

Publications of the Week

Podocalyxin Is Required for Maintaining Blood–Brain Barrier Function During Acute Inflammation

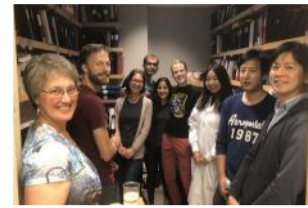
First Author: Jessica Cail | Senior Author: Kelly McNagny *(pictured)*
PNAS | Biomedical Research Centre, ICORD, St. Paul's Hospital and UBC



Podocalyxin (Podxl) is broadly expressed on the luminal face of most blood vessels in adult vertebrates, yet its function on these cells is poorly defined. The authors identified specific functions for Podxl in maintaining endothelial barrier function. They found that, in the absence of Podxl, human umbilical vein endothelial cells failed to form an efficient barrier when plated on several extracellular matrix substrates. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

The ATP-Binding Cassette Gene ABCF1 Functions as an E2 Ubiquitin-Conjugating Enzyme Controlling Macrophage Polarization to Dampen Lethal Septic Shock

First Author: Hitesh Arora *(pictured, fourth from left)* | Senior Author: Wilfred Jefferies *(not pictured)*
Immunity | Michael Smith Laboratories, Vancouver Prostate Centre, Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, Centre for Blood Research and UBC



Little is known regarding the molecular switches and pathways that regulate the bi-phasic inflammatory disease, sepsis. The authors demonstrate that ubiquitination by ABCF1, an ATP-binding cassette family member protein, shifts the inflammatory profile from an early phase MyD88-dependent to a late phase TRIF-dependent signalling pathway, thereby regulating Toll-like receptor-4 endocytosis and modulating macrophage polarization from M1 to M2 phase. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

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Awards

February 2019 Award Winners



Drs. Shoukat Dedhar *(pictured)* and Timothy Kieffer from the UBC Faculty of Medicine have been recognized with UBC Killam Research Prizes for their outstanding research and scholarly contributions. Find out which other Vancouver researchers won grants, awards, fellowships and scholarships this February in our monthly awards summary! [Read More](#)

2019 LifeSciences BC Annual Award Winners Announced

LifesciencesBC



LifeSciences BC has announced the recipients of the 21st Annual LifeSciences BC Awards, presented by FARRIS. These awards are presented annually to recognize talented individuals and organizations that represent the life sciences ecosystem in B.C. Dr. Marco Marra *(pictured)* earned this year's Don Rix Award for Lifetime Achievement. [Read More](#)

Dr. Jerilynn Prior Awarded 2019 Aubrey J. Tingle Prize

Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR)



Internationally recognized women's health researcher Dr. Jerilynn Prior *(pictured)* has become the tenth recipient of the MSFHR's Aubrey J. Tingle Prize. The prize is awarded annually to a BC-based clinician scientist whose work in health research is internationally recognized and has had a significant impact on advancing research – and its implementation – to improve health and the health system in BC and globally. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Uncovering Antibiotics and Cancer Drugs in Bullfrog DNA

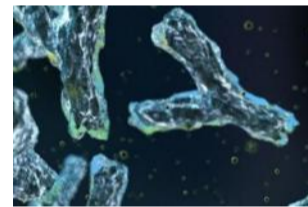
Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre



Armed with bullfrog DNA and cutting-edge computational tools, B.C. researchers have invented a new method for rapidly identifying new antibiotics and cancer drugs. The researchers have been investigating how naturally occurring antimicrobial peptides (AMPs) may be an alternative to conventional antibiotics. AMPs may also be useful as targeted treatments for cancer. [Read More](#)

AbCellera and Denali Therapeutics Sign Expanded Multi-Year, Multi-Target Deal to Discover Therapeutic Antibodies for Neurological Diseases

AbCellera



AbCellera has announced an expanded collaboration with Denali Therapeutics Inc. to discover antibodies as therapies for neurological indications. AbCellera will generate panels of antibodies for up to eight drug targets nominated by Denali using AbCellera's high-throughput, ultra-deep single-cell immune profiling capabilities. [Read More](#)

Stem Cell Therapies: Made in Canada

Site Selection



If you didn't know any better, you might think every plant or life sciences project in Canada is being driven by cannabis legalization. But a glance at recent projects across Western Canada shows significant projects in these sectors that have nothing to do with CBD or THC, including a C\$138-million, five-year investment by Canada's largest biotech company, STEMCELL Technologies. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Forward Thinking: How to Tell The Story of a Health Research Funder

Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research



How do we communicate our work? What is the best way to share the work of a health research funder in a way that gets people excited about the value and impact of health research and the organizations that enable it? In this blog, Lori Last and Amy Noise *(pictured)* introduce the science of storytelling, and outline how to apply those principles to demonstrate the value and impact of health research funding. [Read More](#)

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 Upcoming Events in Vancouver

March 5 6:00 PM	Celebrate Research Public Lecture: A Closer Look at Cancer Research BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
March 6 5:15 PM	Wonder Women Networking Evening 2019 Science World at Telus World of Science
March 6 8:00 AM	Technological Platforms for Cell Therapy Simon Fraser University
March 6 - 8 8:00 AM	Pluripotent Stem Cell Training STEMCELL Technologies
March 7 6:30 PM	Women in Science, Health and Innovation: Leadership Looking to the Future Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue

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 STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

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STEMCELL Technologies
 - Scientist, Pulmonary**
STEMCELL Technologies
 - Manager, Scientific Recruitment**
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- Scientific Writer**
AbCellera
- Senior Formulation Scientist**
Ascension Sciences
- Postdoctoral Fellow, Neuronal Patterning**
UBC Life Science Institute
- Graduate Student, Chemistry**
Zymeworks

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