

Publications of the Week

Genetic Variants Drive Altered Epigenetic Regulation of Endotoxin Response in BTBR Macrophages

First Author: Annie Vogel Ciernia (pictured) | Senior Author: Paul Ashwood
Brain, Behavior, and Immunity | Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health and UBC



The BTBR mouse has been used as a complex genetic model of autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Innate immune activation and elevated pro-inflammatory cytokines are detected in blood of children with ASD. The authors examined how underlying BTBR genetic variants correspond to strain-specific changes in chromatin accessibility, resulting in a pro-inflammatory response specifically in BTBR bone marrow derived macrophages. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Activating AKT1 and PIK3CA Mutations in Metastatic Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer

First Author: Cameron Herberts | Senior Author: Alexander Wyatt (pictured)
European Urology | Vancouver Prostate Centre



Activating mutations in AKT1 and PIK3CA are undercharacterised in metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC), but are linked to activation of phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) signalling and sensitivity to pathway inhibitors in other cancers. The authors sought to determine the prevalence, genomic context, and clinical associations of AKT1/PIK3CA activating mutations in mCRPC. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

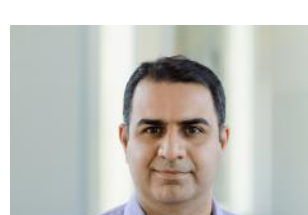
May 2020 Award Winners



Dr. Anna McGuire (pictured), a thoracic surgeon at Vancouver General Hospital and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at UBC, has received a Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute Award for her study into the utility of blood "liquid biopsy" for lung cancer circulating tumour DNA in surgical patients. Find out which other Vancouver researchers won grants, awards and scholarships in our May 2020 award summary! [Read More](#)

Drs. Artem Cherkasov and Faraz Hach Receive Funding for COVID-19 Therapeutic Discovery Project

UBC Data Science Institute



The UBC Data Science Institute has announced funding support to Drs. Artem Cherkasov and Faraz Hach (pictured) from the Vancouver Prostate Centre for their COVID-19 therapeutic discovery project. This project seeks to use deep learning techniques to identify potential therapeutic agents to target one of the main proteins (Mpro/3CLpro) that enable the SARS-CoV-2 virus to replicate. [Read More](#)

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Local News

World's First Human Tests of COVID-19 Antibody Treatment Have Vancouver Connection

Business in Vancouver



American pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly and Co. has confirmed that human patients have been dosed in the world's first study of a potential antibody treatment against COVID-19. The treatment, known as LY-CoV555, was developed as part of a collaboration between Lilly and Vancouver-based AbCellera Biologics. LY-CoV555 is the first potential new medicine specifically designed to combat the virus that causes COVID-19. [Read More](#)

How Cannabidiol May Be Helpful in Treating Diabetes-Related Arrhythmias

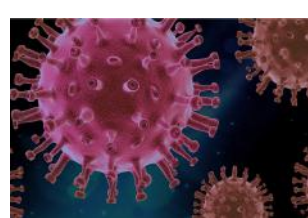
SFU News



Cardiac complications and arrhythmias are major causes of death in patients with diabetes-related hyperglycemia. SFU researchers Peter Ruben, Mohamed Fouda and Reza Ghovanloo have new evidence that cannabidiol, the primary non-psychoactive component of *Cannabis sativa*, may be effective in mitigating some effects of diabetes-related hyperglycemia. [Read More](#)

Canadian COVID-19 Trial Gets Additional \$3.5 Million in Federal Funding

UBC News



The Canadian arm of a major international clinical trial led by a UBC researcher that aims to find the best treatment for COVID-19 has received an additional \$3.5 million in funding from the federal government through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The Canadian Treatments for COVID-19 trial is the Canadian arm of the World Health Organization's global SOLIDARITY clinical trial, which involves nearly 100 other countries. [Read More](#)

A Love Song to *C. Elegans* – An Interview with Zoology Professor Emeritus Dr. Don Moerman

UBC Life Sciences Institute



Productivity, drive, and a penchant for cutting-edge technologies have characterized the career of Dr. Don Moerman (pictured), Professor Emeritus in UBC's Department of Zoology. In this interview, he talks about his focus on *C. elegans* biology and functional genomics, and what it took to engineer the success of the *C. elegans* Knockout Project, an international consortium created to generate knockouts in every one of the worm's 20,000 genes. [Read More](#)

Support of Collaborative Research Vital to Our Future

North Shore News



In March, the world seemingly stopped. But while all this stopping and staying home happened, all across our communities, people were stepping up. Medical experts at Vancouver General Hospital and other health care centres across the province swiftly pivoted their approach, transforming hospitals in order to best treat COVID-19, all while keeping health care teams and their patients safe. [Read More](#)

B.C. Biotech Taps Federal Funding for 60-Second COVID-19 Test

Business in Vancouver



A B.C. biotech firm developing a one-minute COVID-19 test has just landed federal funding worth \$633,000. Richmond-based bioLytical Laboratories Inc. is perhaps best known for its INSTI HIV test, which delivers results within 60 seconds. The company is now in the midst of porting that expertise into the realm of COVID-19 with funding from the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program. [Read More](#)

Northern Light: How Canadian Research Offers Hope in the Fight against COVID-19

Canadian Institutes of Health Research



The COVID-19 pandemic — both here in Canada and around the globe — is not just one thing. We need medical countermeasures to diagnose, treat, and track the disease, but we also need social and policy countermeasures to reduce the spread and help people make healthy choices. Many health researchers, including SFU's Dr. Kelley Lee (pictured), are contributing to Canada's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read More](#)

SBME PhD Rotation Program: Matthew Hickey on a Rare Opportunity for BME Grad Students

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering



The PhD Rotation Program was launched by UBC's School of Biomedical Engineering (SBME) to provide an education and research experience that isn't limited by field, technology or silos. It's one of the few offerings of its kind in Canada. As Matthew Hickey (pictured) describes, this exposure is integral to widening a student's view of the field, their experience and skill set, and their opportunities for the future. [Read More](#)

Podcast: How Genomics Is Saving our Honey Bees

Genome BC



Humans aren't the only ones fighting a pandemic right now. Honey bees are also at risk, under attack by a parasite that is killing millions of colonies around the world. The latest episode of Genome BC's podcast, *The Code of Life*, features Drs. Alison McAtee and Leonard Foster, who discuss how they are using genomics to search for tools to save the bees. [Read More](#)

Innovate BC-Mitacs Partnership Drives Business Solutions for COVID-19

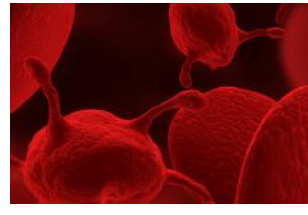
Innovate BC



In order to fast-track solutions to COVID-19 and mitigate its adverse economic impacts, Mitacs and Innovate BC are partnering to support business in the province of British Columbia. Innovate BC is investing \$375,000 towards 100 Mitacs internships for COVID-19-specific projects. This funding will be distributed through the Mitacs Accelerate program and will provide eligible projects with \$15,000 in total funding to support the intern's stipend. [Read More](#)

Genome BC Invests Further \$500,000 in Light Integra's Blood Platelet Transfusion Analyzer

Genome BC



Genome BC has announced a further investment of \$500,000 in addition to \$1 million last year to Vancouver-based LightIntegra Technology (LIT). LIT has developed the first analyzer to provide a routine test for platelet activation status. LIT is focused on improving the quality of and providing the necessary level of blood platelets in a patient following a platelet transfusion and reducing costs for healthcare institutions and blood cancer patients. [Read More](#)

#LabLifeLesson: Life after the Lab with Dr. Kim Godard, Director at Health Canada

Michael Smith Laboratories



Universities are not the only public institutions where highly educated scientists can pursue a fruitful career — these specific skills, abilities, and knowledge are also directly needed in government positions to develop and introduce policies. To learn more about scientific careers in government agencies, the Michael Smith Laboratories reached out to Dr. Kim Godard (pictured), a former graduate student of the Bohmann lab, who works as a Director at Health Canada. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

June 9 10:00 AM	Showcase BC Event at BIO Digital Online
June 10 10:00 AM	Get Hired UBC Virtual Fair Online
June 10 12:00 PM	BCREGMED Quarantine Sessions Online
June 10 2:00 PM	2020 Youth Innovation Showcase Finals Online
June 12 11:00 AM	Zoom Talk: Movement Disorders Group Online

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

- Quality Systems Manager**
Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre at BC Cancer
- Sr. Scientist, In Vivo Pharmacology (Team Lead)**
Chinook Therapeutics
- Scientist, Protein Analysis and Bioconjugation**
AbCellera
- Associate Scientist (18-Month Contract), Biologic Discovery**
Angen
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Stem Cells**
UBC Centre for Heart Lung Innovation

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