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Volume 1.25: September 5, 2017

Publications of the Week

Integrative Analysis Identifies Four Molecular and Clinical Subsets in Uveal Melanoma

First Author: Gordon Robertson *(pictured)* | Senior Author: Scott Woodman Cancer Cell | Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre and BC Cancer Agency



Using sequence assembly approaches, the authors identified complex alterations in BAP1 in multiple uveal melanomas (UM) that were not revealed by applying standard SNP/indel algorithms to next-generation sequencing data, suggesting that many BAP1 alterations are undetected using current techniques. Four distinct molecular and clinical UM profiles were revealed, emphasizing the need for stratified UM patient management. **Profile | Abstract**

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TIA1 Mutations in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Frontotemporal Dementia Promote Phase Separation and Alter Stress Granule Dynamics

First Author: Ian Mackenzie *(pictured)* | Senior Author: Rosa Rademakers Neuron | Vancouver Coastal Health and UBC



Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and frontotemporal dementia (FTD) are agerelated neurodegenerative disorders with shared genetic etiologies and overlapping clinical and pathological features. The authors studied a novel ALS/FTD family and identified the P362L mutation in the low-complexity domain of T cell-restricted intracellular antigen-1 (TIA1). **Profile | Abstract**

Hsp83 Loss Suppresses Proteasomal Activity Resulting in an Upregulation of Caspase-Dependent Compensatory Autophagy

First Author: Courtney Choutka | Senior Author: Sharon Gorski *(pictured)* Autophagy | Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre, BC Cancer Agency, UBC, and SFU



The two main degradative pathways that contribute to proteostasis are the ubiquitinproteasome system and autophagy, but how they are molecularly coordinated is not well understood. The authors revealed unappreciated roles for Hsp83 in proteasomal activity and regulation of Dcp-1, and identified an effector caspase as a key regulatory factor for sustaining adaptation to cell stress *in vivo*. **Profile** | **Abstract**

REVIEW: Regenerative Medicine and Cell-Based Approaches to Restore Pancreatic Function

First Author: Cara Ellis | Senior Author: Tim Kieffer *(pictured)* Nature Reviews, Gastroenterology and Hepatology | UBC



The authors describe progress and challenges in cell-based methods to restore pancreatic function, with a focus on optimizing the site for cell delivery and decreasing requirements for immunosuppression through encapsulation. They also discuss tools and strategies being used to generate exocrine pancreas and insulinproducing β -cell surrogates *in situ*, and highlight obstacles to clinical application. **Abstract**

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Awards

August 2017 Award Recipient Summary



Learn about the Vancouver researchers who received grants, awards, fellowships, and scholarships this August! Winners include Dr. David Granville *(pictured)* of the Institute for Heart and Lung Health at St. Paul's Hospital, who is one of eleven researchers from Vancouver to receive a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Innovation to Commercialization Award. **Read More**

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Local News

Innovation and Robotics Will Speed Up Tumour Analysis

Genome BC



Genome BC is investing in a cancer research project that aims to speed up genetic tests of tumours through the development of a robotics system. Genomic testing of cancerous tumours enables better, more informed treatment for many of B.C.'s cancer patients. Analysis of a patient's tumour, specifically the study of its molecular composition, offers more insight into how it will progress and respond to drug therapies. **Read More**

What Is the Best Method of Preventing HIV Transmission?

Centre for Blood Research



Using data collected from HIV positive patients in British Columbia between 1996 and 2013, researchers at UBC and SFU have examined the efficacy of two different strategies for preventing HIV transmission via contaminated needles. Opioid replacement therapy and needle dispensing programs were compared to the advantages gained by antiretroviral therapy, which helps control HIV infection in patients. **Read More**

Translational Immunology: An Interview with Dr. Shirin Kalyan

Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences



The Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcomes Sciences welcomes translational immunologist Dr. Shirin Kaylan. Dr. Kaylan will be performing clinical research investigating treatments for complex bone disorders. She is also Director of Scientific Innovation at Qu Biologics, a Vancouver-based biotech company working to develop site-specific immunomodulators, which aim to restore innate immunity to those with compromised immune systems. **Read More**

Development Path for Transdermal Aripiprazole

Aequus Pharmaceuticals



Aequus Pharmaceuticals Inc., has announced that is has filed a Clinical Trial Application (CTA) with Health Canada for its once-weekly transdermal aripiprazole patch. Aripiprazole is an atypical antipsychotic and the active ingredient in Abilify®, a leading medication in the US used for the treatment of a number of psychiatric disorders including bipolar I disorder, schizophrenia, major depressive disorder and irritability associated with autistic disorder. **Read More**

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Interesting Articles

B.C. Is Fast Becoming Neuroscience Centre of Excellence for Canada

The Vancouver Sun



Dr. Ryan D'Arcy, head of Health Sciences and Innovation at Surrey Memorial Hospital, discusses how B.C. has become a global force for innovation in the area of brain health. The province is leading networks of excellence to improve aging through technology, healthy brain development, mental health and addiction, and advanced brain evaluation and imaging technologies. **Read More**

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📩 Upcoming Events in Vancouver

September 7	The Beautiful Brain: A Celebration of Art and Neuroscience
3:00 PM	Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre
September 8	Pants Off for Prostate Cancer
7:00 PM	Vancouver Rowing Club
September 20	Et Al Too: The Return of the Ultimate Bar Science Night
7:00 PM	Fox Cabaret
September 21	Beaty Nocturnal: Life In Colour Opening
5:00 PM	Beaty Biodiversity Museum
September 22	UBC Postdoctoral Association Postdoc Appreciation Dinner

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

Product Marketing Manager, Neural STEMCELL Technologies

Scientific Inside Sales Representative STEMCELL Technologies

Sector Manager, Agrifood and Natural Resources Genome BC

Research Assistant Providence Health Care Research Institute

Lead Pharmacologist

Inception Sciences Centre

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