

Publications of the Week

LTR Retrotransposons Transcribed in Oocytes Drive Species-Specific and Heritable Changes in DNA Methylation

First Author: Julie Brind'Amour (*second from left*) | Senior Author: Matthew Lorincz (*fourth from left*)
Nature Communications | UBC



De novo DNA methylation during mouse oogenesis occurs within transcribed regions enriched for H3K36me3. As many oocyte transcripts originate in long terminal repeats (LTRs), which are heterogeneous even between closely related mammals, the authors examined whether species-specific LTR-initiated transcription units shape the oocyte methylome. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Mechanical Anisotropy in GNNQQNY Amyloid Crystals

First Author: Roy Nassar | Senior Authors: Jörg Gsponer (*pictured*) and Guillaume Lamour
The Journal of Physical Chemistry | Michael Smith Laboratories and UBC



Mapping the nanomechanical properties of amyloids can provide valuable insights into structure and assembly mechanisms of protein aggregates that underlie the development of various human diseases. The authors used steered molecular dynamics simulations and amplitude modulation-frequency modulation atomic force microscopy to measure the directional variation in stiffness of GNNQQNY amyloid crystals. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

August 2018 Award Winners



Dr. Bruce McManus (*pictured*) at the Centre for Heart Lung Innovation and Dr. Andrew Krahn at St. Paul's Hospital have both been awarded the 2018 Margolese National Heart Disorders prize. Find out which other Vancouver researchers were the recipients of grants, awards, fellowships, and scholarships this August in our monthly award summary! [Read More](#)

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Local News

B.C. Researchers Identify Multiple Strains of HIV 'Time Bombs' Hibernating in Cells

The Vancouver Sun



Dr. Zabrina Brumme (*pictured*) and colleagues have discovered a way to identify multiple strains of HIV that lay dormant in the cells of an individual. While the discovery is a long way from a cure, this study does give scientists a clearer idea of how challenging it will be to extricate the virus from a patient's cells. "If you can't identify it, you can't cure it," said Brumme. [Read More](#)

Dr. Fabio Rossi and Stem Cell Research

MonteCristo Magazine



Dr. Fabio Rossi (*pictured*), Director at the Biomedical Research Centre at UBC, has spent his career figuring out what makes tissues regenerate or irreversibly degenerate. Fibrosis is reportedly involved in a large percentage of deaths in developed countries like Canada. Rossi believes that the discoveries made today could change how we age in the future. [Read More](#)

Can Depression Be Diagnosed with a Blood Test?

Chatelaine



The Canadian Biomarker Integration Network in Depression is a network of clinicians, data scientists, biologists and psychiatrists who are searching for ways to treat depression more acutely, by matching physical signs in the blood and in brain imaging to the right kind of treatment. The team is using artificial intelligence to come up with a singular picture of a depressed person, called a biosignature. [Read More](#)

New Laser Sheds Light on Neuropathic Pain

International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries (ICORD)



ICORD investigator Dr. John Kramer (*pictured*) recently acquired the first laser for pain research in BC, and he and his team are using it to answer some fundamental questions about neuropathic pain. This type of pain is estimated to affect at least half of people with spinal cord injuries, and it can originate all over the body, including in areas that no longer have feeling. [Read More](#)

From Shrews to Elephants, Animal Reflexes Surprisingly Slow

SFU News



While speediness is a priority for any animal trying to escape a predator or avoid a fall, a new study by SFU researcher Dr. Heather More (*pictured*) suggests that even the fastest reflexes among all animals are remarkably slow. Nerve conduction delay is particularly long in large animals, while the time for a nerve impulse to cross a single synapse in the spinal cord is relatively long for small animals and relatively short for large animals. [Read More](#)

Interview with Dr. Dylan Cooke

SFU Faculty of Science



Dr. Dylan Cooke's (*pictured*) innovative research program explores links between variation in brain organization and behaviour, response to injury, and the brain's capacity to rewire itself. He aims to characterize and study the significance of individual variation in brain organization, determining how it affects skilled behaviour, resilience in the face of brain injury, and natural, adaptive changes in the brain. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Documentary about Women in Science Puts Gender Issues under the Microscope

CBC News



Science is about knowledge. It involves the gathering of facts to help create predictions and provide explanations. But for women who have made science their career, there is seemingly no scientific explanation to explain the work challenges they face solely because of their gender. It's an issue that documentary filmmaker Brandy Yanichy explores in her new film *Ms. Scientist*. [Read More](#)

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📅 Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- September 9-13 8:00 AM **11th World Congress for Microcirculation**
Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre
- September 11 8:30 AM **Vancouver Nanomedicine Day**
Vancouver Alpen Club
- September 12 6:30 PM **Community Conversations: The Latest Brew in Neuroscience Research**
Steamworks Brew Pub
- September 18 6:30 PM **Et Al III: The Ultimate Bar Science Night**
Rio Theatre
- September 19 4:30 PM **Serving up Science: Plant Genomics and the Future of Food**
Vancouver Convention Centre

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📄 STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

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Contextual Genomics
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- Laboratory Scientist**
Provincial Health Services Authority
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