

Publications of the Week

Single-Cell Transcriptome Profiling of Mouse and hESC-Derived Pancreatic Progenitors

First Author: Nicole Krentz (*left*) | Senior Author: Francis Lynn (*right*)
Stem Cell Reports | BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



Human embryonic stem cells (hESCs) are a potential unlimited source of insulin-producing β cells for diabetes treatment. A greater understanding of how β cells form during embryonic development will improve current hESC differentiation protocols. The authors characterize the single-cell transcriptomes of mouse and hESC-derived endocrine progenitors, which will serve as a resource for improving the formation of functional β -like cells from hESCs. [Abstract](#)

Bottoms Up: The Role of Gut Microbiota in Brain Health

First Author: Nina Radisavljevic | Senior Author: Brett Finlay (*pictured*)
Environmental Microbiology | Michael Smith Laboratories and UBC



The gut microbiota affects many aspects of human health, and research, especially over the past decade, is demonstrating that the brain is no exception. The authors summarize existing human observational studies of the microbiota in brain health and neurological conditions at all ages, as well as animal studies that are advancing the field beyond correlation and into causality. [Abstract](#)

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Local News

AbCellera Biologics in Top Five Private Venture Capital Financings in Last Two Years

Biotechnology Focus



Biotechnology Focus has narrowed down the top five private venture capital financings in the country within the last couple of years. Vancouver-based AbCellera Biologics, headed by Carl Hansen (*pictured*), came in fourth place thanks to the \$30-million USD in funding that they will receive from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency over the next four years to establish an end-to-end platform for rapid pandemic response. [Read More](#)

UBC Study Could Spare Cancer Patients from Side Effects of Radiation

The Chilliwack Progress



Dr. Christina Haston (*pictured*), an Associate Professor of Medical Physics at UBC Okanagan, recently published a study examining how Chromosome 6 can contribute to radiation-induced pulmonary fibrosis. Her study finds that genetic differences can determine whether or not this lung injury follows radiotherapy in an experimental system, explaining why thoracic radiotherapy leads to a lung injury in some lung cancer patients. [Read More](#)

Life Gave Larry Gifford Parkinson's Disease: Larry Gave Us a Storyteller's Insight, in Podcast Form

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Larry Gifford (*right*), a Senior Program Director at CKNW and Global News, is demystifying Parkinson's disease for listeners around the world on his podcast, *When Life Gives You Parkinson's*. Most recently, Gifford spoke with UBC Professor Dr. Silke Cresswell on the gut-brain connection and the signature that neurodegenerative disease leaves throughout your body. [Read More](#)

Q&A with Dr. Brett Finlay, Co-Author of *The Whole-Body Microbiome*

Michael Smith Laboratories



Everyone wants to know the secret to living a longer and better life. Dr. Brett Finlay (*pictured*), a UBC Peter Wall Distinguished Professor at the Michael Smith Laboratories, teamed up with his daughter, Dr. Jessica Finlay, a recognized environmental gerontologist, to write a new book that explores the human microbiome and uses scientific fact to highlight the connection between microbes and quality of health. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Universities and Colleges across Canada Now Growing Marijuana on Campus

CTV News



Marijuana is now being grown legally at several academic institutions across the country. Eight academic institutions have obtained licences from Health Canada to cultivate cannabis for scientific purposes, allowing them to closely study the drug that was legalized for recreational use in October. Some received special licences a few months before legalization and will be moving to licences with fewer restrictions in the future. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- January 8
1:00 PM

Career Connect: Applied Biological Materials
UBC Student Biotechnology Network
- January 9
6:00 PM

Immigrant Women in STEM Speaker Series
Creekside Community Recreation Centre
- January 11
7:30 PM

Nerd Nite North Van 1.3 – The QUantum Leap Show
Eagles Club
- January 16
6:30 PM

Nobel Prize Lectures
Telus World of Science
- January 17
5:00 PM

Beaty Nocturnal: A Botanical Time Machine
Beaty Biodiversity Museum

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