

Publications of the Week

Biosynthesis of the Anti-Diabetic Metabolite Montbretin A: Glucosylation of the Central Intermediate Mini-MbA

First Author: Sandra Imisch (pictured) | Senior Author: Jörg Bohlmann
The Plant Journal | Michael Smith Laboratories



The specialized metabolite montbretin A (MbA) is being developed for treatment of type 2 diabetes and obesity. However, MbA cannot be obtained in sufficient quantities for drug development from its natural plant source or by chemical synthesis. To overcome these limitations through metabolic engineering, the authors investigated the genes and enzymes of MbA biosynthesis. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Mitochondrial DNA Somatic Mutation Burden and Heteroplasmy Are Associated with Chronological Age, Smoking, and HIV Infection

First Author: Adam Ziađa (pictured, back row, third from left) | Senior Author: Dr. Hélène Côté (back row, second from left)
Aging Cell | Centre for Blood Research, Women's Health Research Institute and UBC



The authors used primer ID-based next-generation sequencing to quantify both somatic and heteroplasmic blood mitochondrial DNA point mutations within the D-loop, in 164 women and girls aged 2–72 years, of whom 35% were smokers and 56% were HIV-positive. They found that somatic mutations and the occurrence of heteroplasmic mutations increased with age. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Deborah Money Receives Lifetime Achievement Award for Her Contribution to Improving Women's Health

UBC Medicine



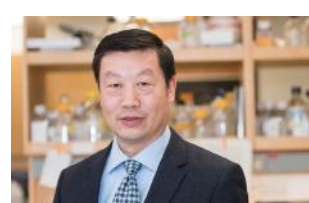
Dr. Deborah Money (pictured) has received the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Infectious Diseases Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology, a 46-year old US-based scientific organization. The award recognizes Dr. Money for her outstanding contributions to scientific exchange, education and leadership in infectious diseases in women. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Scientists Find Possible Prenatal Origin for Alzheimer's Disease

UBC Medicine



The discovery of a new role for a gene associated with neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative disorders finds a possible prenatal origin for Alzheimer's disease, according to new research co-led by Dr. Weihong Song (pictured) at UBC. The protein, known as RCAN1, is increased in people with Down syndrome and Alzheimer's disease, and an imbalance of RCAN1 can trigger dangerous levels of inflammation resulting in damage to the mitochondria. [Read More](#)

Dr. Anita Palepu Appointed as Head of UBC Department of Medicine

UBC Department of Medicine



Dr. Anita Palepu (pictured) has been announced as the Head of the UBC Department of Medicine. Dr. Palepu is a Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine at UBC. In her new role, Dr. Palepu will provide strategic leadership for more than 120 academic faculty and 800 clinical faculty who are engaged in teaching, service and research across the spectrum from basic biomedical research to health service delivery. [Read More](#)

With \$65 Million in Hand, Chinook Therapeutics Launches to Tackle Kidney Disease

BioSpace



British Columbia-based Chinook Therapeutics burst onto the scene with \$65 million in hand and a goal of driving a portfolio of compounds aimed at kidney diseases into the clinic by 2021. Led by President and CEO Eric Dobmeier (pictured), Chinook is utilizing new and efficient translational approaches to speed R&D, and the company plans to run clinical trials in defined patient populations with rapid, robust endpoints – reducing risk along the way. [Read More](#)

Meet Dr. Darryl Knight, Providence Health Care's New Vice-President, Research & Academic Affairs

Providence Health Care



Providence Health Care recently welcomed Dr. Darryl Knight (pictured) as their new Vice-President, Research and Academic Affairs, and President of the Providence Health Care Research Institute. Read this short interview to learn more about Dr. Knight, his research interests, and his vision for the future of health research at Providence Health Care. [Read More](#)

PhD Students Attend the International Student Research Forum

SFU Faculty of Health Sciences



In June, Nathan Gock (pictured), Milad Parpouchi, and Amanda Butler from the SFU Faculty of Health Sciences, were invited to the International Student Research Forum, an international stage for research students to collaborate beyond the boundaries of disciplines and nationalities. For the three PhD students, the opportunity for interdisciplinary collaboration was a strong draw for attending. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Government of Canada Supports Fast-Growing Technology Sector in British Columbia

Western Economic Diversification Canada



While BC's technology sector has flourished over the last decade, it is important to ensure that companies can accelerate beyond the start-up stage and remain competitive in a digital world. That's why the Government of Canada has announced \$2.25 million in Western Economic Diversification Canada funding to support the BC Tech Association to deliver programming and incubator services for companies in the technology sector. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

September 4 12:30 PM	Science in the Age of Misinformation, with Katie Gibbs Liu Institute for Global Issues
September 11 9:00 AM	WordPress Training Workshop UBC Life Sciences Centre
September 11 6:00 PM	Open Science Network Open Lab MakerLabs
September 12 8:00 AM	Vancouver Nanomedicine Day 2019 AMS Student Nest
September 12 1:30 PM	What, Why, Where, When and How to Hold Your First First-in-Human Trial UBC Robson Square

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Other Science Jobs in Vancouver

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BC Children's Hospital Research Institute

Tenure-Track Faculty Position, Greg Moore Professorship in Clinical and Community Cardiovascular Pharmacy
UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

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