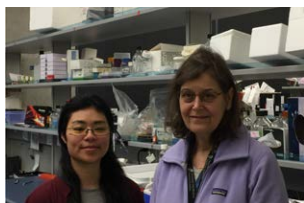


Publications of the Week

## Hyaluronan-Binding by CD44 Reduces the Memory Potential of Activated Murine CD8 T Cells

First Author: Sally Lee-Sayer (*left*) | Senior Author: Pauline Johnson (*right*)  
The European Journal of Immunology | BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and UBC



CD44, a receptor for the extracellular matrix component hyaluronan, is a marker of activated and memory T cells. The authors showed that the increase in CD44 expression and hyaluronan binding induced upon CD8 T cell activation is proportional to the strength of TCR engagement, thereby identifying the most strongly activated T cells. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

## Integration of Biological/Pathophysiological Contexts to Help Clarify Genotype-Phenotype Mismatches in Monogenetic Diseases. Childhood Epilepsies Associated with SCN2A as a Case Study

First Author: Raymond Winquist | Senior Author: Charles Cohen  
Biochemical Pharmacology | Xenon Pharmaceuticals



Monogenetic diseases offer clear human validation for launching drug discovery programs in Pharma designed to develop important new medicines for unmet medical needs. However, mismatches in the genotype-phenotype of presenting patients complicate both the preclinical 'research target profile' and the clinical development strategy. [Abstract](#)

## Hypoxia Induces Selective Modifications to the Acetylome in the Brain of Zebrafish

First Author: Rashpal Dhillon | Senior Author: Jeffrey Richards (*pictured*)  
Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology | UBC



Little is known about the direct effects of decreases in environmental oxygen on reversible lysine acetylation, and the resulting modifications to mitochondrial metabolism. To address this knowledge gap, the authors exposed zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) to 16 hours of hypoxia (2.21 kPa) and quantified acetylation levels of 1220 proteins using whole-cell proteomics in samples of brain taken from normoxic and hypoxic zebrafish. [Abstract](#)

## Awards

### CBR Postdoctoral Fellow & Research Associate Travel Awards

The Centre for Blood Research



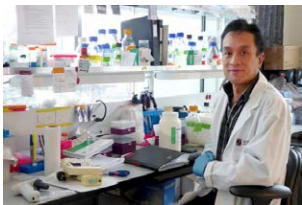
Annually, the UBC Centre for Blood Research (CBR) offers five travel awards to postdoctoral fellows and research associates to help make travel to conferences and academic events more feasible. Each award offers \$1,000 to supplement other funding sources. This year's winners include Drs. Jennifer Grants, Meera Raj, Peter Bell, Kai Yu, and Natalie Zeytuni (*pictured*). [Read More](#)

[View All Featured Awards](#) → | [View Monthly Award Summaries](#) →

## Local News

### Discovery of a Promising New Medication to Block 'Master Key' of Cancer Growth

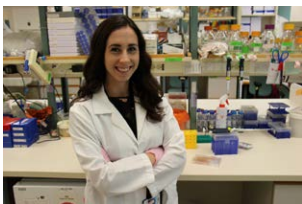
Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



For years, researchers have investigated approaches to prevent cancer-causing cells from multiplying in the body. Now, Vancouver Prostate Centre scientist Dr. Christopher Ong and colleagues have discovered a critical gene that drives cancer growth. From this discovery, they developed a new protein-based medication that prevents unhealthy cell growth that leads to prostate cancer, and potentially other cancers. [Read More](#)

### Lisa Decotret Works to Stop Cancer in Its Tracks by Understanding How It Spreads

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



Lisa Decotret knows firsthand the destructive effects of cancer - she is a childhood cancer survivor herself. Decotret was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma when she was 13 and received treatment at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. After beating cancer, she decided to give back to the medical community by pursuing studies in cancer research. [Read More](#)

### Potential New Diabetes Treatment Being Tested in Vancouver

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



The University of British Columbia and Vancouver Coastal Health are testing a possible diabetes cure that replaces a person's damaged pancreatic cells with new ones grown in the lab. The replacement cells are grown from embryonic stem cells. If the new cells mature, multiply, and behave as hoped, recipients would be able to lessen – or even eliminate – their dependence on self-injected insulin. [Read More](#)

## What Healthcare Can Learn from a Proud Data Parasite

Healthcare Analytics News



Some might call him a data parasite, but Dr. Paul Pavlidis doesn't mind. It's researchers like him who scrutinize the work of others, ensuring information reliability and integrity, and examine data sets to identify other uses that the original investigators might have overlooked. Data parasites may also compile disparate data and build new databases, like Pavlidis and his colleagues did when they created NeuroExpresso. [Read More](#)

## Canadian Effort Will Bring New Tools for Crop Breeding

Genome BC



Currently crop genomic data are rapidly growing in quantity but the ability of crop breeders to easily utilize the data for the benefit of developing new crop varieties is lagging. DivSeek is an international initiative that aims to accelerate plant breeding by leveraging the genetic diversity in the world's live collections and seed banks. To be effective, a unified, coordinated and cohesive database is necessary to allow breeders and farmers to access this important information. [Read More](#)

## School of Biomedical Engineering Expands to Undergraduate Education

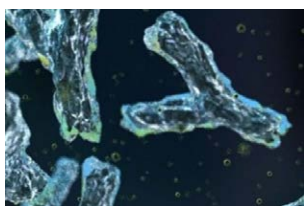
UBC Faculty of Medicine



An investment from the Province of British Columbia will create 355 domestic undergraduate spaces in the new School of Biomedical Engineering, a joint effort between the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Applied Science. Among the school's new faculty is its founding director, Peter Zandstra, a specialist in stem cell technology recruited from the University of Toronto. [Read More](#)

## CQDM and Brain Canada Inject \$1 M in Top BC Biotech Firm AbCellera to Advance Discovery Platform for Next-Generation Antibody Therapeutics

CQDM



CQDM and Brain Canada are proud to announce the non-dilutive funding of \$1 M to AbCellera and the University of British Columbia. AbCellera will also contribute \$450,000 to the project, which will expand and apply its state-of-the-art microfluidic antibody discovery platform for discovery of function-modifying antibodies against G-protein-coupled receptor targets. [Read More](#)

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### Upcoming Events in Vancouver

January 30  
7:30 PM

**Café Scientifique Vancouver**  
Yaggers Downtown

- January 31  
7:00 PM

**Public Lecture on Immune Therapies for Cancer**  
Life Sciences Institute
- January 31  
8:00 PM

**Collider Cafe: Art. Science. Fusion.**  
Cafe Deux Soleils
- February 5  
5:30 PM

**Rethinking Germs: Healthy Living with Our Microbes**  
SFU Segal Building
- February 6 - 7  
7:00 AM

**Heart + Lung Health FEST 2018**  
Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

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## **Science Jobs in Vancouver**

### **Senior Research Technologist**

STEMCELL Technologies

### **Product Marketing Manager, Pluripotent Stem Cells**

STEMCELL Technologies

### **Postdoctoral Fellow**

International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries and UBC

### **Evaluation Specialist**

The Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences

### **Inside Sales Representative**

Aspect Biosystems

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