

Publications of the Week

A Heme-Dependent Enzyme Forms the Nitrogen-Nitrogen Bond in Piperazate

Du, Y.L. (*second from right, front*) and Ryan, K.S. (*middle, front*), et al. | Nature Chemical Biology | UBC



Molecules containing a nitrogen-nitrogen (N-N) linkage have a variety of structures and biological activities; however, no enzyme has yet been demonstrated to catalyze N-N bond formation in an organic molecule. The authors report that the heme-dependent enzyme KtzT from *Kutzneria* catalyzes N-N bond formation in the biosynthesis of piperazate, a building block for nonribosomal peptides. [Abstract](#)

BACE1 Cleavage Site Selection Critical for Amyloidogenesis and Alzheimer's Pathogenesis

Zhang, S. and Song, W. (*pictured*), et al. | The Journal of Neuroscience | UBC



Mutations in the amyloid β precursor protein (APP) gene alter APP processing, either causing familial Alzheimer's Disease (AD) or protecting against dementia. The authors demonstrate that APP673 regulates APP processing, and that BACE1 cleavage site selection is critical for amyloidogenesis in AD pathogenesis, and implicate a pharmaceutical potential for targeting the APP673 site for AD drug development. [Abstract](#)

PD-L1 and Intratumoral Immune Response in Breast Cancer

Wang, Z.Q. and Watson, P.H. (*pictured*), et al. | Oncotarget | UBC



PD-L1 is thought to play an important role in the antitumor immune response. The authors investigated the expression of PD-L1 within a cohort of 443 breast cancers categorized by molecular subtype to better define its prognostic significance, and found that its expression is associated with better patient survival in Basal-like breast cancer. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Dr. Liam Brunham Named One of Canada's Top 40 under 40

Centre for Heart Lung Innovation



Dr. Liam Brunham was recently announced as a recipient of the Canada's Top 40 under 40 Award for 2017. Dr. Brunham is a Principal Investigator at the Centre for Heart Lung Innovation, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at UBC, and an attending physician in the Healthy Heart Program at St. Paul's Hospital. [Read More](#)

Dr. Janice Leung Wins MSFHR Health Professional-Investigator Award

Micheal Smith Foundation for Health Research



Dr. Janice Leung, a respirologist at St. Paul's Hospital, is the recipient of one of eleven inaugural MSFHR health professional-investigator awards, designed to support health professionals who are actively involved in patient care to conduct and apply research relevant to health and/or the health system. Her research is focused on why people with HIV develop chronic obstructive pulmonary disease at greater rates and younger ages than the general population. [Read More](#)

Congratulations to Dr. Jan M. Friedman: Recipient of the 2017 Geoffrey L. Hammond Lectureship

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



The Geoffrey L. Hammond Lectureship recognizes investigators at BC Children's Hospital who have made a significant impact on improving the health and well-being of children and families, served as a role model and mentor to junior researchers, trainees and students over the last 10 years, and provided leadership to the community on the Oak Street Campus. [Read More](#)

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Local News

UBC Finds Potential Biomarker for a Surprising Health Hazard

UBC Faculty of Medicine



The Western red cedar is B.C.'s official tree. When a naturally occurring chemical in the wood, plicatic acid, is released into the air during cutting or milling, it leads to asthma in about five percent of people who regularly inhale it. Drs. Scott Tebbutt and Chris Carlsten of UBC are using new blood-based biomarkers to make it easier for those affected to be diagnosed. [Read More](#)

CDRD Spin-Off Sitka Biopharma Advances Bladder Cancer Therapy Closer to the Clinic

The Centre for Drug Research and Development

An experimental treatment for bladder cancer will move into an early phase clinical trial under an agreement signed between Cancer Research UK and Cancer Research Technology, the charity's commercial arm, and Canadian biotechnology company Sitka Biopharma Inc., a spin-off of The Centre for Drug Research and



Development (CDRD), and the University of British Columbia, financed by Quark Venture. [Read More](#)

New Pilot Trials Spark Community Interest

CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network



While the anti-inflammatory and anti-fibrotic effects of cannabis are well known, few randomized controlled studies have been done using cannabis products. The CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network, based out of Vancouver, will be starting a new pilot trial examining the feasibility, safety and tolerability of cannabis for people living with HIV. [Read More](#)

RepliCel Collaborates with University of British Columbia to Build World-Class Hair Follicle Cell Data Map

RepliCel



RepliCel Life Sciences Inc. announced it has signed a collaborative research project agreement with UBC. The project will be co-lead by UBC's Dr. Kevin McElwee and Professor Youwen Zhou. The project is designed to deliver a gene and protein expression "map" of healthy hair follicle cells expected to be critically important to improving key components of the manufacturing, regulatory, and clinical profile of RepliCel's cell therapy products. [Read More](#)

Survey Reveals Basic Research in Canada Is Falling by the Wayside

Nature News



The number of scientists who report conducting purely fundamental research in Canada dropped from 24% to 1.6% between 2006 and 2015, according to a survey released on 28 June. The analysis reveals researchers' frustration with the country's long-term shift towards the support of applied research over basic science.

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- July 13 **UBC Postdoctoral Association Ice Cream, Beer & Bingo**
Paradiso Italian Gelato
- July 13 **Women in Science**
Big Rock Urban Brewery and Eatery
- July 20 **Discussions Relevant to Inspiring New Knowledge and Science**
Mahony and Sons, Stamps Landing

July 20

Beaty Nocturnal: Summer Nights

Beaty Biodiversity Museum

August 6

Slime Molds Are Way Cool Because...

Beaty Biodiversity Museum

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

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STEMCELL Technologies

Product Marketing Manager, Pluripotent Stem Cells

STEMCELL Technologies

Medical/Grant Writer

BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS

Staff Scientist

BC Cancer Agency

Senior Scientist, Assay Development

Zymeworks

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