

Publications of the Week

Shorter Granulocyte Telomeres among Children and Adolescents with Perinatally-Acquired HIV Infection and Chronic Lung Disease in Zimbabwe

First Author: Abhinav Ajaykumar | Senior Author: Hélène Côté (pictured)
Clinical Infectious Diseases | Centre for Blood Research and UBC



Chronic lung disease (CLD) has been reported among African children with perinatally-acquired HIV infection, despite combination antiretroviral therapy. In adults, shorter telomere length (TL) has been reported in association with both CLD and HIV. As little is known in children, the authors sought to compare TL in HIV-positive and HIV-negative children with and without CLD. [Abstract](#)

RNA-Bloom Enables Reference-Free and Reference-Guided Sequence Assembly for Single-Cell Transcriptomes

First Author: Ka Ming Nip (pictured, middle row, fifth from right) | Senior Author: Inanc Biral (back row, second from left)
Genome Research | Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre and UBC



The authors developed RNA-Bloom, an assembly algorithm that leverages the rich information content aggregated from multiple single-cell transcriptomes to reconstruct cell-specific isoforms. Assembly with RNA-Bloom can be either reference-guided or reference-free, thus enabling unbiased discovery of novel isoforms or foreign transcripts. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Jordan J. Shimell Named a Brain Star Award Winner for Work Understanding X-Linked Intellectual Disability

UBC Life Sciences Institute



Dr. Jordan Shimell (pictured), a PhD student in the Bamji lab at UBC, is among the 16 recipients from across Canada who have received Canadian Institutes of Health's (CIHR) Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction Brain Star Awards. The Brain Star awards are given to students and trainees who have published high impact discoveries in all fields and disciplines covered by CIHR's Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction in the 2019 calendar year. [Read More](#)

2020 SFU Graduate Student Award Recipients

SFU Faculty of Health Sciences



The SFU Graduate Student Awards provide multi-year funding to recruit exceptional incoming Masters and PhD domestic and international students. Quiana Ang (pictured, right), an incoming MSc student, has been awarded the Mowafaghian Faculty Award. Maude Comtois-Cabana (pictured, left) is a recipient of the Graduate Dean's Entrance Scholarship. Starting in the fall, she will pursue a joint degree at SFU and Université de Montréal. [Read More](#)

Four LSI Researchers Receive Funding for New Research Infrastructure through the John R. Evans Leaders Fund

UBC Life Sciences Institute



More than \$96 million in funding has been awarded by the Government of Canada for 377 research projects at 55 institutions across Canada, through the Canada Foundation for Innovation John R. Evans Leaders Fund. This includes just over \$1.5M for four researchers in the Life Sciences Institute (LSI), including Dr. Hilla Weidberg (pictured) in the Department of Cellular & Physiological Sciences at UBC. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Research Discovery May Offer New Treatment Options for People Diagnosed with Rare Form of Ovarian Cancer

UBC Medicine



Small cell carcinoma of the ovary, hypercalcemic type is a devastating cancer that has no effective treatments and is usually diagnosed in women in their 20s. A study led by Dr. David Huntsman (pictured) at BC Cancer describes a metabolic vulnerability present in cells that may represent a therapeutic target if proven in clinical trials. [Read More](#)

Academics and Industry Partners Launch Novel Study for Easing COVID-19 Restrictions

Genome BC



To support decision making around relaxing restrictions and managing work environments as society reopens, an inter-sectoral group of industry, academic, and public sector partners in BC is leading a new 15-month, \$1.2 million return-to-work study. The data from the "SARS-CoV-2 Study for Eased Restrictions in British Columbia" (SAIER) project, collected in controlled settings, will be available in real time to help inform public health decisions that lead to positive outcomes. [Read More](#)

Circumventing Selective Permeability: Small Binding Proteins Hitch a Ride into Cell Cytosol via Salmonella's Sensory Probe

UBC Life Sciences Institute



Dr. Antoine Chabloy (pictured) and colleagues at the UBC Life Sciences Institute have harnessed salmonella's syringe-like system to inject specific proteins into the fluid that fills cells. More than a quarter of all human proteins are thought to bathe in this milieu, where they interact with one another as well as with proteins from every other cellular compartment. Yet until now, it's been impossible to efficiently study interactions between those proteins. [Read More](#)

Chinook Therapeutics Raises \$106M as It Prepares to Merge with Aduro Biotech

GeekWire



Chinook Therapeutics, a biotech company creating targeted therapies for kidney diseases, raised an additional \$106 million just before its planned merger with Aduro Biotech. Chinook said it will have at least \$275 million in operating capital following the investment and merger. The combined company will take Chinook's name and will be headquartered out of Chinook's facilities in Vancouver, B.C. and Seattle. [Read More](#)

Acidity May Play a Role in Esophageal Cancer – And Point the Way to New Treatment Approaches

UBC Life Sciences Institute



Dr. Shane Duggan (pictured) and colleagues at the Life Sciences Institute and the UBC Faculty of Medicine have found that pH levels may play a key role in the metastasis of esophageal cancer as well as cellular changes that set the stage for its development. The findings provide important context for precursor lesions, or wounds, that present in the esophagus, as well as the eventual escape or metastasis of cancer cells in esophageal adenocarcinoma. [Read More](#)

Cancer Drug Synergizes with Radiation Therapy in Treatment-Resistant Prostate Cancer

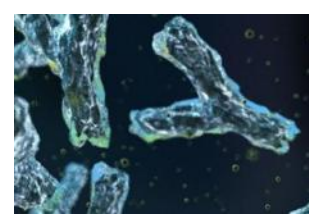
Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre at BC Cancer



For some prostate cancer patients, radiation and androgen deprivation therapy synergize to enhance treatment outcomes. But in up to 50 per cent of cases, treatment resistance develops, and the cancer progresses. A new study led by Genome Sciences Centre Distinguished Scientist Dr. Marianne Sadar (pictured) demonstrates a more effective synergistic treatment strategy, enhancing the efficacy of the combined treatment by targeting androgen receptor. [Read More](#)

AbCellera Acquires OrthoMab Bispecific Platform to Propel the Development of Antibody Therapies for Pharma and Biotech Partners

AbCellera



AbCellera has announced the acquisition of the OrthoMab bispecific platform from Dualogics. OrthoMab is a clinically validated platform that uses the most advanced computational and experimental protein engineering methods to create IgG-like bispecific antibodies from any two antibody sequences. This will provide the industry with a rapid and complete solution for generating tailored, stable and developable bispecific antibodies. [Read More](#)

New Study Helps Improve Bespoke Immune Cells' Ability to Prevent Transplant Rejection in Patients with Donated Tissue

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



A new study further refines a potential new treatment that can prevent transplant rejection in kids and adults without leaving them vulnerable to infection. The treatment, which was initially developed by Dr. Megan Leving's (pictured) research team at BC Children's Hospital, involves genetically engineering specialized immune cells called T regulatory cells so that they can dampen down the immune system if it mounts an overzealous response to transplanted tissues. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

September 2 12:00 PM	Brown Bag: Applied Genome Analysis in Rare Disease Diagnostics Online
September 3 1:00 PM	Grant Writing Workshop: SSHRC Doctoral Scholarship Applications Online
September 9 8:00 AM	2020 Virtual Norman Bethune Symposium Online
September 10 5:00 PM	22nd Annual LifeSciences BC Awards, Presented by FARRIS Vancouver Convention Centre West
September 11 6:00 PM	Canadian Medical Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Hyatt Regency Vancouver

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