

Publications of the Week

Targeting MAPK Phosphorylation of Connexin43 Provides Neuroprotection in Stroke

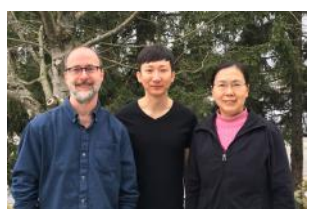
First Author: Moises Freitas-Andrade | Senior Author: Christian Naus *(pictured)*
Journal of Experimental Medicine | UBC



Connexin43 (Cx43) function is influenced by kinases that phosphorylate specific serine sites located near its C-terminus. The authors demonstrated that mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) sites Cx43^{S255/262/279/282A} (MK4) on animal models of permanent middle cerebral artery occlusion stroke exhibited a significant decrease in infarct volume that was associated with improvement in behavioural performance. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

EFHC1, Implicated in Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy, Functions at the Cilium and Synapse to Modulate Dopamine Signalling

First Author: Catrina Loucks and Kwangjin Park *(pictured, centre)* | Senior Author: Michel Leroux *(left)*
eLife | UBC and SFU



To shed light into the functions of non-motile cilia, organelles with varied functions in sensory physiology and cellular signalling, the authors studied EFHC1, an evolutionarily conserved protein required for motile cilia function and linked to a common form of inherited epilepsy in humans. They demonstrated that *C. elegans* EFHC-1 functions within specialized non-motile mechanosensory cilia, where it regulates neuronal activation and dopamine signalling. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Funding to Advance Research on Disease Vaccines, River Systems and Brain Mapping

SFU News



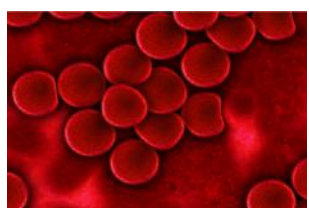
Three SFU researchers, including Dr. Ralph Pantophlet *(pictured)* from the Faculty of Health Sciences, are preparing to take their projects to the next level after receiving more than \$700K worth of funding. The funding, provided by the Canada Foundation for Innovation's John R. Evans Leaders Fund, will be used to improve SFU labs and purchase equipment that will enable researchers to advance their research goals. [Read More](#)

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Local News

A Drop of Blood Could Fuel a Revolution in Personalizing Cancer Treatment

BC Cancer Foundation



According to BC Cancer researchers, blood can contain tiny fragments of circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA) from an individual's cancer, which provide incredible insight into the patient's journey. BC Cancer's world-leading breast cancer team is embarking on a two year study looking at the benefits of introducing ctDNA testing in the clinic, thanks to a critical \$1.2 million donation from the Conconi Family Foundation. [Read More](#)

Research Excellence Cluster Forms at UBC to Shine a Spotlight on Women's Health

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



A new Research Excellence Cluster has formed at UBC. The Women's Health Research Cluster, led by Dr. Lisa Galea *(pictured)*, has begun working toward improving women's experience in the healthcare system by understanding the unique physiological and social challenges that affect how women experience health and disease. [Read More](#)

Pascal Biosciences Partners with Mitacs to Support Innovative Cancer Research at University of British Columbia

Pascal Biosciences



Pascal Biosciences Inc. has announced a partnership with Mitacs for a multi-year cancer research project at UBC. The research project will be directed by UBC's Dr. Wilfred Jefferies, who is the scientific founder of Pascal and was the first scientist to discover specific cannabinoids that can increase the immune recognition of both mouse and human cancer cells. [Read More](#)

TRIUMF Receives Historic Investment in 2019 Federal Budget

TRIUMF



The Government of Canada reaffirmed its longstanding support for TRIUMF with the announcement of a \$292.7M investment over five years to support laboratory operations. The investment will bolster TRIUMF's broad portfolio of activities across three core pillars: science and technology; people and skills; and innovation and collaboration. [Read More](#)

From Foam to Bone: Plant Cellulose Can Pave the Way for Healthy Bone Implants

UBC News



Researchers from UBC and McMaster University have developed what could be the bone implant material of the future: an airy, foamlike substance that can be injected into the body and provide scaffolding for the growth of new bone. "These findings show, for the first time in a lab setting, that a cellulose nanocrystal aerogel can support new bone growth," said study co-author Dr. Emily Cranston *(pictured)* from UBC. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Half of Canadians Can't Name a Woman Scientist or Engineer, Poll Finds

CBC News



You've probably heard of Stephen Hawking, Albert Einstein and Mark Zuckerberg. But can you name a woman scientist or engineer? Half of Canadians can't, suggests a new poll. The online survey of 1,511 Canadians was commissioned by the non-profit group *Girls Who Code*, which aims to close the gender gap in technology by teaching girls coding skills. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

March 26 6:00 PM	The SBN Biotech Expo & Conference UBC Robson Square
March 28 8:45 AM	SFU Postdoc Research Day SFU Burnaby
March 28 4:00 PM	D.R.I.N.K.S. (Discussions Relevant to Inspiring New Knowledge and Science) Mahony and Sons, Stamps Landing
April 3 7:15 AM	2019 Norman Bethune Symposium UBC Robson Square
April 3 2:00 PM	UBC Medicine Career Day BC Children's Hospital Research Institute

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