

Publications of the Week

### Angiotensin II Type 1 Receptor Blocker Telmisartan Inhibits the Development of Transient Hypoxia and Improves Tumour Response to Radiation

First Author: Brennan Wadsworth (pictured, right) | Senior Author: Kevin Bennewith (left)  
Cancer Letters | BC Cancer and UBC



Hypoxic tumour cells are radiation-resistant and are associated with poor therapeutic outcome. Evidence suggests that angiotensin II type 1 receptor blockers (ARBs) can improve tumour perfusion by reducing collagen deposition from cancer associated fibroblasts. The authors tested how the ARBs losartan and telmisartan affected the solid tumour microenvironment [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

### The Epigenomics of Sarcoma

First Author: Benjamin Nacey | Senior Author: Torsten Nielsen (pictured)  
Nature Reviews Cancer | UBC



The authors review sarcomas in which chromatin pathway alterations drive disease biology. They emphasize examples of dysregulation of each level of epigenetic control through mechanisms that include alterations in metabolic enzymes that regulate DNA methylation and histone post-translational modifications, mutations in histone genes, subunit loss or fusions in chromatin remodelling and modifying complexes, and disruption of higher-order chromatin structure. [Abstract](#)

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Local News

### Biotech Coalition Hopes Llama Nanobodies Hold Key to COVID-19 Treatment

CBC News



A coalition of Canadian biotech companies are hoping that fragments of antibodies they've raised and sequenced from the blood of a llama immunized to COVID-19 are the key to treating the virus that causes the disease. After months of research, the Canadian Coalition for COVID-19 says it has published the genetic sequences of 51 of the fragments, called nanobodies, that showed a promising ability to bind to the virus and neutralize it. [Read More](#)

### Fast and Furious: Targeting “Nitro(gen) Boosts” in a Deadly Bacterium for Next-Generation Antimicrobials

Centre for Blood Research



What if bacteria had the ability to use nitrogen for a “boost”? Morgan Alford (pictured) recently examined the role of a two-component system called NtrBC in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. She found that this general nitrogen regulator may “boost” the bacteria’s ability to adapt to complex conditions during infection, not unlike the famous Fast and Furious “nitro boost.” [Read More](#)

### Qu Biologics Initiates Phase 2 Study to Assess Activation of Anti-Cancer Immune Response in Colon Cancer

LifeSciences BC



Qu Biologics Inc., a biopharmaceutical company developing site specific immunomodulators (SSIs), a novel platform of immunotherapies designed to restore innate immune function, has announced approval from the Israeli Ministry of Health to proceed with their clinical trial of QBECO SSI in patients with colorectal cancer. [Read More](#)

### Researchers Identify Mutation Associated with Improved Survival in Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma

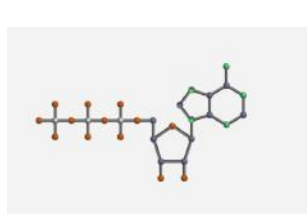
Terry Fox Research Institute



In a paper published in *Nature Medicine* in April 2020, a team led by Drs. David Scott and Christian Steidl at BC Cancer discovered that diffuse large B-cell lymphoma patients who exhibit a loss of the TMEM30A protein, a member of the flippase protein complex, respond more favourably to treatment, shining new light on the mechanisms certain drugs use to attack cancer cells. [Read More](#)

### Fast and Loose: Nanomachines with Floppy Connections Go Faster

SFU News



Converting energy quickly and efficiently is critical to both human-engineered machinery, and to the microscopic machinery operating in the human body. Now, SFU researchers in the Department of Physics have discovered a key design principle from the human body that could help in the development of faster man-made nanomachines. [Read More](#)

### Perspectives, Possibilities, and Community: Welcome to Neuropsyched!

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



*Neuropsyched* is a new online science communication platform in the format of a digital magazine created by six UBC Neuroscience graduate students. Amanda Cheung sat down for a virtual interview with Co-Editors-in-Chief, Fiza Arshad (pictured, right) and Hong Lu (pictured, left). They discuss the magazine’s beginnings, challenges, and achievements. [Read More](#)

### BOLD-100 Significantly Outperforms Remdesivir Head-to-Head in SARS-CoV-2 Model

Bold Therapeutics



Bold Therapeutics, a Vancouver-based clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company, recently generated additional data supporting rapid clinical development of BOLD-100 as a novel antiviral. In a series of experiments, both BOLD-100 and remdesivir were tested head-to-head in a cytopathic effect assay against a live Wuhan strain of SARS-CoV-2 in Vero E6 cells. [Read More](#)

### Xenon Pharmaceuticals Appoints Dr. Chris Von Seggern as Chief Commercial Officer

Xenon Pharmaceuticals



Xenon Pharmaceuticals has announced the appointment of Dr. Chris Von Seggern (pictured) as Chief Commercial Officer, effective immediately. In this newly created role, Dr. Von Seggern will report to Dr. Simon Pimstone, Xenon’s Chief Executive Officer, and oversee the commercial strategy and execution for Xenon’s neurology-focused portfolio of therapeutics. [Read More](#)

### North Vancouver-Founded Teen Nerd Nite Expands to Rest of Province

North Shore News



The in-person events have been suspended, but momentum is still propelling the larger ideas forward. In March, around 70 North Shore students gathered in North Vancouver for the first Teen Nerd Nite. The event was intended to help young people explore the fascinating world of STEM and possibly change their perspective on what they might have beforehand felt was a stodgy, inaccessible subject. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

### Government of Canada Invests \$140 Million, Appointing World-Class Researchers as New or Renewed Canada Research Chairs

Government of Canada



In its 20<sup>th</sup> year, the Canada Research Chairs Program continues to provide opportunities for researchers to excel in their fields, and build teams of experts at Canadian institutions. In spring 2020, the Government of Canada invested \$140 million towards 182 new and renewed Canada Research Chairs. This is the first of two cycles of Canada Research Chairs funding to be announced this year. [Read More](#)

### Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network Operational Plan Continues to Take Shape

Terry Fox Research Institute



Plans for implementation of the new pan-Canadian network to accelerate precision medicine continue to move ahead with partners and leaders from the founding Marathon of Hope Network Council meeting virtually with regional working group leads last month. Approximately 35 participants from partner institutions in BC, Ontario and Quebec attended, along with staff and leadership from the Terry Fox Research Institute. [Read More](#)

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### Upcoming Events in Vancouver

August 26 1:00 PM	<b>How I Found My Job in SciComm – A Choose Your Own Adventure Panel!</b> Online
August 26 2:00 PM	<b>Women’s Health Research Institute Summer Social Media Series</b> Online
August 27 10:00 AM	<b>Stem Cells from the Sofa Speaker Series: Dr. Peter Zandstra</b> Online
August 27 4:00 PM	<b>UBC PostDoc Association Socially Distanced Picnic in the Park</b> UBC Postdoc Association
September 2 12:00 PM	<b>Brown Bag Series: Applied Genome Analysis in Rare Disease Diagnostics</b> Online

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### Science Jobs in Vancouver

- UBC Tenured Associate Professor/Professor in Exercise, Metabolism, Nutrition and Health**  
UBC Faculty of Education, School of Kinesiology
- Associate Scientist, Technology Integration & Bioinformatics**  
Zymeworks
- Assistant Bioinformatics Coordinator**  
Canada’s Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre at BC Cancer
- Associate, Laboratory Automation**  
Notch Therapeutics
- Severe Asthma Clinic Patient and Research Coordinator**  
Providence Health Care Research Institute

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