

Publications of the Week

**ACE-2 Expression in the Small Airway Epithelia of Smokers and COPD Patients: Implications for COVID-19**

First Author: Janice Leung | Senior Author: Don Sin (pictured)  
European Respiratory Journal | Centre for Heart Lung Innovation and St. Paul's Hospital



Smokers and individuals with COPD have increased airway expression of ACE-2, which is the entry receptor for the COVID-19 virus. This may explain the increased risk of severe COVID-19 in these subpopulations and highlights the importance of smoking cessation. The authors determined whether patients with COPD have increased expression of ACE-2 in bronchial epithelial cells in the lower respiratory tract. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

**Commensal Bacteria Modulate Immunoglobulin A Binding in Response to Host Nutrition**

First Author: Kelsey Huus | Senior Author: Brett Finlay  
Cell Host & Microbe | Michael Smith Laboratories and UBC



Immunoglobulin (Ig) A recognition of beneficial bacteria is decreased in acutely undernourished children, but the factors driving these changes in IgA targeting are unknown. To understand how nutrition impacts immune-microbe interactions, the authors used a mouse model of undernutrition with or without fecal-oral exposure, and assessed IgA-bacterial targeting from weaning to adulthood. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

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Awards

**COVID-19: Genome BC Funds Series of 'Rapid Response' Virus Research Projects**

Vancouver Sun



More than a dozen "rapid response" research projects have been launched by Genome BC aimed at improving COVID-19 virus and antibody detection, and accelerating the development of treatments and vaccines. Drs. Zabrina Brumme (pictured) and Christopher Lowe are heading a collaboration aimed at creating a test that will not only reveal whether or not the virus is present in a patient, but how much virus is present in fluids and tissues all over the body. [Read More](#)

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Local News

**Scientists Reveal Key Insights into Drug Resistance in Patients with del(5q) Myelodysplastic Syndrome**

Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre



For myelodysplastic syndrome patients harbouring a particular genetic variant, lenalidomide is the drug of choice. But for about half of these patients, resistance will develop within two years, rendering the drug ineffective. By using DNA sequencing, scientists at Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre at BC Cancer, led by Dr. Aly Karsan (pictured), have revealed key insights into this drug resistance. [Read More](#)

**How Early-Career Scientists Are Coping with COVID-19 Challenges and Fears**

ScienceInsider



Daphne Ling (pictured), a PhD student in neuroscience at UBC, has remained on campus in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. She is one of thousands of early-career scientists who have faced personal and professional challenges as the pandemic has swept around the world. *Science Careers* asked 11 of them, including Ling, how they are doing, and what strategies they have found helpful as they cope with coronavirus-related challenges, stressors, and worries. [Read More](#)

**Algenron Pharmaceuticals Asks Health Canada for Multinational Clinical Trial Using Ifenprodil as Coronavirus Therapy**

Proactive Investors



Vancouver-based Algenron Pharmaceuticals Inc. has submitted a Clinical Trial Application to Health Canada for a Phase 2b/3 multinational clinical trial using NP-120, known as Ifenprodil, as a coronavirus (COVID-19) therapy. The study will be an adaptive pilot to pivotal trial design based on guidance from the World Health Organization. [Read More](#)

**On the Cutting-Edge of the Fight against the Pandemic**

adMare BioInnovations



With support from the Digital Technology Supercluster, and working in partnership with adMare BioInnovations, Canada's global life sciences venture, Vancouver-based Variational AI will apply generative artificial intelligence to identify already-approved medications that can be expeditiously repurposed to fast-track life-saving treatment for COVID-19 patients. [Read More](#)

**Jobs in Industry: A Day in the Life of a Medical Science Liaison**

Centre for Blood Research



Jennifer Lowther is a graduate from UBC's Masters in Business Administration program, and now is the Medical Science Liaison (MSL) for Bayer for the Western region of Canada. In this interview, she delves into a few topics about her educational background and skills that make her a stellar MSL with responsibilities that contribute to her role. [Read More](#)

**Microbiome Insights Recognized for the Fourth Consecutive Year in List of BC's Top Emerging Life Sciences Companies**

LifeSciences BC



Microbiome Insights has been featured in the 2020 Life Science Ready to Rocket list by the management consulting firm Rocket Builders. "Ready to Rocket" is a unique business recognition list that selects technology companies with the greatest potential for growth. According to Rocket Builders, genomics is a critical area of innovation in the British Columbia Life Science sector with enhanced growth potential coming out of the current pandemic crisis. [Read More](#)

**PROOF Centre Welcomes Dr. Scott Tebbutt as New CEO**

PROOF



The Prevention of Organ Failure (PROOF) Centre of Excellence has announced Dr. Scott Tebbutt (pictured) as their new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Dr. Tebbutt has served PROOF as Chief Scientific Officer for the past ten years, evaluating and deploying new, high-performance technologies to improve biomedical research and clinical translation, and expanding PROOF R&D programs to include asthma and allergy, diabetes, vaccinology, and cancer immunotherapy. [Read More](#)

**AbCellera Biologics Describes Unprecedented Speed of Innovation**

Vancouver Economic Commission



AbCellera has been collaborating with pharmaceutical and diagnostics companies to aggressively progress development of research that will help scientists and medical professionals better understand, treat and prevent COVID-19. This interview with the Vancouver Economic Commission covers this unprecedented speed of innovation and the public's crucial role in supporting scientists' work. [Read More](#)

**Bold Therapeutics and the University of Ottawa Initiate Research Partnership to Study BOLD-100 in the Treatment of COVID-19**

Bold Therapeutics



Vancouver's Bold Therapeutics, a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company, has announced that it has initiated a research partnership with researchers from the University of Ottawa to explore the potential utility of BOLD-100 as a novel antiviral agent. BOLD-100's main mechanism of action is to inhibit stress-induced upregulation of GRP78. There is extensive literature suggesting that GRP78 plays a critical role in host recognition, viral entry and viral replication. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

**Politicians and Scientists Need Strong Connections during the Coronavirus Crisis — and Beyond**

The Conversation



The reaction of governments to the coronavirus pandemic perfectly illustrates the importance of maintaining strong links between the scientific and political communities. Federal and provincial political leaders in Canada are working closely with scientific experts to slow the spread of the infection, combat misinformation and respond quickly and effectively. Sadly, we have also seen in some cases the harm that weakening the role of science in policy-making can cause. [Read More](#)

**Using Innovation to Protect Canadians and Secure our Economy**

Canadian Insider



The Digital Technology Supercluster is supporting Canadians in the fight against COVID-19. The Supercluster is investing \$60 million to deliver solutions to some of the biggest health and safety problems created by COVID-19. Since launching its COVID-19 Program, the Supercluster has advanced four projects – each making a meaningful contribution to the health and safety of Canadians. [Read More](#)

**Getting Research Talent to Companies Faster: New Industrial Postdoctoral Funding to Address COVID-19**

Mitacs



In light of the current coronavirus pandemic, Mitacs is offering a one-time call for proposals to support postdoctoral fellows in helping Canada fight COVID-19 and support future economic recovery. The new funding is available for one-year collaborative research projects between universities and industry or not-for-profit partners that demonstrate a strong benefit to Canada in battling COVID-19 and addressing its aftermath. [Read More](#)

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**Upcoming Events in Vancouver**

April 28 7:00 PM	<b>UBC Postdoc Association Virtual Trivia Night</b> Online
April 29 12:00 PM	<b>BCREGMED Quarantine Sessions</b> Online
April 30 9:00 AM	<b>Networking Skills</b> Online
April 30 1:00 PM	<b>Stem Cell Network Abstract Writing Webinar</b> Online
May 4-8 2:00 PM	<b>UBC Faculty of Medicine Virtual Career Week</b> Online

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**Science Jobs in Vancouver**

**Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Public Health 'Omics for Heart and Lung Innovation**  
SFU Faculty of Health Sciences

**Senior Scientist, Clinical Pharmacology**  
Xenon

**Quality Control Manager, Microbiology and Environmental Monitoring**  
STEMCELL Technologies

**Project Coordinator, Drug Formulation Services**  
Precision NanoSystems

**Research Associate II, Protein Engineering Lab**  
Zymeworks

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