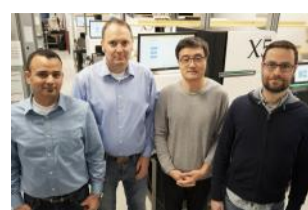


**Publications of the Week**
**A High-Throughput Protocol for Isolating Cell-Free Circulating Tumour DNA from Peripheral Blood**

 First Author: Pawan Pandoh (*pictured, left*) | Senior Author: Marco Marra  
 BioTechniques | Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre, SFU and UBC


The analysis of cell-free circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA) is potentially a less invasive, more dynamic assessment of cancer progression and treatment response than characterizing solid tumour biopsies. The authors present an automatable magnetic bead-based ctDNA isolation method that eliminates the time-consuming centrifugation step to purify ctDNA directly from peripheral blood.

[Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)
**Molecular and Genetic Characterization of MHC Deficiency Identifies EZH2 as Therapeutic Target for Enhancing Immune Recognition**

 First Author: Daisuke Ennishi | Senior Author: Christian Steidl (*pictured*)  
 Cancer Discovery | SFU and BC Cancer


The authors performed a genomic, transcriptomic, and immunophenotypic study of 347 patients with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma to uncover the molecular basis underlying acquired deficiency of MHC expression. They demonstrated a strong enrichment of EZH2 mutations in both MHC-I and MHC-II negative primary lymphomas, and observed reduced MHC expression and T-cell infiltrates in murine lymphoma models expressing mutant Ezh2<sup>Y641</sup>.

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**Awards**
**CIHR Invests in Early Career Investigators in Maternal, Reproductive, Child and Youth Health**

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)



The CIHR Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health has announced an investment of \$1.69 million to fund 17 recipients of their *CIHR Early Career Investigators in Maternal, Reproductive, Child and Youth Health* grants. Dr. Manish Sadarangani (*pictured*) from UBC will be using the funding to study the development of functional antibody assays to assess the immunogenicity of pertussis-containing vaccine for HIV-infected and HIV-uninfected pregnant women and their newborns.

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**ICORD Postdoc Wins Prestigious L'Oréal-UNESCO Award**

International Collaboration On Repair Discoveries (ICORD)



The L'Oréal Foundation and UNESCO have announced the 21<sup>st</sup> International Award For Women in Science, which honours outstanding women scientists from all over the world. Dr. Jacquelyn Cragg (*pictured*), a postdoctoral fellow at ICORD and recipient of the award, is using statistical algorithms to better understand the progression of neurological diseases, including Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and spinal cord injury.

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**Local News**
**The National Research Council of Canada and Aspect Biosystems Work toward New Ways to Deliver Therapeutics to the Brain, the Holy Grail of Biopharmaceutical Sciences**

Aspect Biosystems



As diseases of the central nervous system, such as Alzheimer's disease, continue to impact the lives of Canadians, the National Research Council of Canada and Aspect Biosystems are working to develop new therapeutic models that could lead to improved treatments in the future and better outcomes for patients suffering from brain disease.

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**You and Your Poo: Why Fecal Medicine Could Be the Next Big Buzz**

CBC News



Medical science has entered the era of the microbiome. Scientists all over the world are looking at ways to harness the teeming colonies of creatures living on us and in us to treat disease. One of the big questions is whether gut bacteria cause disease or whether disease triggers changes in the gut microbiome. In his new book, *Whole-Body Microbiome*, UBC Professor Brett Finlay reviews the latest discoveries in microbiome science.

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**CDRD Invests in Sitka Biopharma to Advance Bladder Cancer Treatment to Clinical Trial**

The Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD)



CDRD, Canada's national life sciences venture, has announced an increased commitment to Sitka Biopharma with a \$1.2M investment. This new investment will enable Sitka and its partner, Cancer Research UK, to accelerate critical development activities and rapidly enter clinical trials of STK-01, Sitka's lead product for the treatment of bladder cancer.

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**AbCellera Announces Multi-Target Partnership Agreement with a Top Five Global Pharma**

AbCellera



AbCellera, a technology leader in therapeutic antibody discovery from natural immune repertoires, has announced a multi-target and multi-year collaboration with Novartis. Under the agreement, AbCellera will apply its expertise in antibody discovery and its single-cell screening technology to advance programs on up to ten targets elected by the pharmaceutical partner.

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**Interesting Articles**
**Innovation Nation: What Canada's Cutting-Edge Health Tech Startups Need to Get to the Next Level**

Vancouver Sun



With an abundance of clinical talent, hospital support and a current government keen to keep investing in innovation, it seems Canada is creating the perfect ecosystem for continued health-tech growth. The question plaguing many industry leaders, however, is whether the country has the infrastructure and skillset needed to sustain this branch of innovation.

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**Upcoming Events in Vancouver**

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| February 26<br>1:00 PM  | <b>Career Connect : Applied Biological Materials</b><br>Applied Biological Materials |
| February 28<br>11:00 AM | <b>UBC Spring Job Fair</b><br>Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre                            |
| February 28<br>6:30 PM  | <b>UBC-SFU Postdoc Social</b><br>Brewhall  |
| March 1<br>3:30 PM      | <b>Vancouver District Science Fair</b><br>Langara College                            |
| March 1<br>7:00 PM      | <b>The Potential of Pot</b><br>Liu Institute for Global Issues                       |

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STEMCELL Technologies
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STEMCELL Technologies
- Research Associate, Business Operations Products**  
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UBC Life Science Institute
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Zymeworks
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