

**Publications of the Week**
**Surfing Motility Is a Complex Adaptation Dependent on the Stringent Stress Response in *Pseudomonas Aeruginosa* LESB58**

 First Author: Daniel Pletzer | Senior Author: Robert Hancock (pictured)  
 PLoS Pathogens | UBC


In the cystic fibrosis (CF) lung, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* has been proposed to employ rapid surface motility adaptations in the form of swarming and the more recently identified surfing motility. The authors have demonstrated that surfing is indeed a novel form of motility that can be distinguished from swarming, and further demonstrate that surfing is dependent on the stringent stress response in an aggressive *P. aeruginosa* CF isolate. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

**Synergy between Cell Surface Glycosidases and Glycan-Binding Proteins Dictates the Utilization of Specific Beta(1,3)-Glucans by Human Gut *Bacteroides***

 First Author: Guillaume Déjean | Senior Author: Harry Brumer (pictured)  
 mBio | Michael Smith Laboratories and UBC


The molecular basis of the ability of individual taxa of the human gut microbiota to address specific dietary glycan structures remains largely unclear. Through a systems-based approach, the authors have shown that the symbiont *Bacteroides uniformis* deploys a single, exemplar polysaccharide utilization locus to access yeast  $\beta(1,3)$ -glucan, brown seaweed  $\beta(1,3)$ -glucan, and cereal mixed-linkage  $\beta(1,3)\beta(1,4)$ -glucan. [Abstract](#)

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**Awards**
**Livleen Veslemes Named 'Change Maker' of the Year by BCBusiness Magazine**

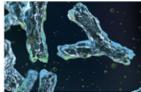
LifeSciences BC



Livleen Veslemes (pictured), the CEO of bioLytical Laboratories Inc., has been recognized as the Change Maker of the Year in the BCBusiness Women of the Year Awards. BCBusiness awarded Livleen the top prize in the Change Maker category for her achievements as the CEO of one of BC's most innovative companies, with a mission to impact lives through fast and accurate diagnostic testing. [Read More](#)

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**Local News**
**Human Testing for Vancouver-Developed COVID-19 Antibody Drug Could Start by July**

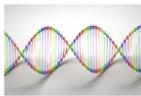
CTV News



AbCellera has announced that human testing for its COVID-19 antibody drug could start as soon as July. The company has managed to isolate around 500 antibodies that are candidates for new therapeutics to treat or prevent infections. The antibodies were narrowed-down from five million different immune cells that were identified in a single blood sample from one of the first COVID-19 patients in North America. [Read More](#)

**DNA Sequencing Reveals the Scars of Cancer Treatment**

Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre



A comprehensive analysis of 570 advanced cancer patients by researchers at Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre at BC Cancer has revealed the genetic changes that occur following chemotherapy, providing scientists and clinicians with valuable insight into advanced cancers and drug resistance. The study is part of the Personalized OncoGenomics program at BC Cancer. [Read More](#)

**Why Does the Same Pathogen Produce Widely Different Responses in Different People? An Interview with Ninan Abraham**

UBC Life Sciences Institute



The UBC Life Sciences Institute's Dr. Ninan Abraham (pictured), an expert on immunity to respiratory tract pathogens, has been featured as the early April guest on the Ways of Knowing podcast, produced by UBC's Wall Centre and its Interim Director, Kalina Christoff. From their respective homes, Drs. Abraham and Christoff discussed how it's possible for the same pathogen to produce vastly different responses in different individuals. [Read More](#)

**No Waste Here: Creating 100% Bio-Based Molecules with the Help of Fungal Enzyme**

Michael Smith Laboratories



The extreme conditions used to pre-treat biomass for enzyme treatment can turn cellulose, via glucose, into hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF), which is toxic to the microbes used in bioprocesses. Dr. Yann Mathieu (pictured) in the laboratory of Dr. Harry Brumer and their collaborators have discovered a new enzyme that converts HMF into a product that can be used to create sustainable biopolymers. [Read More](#)

**CHÉOS Researcher Joins Fight against COVID-19**

Centre for Health Evaluation &amp; Outcome Sciences (CHÉOS)



CHÉOS researcher Dr. Joel Singer (pictured) is part of an international team that has recently received federal funding to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The team will investigate whether a certain class of blood pressure drugs can decrease the severity of COVID-19 infection. Within days of receiving the grant, the team had already recruited two patients from the intensive care unit at St. Paul's. [Read More](#)

**Q&A with Brett Finlay on Vaccine Development**

Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies



Back in 2002, in the midst of the SARS pandemic, BC researchers like Peter Wall Distinguished Professor Brett Finlay (pictured) were among the first to sequence the SARS genome and develop containment strategies. The Peter Wall Institute caught up with Dr. Finlay to talk about his involvement in the development of three potential SARS vaccines, and how that experience can help inform our response to COVID-19. [Read More](#)

**Dr. Jacqueline Quandt Appointed to Academic Director, VCHRI Medical Animal Facilities, PDC/ARU**

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Dr. Jacqueline Quandt (pictured) has been appointed to the role of Academic Director of the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI) Medical Animal Facilities (MAF) Preclinical Discovery Centre/Animal Resource Unit. In this role, Dr. Quandt will facilitate and represent investigators' interests with respect to research approved by the UBC Animal Care Committee within the VCHRI MAF facilities. [Read More](#)

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**Upcoming Events in Vancouver**

 April 21  
12:00 PM

**Special LINUS Report: Major Updates on Scientific Progress Amidst a Global Pandemic**  
 Online

 April 22  
10:00 AM

**STAT Digital Event: Antiviral Treatments. What Are the Odds?**  
 Online

 April 22  
10:00 AM

**Stem Cells from the Sofa Speaker Series: Dr. Josef Penninger**  
 Online

 April 28  
7:00 PM

**UBC Postdoc Association Virtual Trivia Night**  
 Online

 April 30  
1:00 PM

**Stem Cell Network Abstract Writing Webinar**  
 Online

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 STEMCELL Technologies

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 SFU Faculty of Health Sciences

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**Biomedical Engineer**  
 Aspect Biosystems

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