mouse nervous system. However, the authors report varying probabilities of unexpected germline recombination in distinct Cre driver lines designed for nervous system-specific recombination. Collated data have revealed germline recombination in over half of 64 commonly used Cre driver lines. [Abstract](#)

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**Spotlight**
**Dr. Govinda Sharma Talks T Cell Receptors and Cell Therapy**


Dr. Govinda Sharma (*pictured*) is a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Rob Holt at BC Cancer and the Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre. During his graduate studies in the same lab, he worked to develop a new platform technology for the identification of functional T cell receptor epitopes. This platform is now the basis of a spin-out company called Immunity Biotechnologies. We sat down with Dr. Sharma to discuss his research and the launch of the company. [Read More](#)

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**Local News**
**Pilot Clinical Trial in China to Test UBC Researcher's Findings as a Targeted Therapy for COVID-19**

UBC News



Dr. Josef Penninger (*pictured*), Director of UBC's Life Sciences Institute and Canada 150 Chair in Functional Genetics, is working closely with Vienna-based APEIRON Biologics AG on a randomized, dual-arm trial that will treat 24 patients for seven days to determine whether APN01 treatment improves outcomes in patients with severe SARS-CoV-2 infection, the virus that causes COVID-19 disease. [Read More](#)

**Altered Gene Linked to Better Outcomes of Lymphoma Treatment**

BC Cancer



Often, stories of research breakthroughs highlight discoveries of abnormalities being a bad thing when trying to treat cancer. However, an international team of cancer researchers led by Dr. Christian Steidl (*pictured*) at BC Cancer has uncovered that the opposite is true for diffuse large B-cell lymphoma patients with a specific gene mutation in their tumours. [Read More](#)

**New Collaboration Looks to Gain Insight on Understudied Part of the Brain**

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



A team of scientists comprised of Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health researchers Drs. Brian MacVicar and Fabio Rossi, and Sick Kids Senior Scientist Dr. Freda Miller, have joined forces in a collaboration to look at part of the brain that has remained largely understudied. The trio have unique, yet overlapping expertise, and will be working together to study the meninges, a highly specialized membrane that encases the brain. [Read More](#)

**The Science of Fighting a Virus: Multi-Pronged Global Fight to Defeat New Coronavirus**

Vancouver Sun



Scientists' fight against COVID-19 ravaging China is two-pronged: treatment and prevention. On the treatment front, there are about 90 existing treatments for such things as HIV, influenza A and malaria being tested on COVID-19 patients in China, according to Dr. Srinivas Murthy (*pictured*), an infectious disease specialist at B.C. Children's Hospital. [Read More](#)

**#LabLifeLesson: Life after the Lab with Dr. Shreejoy Tripathy, Independent Scientist and Assistant Professor**

Michael Smith Laboratories



Many post-docs see a Principal Investigator (PI) position as the next logical step in their career progression, but the move from post-doc to PI seems intangible to some. Dr. Shreejoy Tripathy (*pictured*), a former member of the Pavlidis lab who recently started his own lab at the University of Toronto, has shared some of his experiences about how he arrived at his current job and some job-hunting tips for post-docs who are looking to become PIs. [Read More](#)

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**Upcoming Events in Vancouver**

March 4 7:30 PM	<b>LifeSciences BC Blakes Breakfast Speaking Event</b> Terminal City Club
March 4 6:00 PM	<b>In Plain Sight: Women in STEM Photography Exhibition</b> Science World at Telus World of Science
March 9 5:30 PM	<b>Wonder Women Networking Evening</b> Science World at Telus World of Science
March 10 5:00 PM	<b>SFU and UBC Postdoctoral Association Career Networking Night</b> SFU Segal Building
March 10 6:00 PM	<b>Celebrate Research: Shaping our Knowledge of Chronic Disease</b> St. Paul's Hospital

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- Scientist, Membrane Protein Biochemistry**  
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- Program Manager**  
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