

Publications of the Week

Long Non-Coding RNAs Identify a Subset of Luminal Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer Patients with Favourable Prognosis

First Author: Joep de Jong | Senior Author: Ewan Gibb (pictured)
Genome Medicine | DeCipher Biosciences, Inc. and UBC



While muscle-invasive bladder cancer (MIBC) subtyping has primarily been based on messenger RNA, long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs) may provide additional resolution. LncRNA expression was quantified from microarray data of a MIBC cohort treated with neoadjuvant chemotherapy and radical cystectomy. The authors identified a biologically distinct subgroup of luminal-papillary MIBC with a favourable prognosis. [Abstract](#)

Dissociation of Solid Tumour Tissues with Cold Active Protease for Single-Cell RNA-Seq Minimizes Conserved Collagenase-Associated Stress Responses

First Author: Ciara O'Flanagan | Senior Author: Samuel Aparicio (pictured)
Genome Biology | BC Cancer, BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre and UBC



The sources of technical and biological variation in primary solid tumour tissues and patient-derived mouse xenografts for single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) are not well understood. The authors used low temperature protease and collagenase to identify the transcriptional signatures associated with tissue dissociation across a diverse scRNA-seq dataset. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

October 2019 Award Winners



Dr. Marco Marra (pictured), Head of UBC's Department of Medical Genetics, has been inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame for his outstanding leadership and contributions to the field of genomics, that have led to extraordinary improvements in human health. Find out who else in Vancouver won awards, fellowships and scholarships in the month of October! [Read More](#)

Faculty of Medicine Members Receive 2019 Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Awards

UBC Medicine



UBC Faculty of Medicine members, including Dr. Bruce Verchere (pictured), have recently received Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Awards. The Innovation to Commercialization Program is designed to help BC health researchers advance their discoveries or inventions towards use in patient populations to improve health outcomes, benefit society, and enrich the health innovation ecosystem in BC. [Read More](#)

Royal Canadian Legion Masters Scholarship in Veteran Health Research: Kaitlin Sullivan

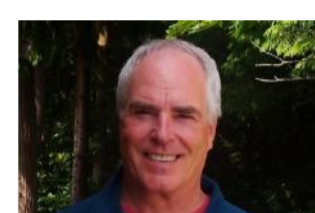
UBC Life Sciences Institute



The Royal Canadian Legion Master's Scholarship in Veteran Health Research has been awarded to Kaitlin Sullivan (pictured), an MSc student in the Graduate Program in Neuroscience at UBC in the Cembrowski laboratory. The \$30,000 scholarship recognizes "research which has significant potential to improve the physical or mental health or well-being of veteran population, or their families." [Read More](#)

Dr. Carl Lowenberger Receives the 2019 Chris Dagg Award for International Impact

SFU News



An international collaboration on insect-borne diseases has earned SFU Professor Carl Lowenberger (pictured) the 2019 Chris Dagg Award for International Impact. The annual award recognizes and celebrates the achievements of SFU staff or faculty members who have made a profound contribution to sustainable international development on behalf of the university. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Brief Sun Exposure Increases the Composition of Health-Boosting Gut Microorganisms

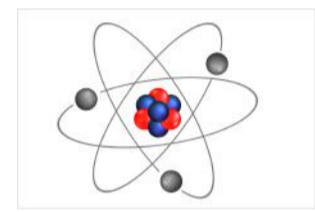
Media Entertainment Arts WorldWide



While taking the road to good health, remember to bask in the sun for a few minutes. New research led by Dr. Bruce Vallance at UBC suggests that a brief exposure to the sun's UVB rays help increase the composition of health-boosting gut microorganisms. Previous work in rats has shown that UVB rays from lamps drive changes in the gut microorganisms, with help from vitamin D. [Read More](#)

Vancouver-Based TRIUMF Says It Has Produced the 'Rarest Drug on Earth' for Cancer Treatment

Vancouver Sun



The UBC-based TRIUMF, the world's largest cyclotron particle accelerator, and Canadian Nuclear Laboratories have completed their first production run of actinium-225. When injected into the bloodstream, actinium-225 emits radiation that can kill the cancer cells. However, there is so little actinium-225 that only a handful of patients can be treated in the world each year. [Read More](#)

International Study Finds New Genetic Features in Rare Burkitt Lymphoma Cancer

SFU News



In a collaborative effort involving more than 16 institutions around the globe, researchers from SFU's Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, under the supervision of Dr. Ryan Morin (pictured), have refined the classification of a rare cancer called Burkitt lymphoma. They hope this will lead to more precise treatment options and, potentially, to improved survival rates for patients. [Read More](#)

Meet the Researcher: Prof. Hongshen Ma

Centre for Blood Research



Professor Hongshen Ma (pictured) is a Principal Investigator at the Centre for Blood Research (CBR), among various other appointments at UBC. Professor Ma's group works on developing new technologies for medical research and treatment. He sat down with the CBR to answer some questions about his background and current research. [Read More](#)

Functional Screening of the Human Gut Microbes Identifies Enzyme Class with Potential for Glycoprotein Analysis

Michael Smith Laboratories



Using a metagenomic screening approach, researchers from the laboratory of Professor Steve Withers (pictured), in collaboration with the laboratory of Prof. Steven Hallam, have identified new enzymes with the ability to cleave terminal single sugar building blocks off of larger sugar structures or directly from proteins. Enzymes with this activity may have use in the analysis of glycoproteins including protein therapeutics, as well as in biotechnological processes. [Read More](#)

How Close Are We to Creating a Universal Blood Type?

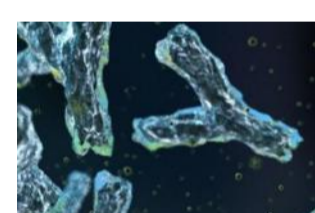
How Stuff Works



For years, scientists have been toiling away in laboratories trying to make blood better. Or, maybe more accurately, better for more people. For more than four years, the Withers lab at UBC has been experimenting with different approaches to strip certain sugar molecules from the surface of Type A red blood cells, effectively turning the cells into Type O, which doesn't contain those sugar molecules. [Read More](#)

Pascal Biosciences and Y-Biologics Announce Research Collaboration for Development of a Bispecific Antibody for Leukemia

Globe Newswire



Pascal Biosciences Inc. and Y-Biologics have announced a research collaboration agreement for the discovery and development of novel bispecific antibodies for the treatment of leukemia. Under the terms of the agreement, Y-Biologics will contribute its novel bispecific antibody platform technology, ALICE, and Pascal will utilize its proprietary antibodies. [Read More](#)

The Frostier the Flower, the More Potent the Cannabis

UBC News



While the cannabis leaf is iconic, it's the chemicals produced by the tiny, frostlike hairs on cannabis flowers that give the plant its psychoactive and medicinal properties and distinctive smell. New research from investigators at the UBC Department of Botany and Anandia Laboratories has revealed the unique structures and chemical outputs of the different types of hairs, or glandular trichomes, for the first time. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

November 5 3:00 PM	Growing up in Science with Dr. Gustavo Turecki Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health
November 6 8:00 AM	LifeSciences BC Investor Summit Presented by Lumira Ventures JW Marriott Parq Hotel
November 7 11:00 AM	Things I'm Still Learning About Commercializing Innovations... Over 40 Years Later Diamon Health Care Centre
November 9 12:30 PM	DNA Sonification Workshop VIVO Media Arts Centre
November 12 6:00 PM	Building Biotech 2019 Coast Coal Harbour Hotel

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- Scientist, Hematopoietic Stem and Progenitor Cell Biology**
STEMCELL Technologies
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STEMCELL Technologies
- Scientific Inside Sales Representative**
STEMCELL Technologies
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Other Science Jobs in Vancouver

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Precision Nanosystems
- Scientist, Protein Biochemistry**
AbCellera
- Chief Scientific Officer & Vice President, Sector Development**
Genome BC
- Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track) in Pain Management Pharmacogenomics**
UBC Departments of Pediatrics and Anesthesiology, Pharmacology & Therapeutics
- Research Associate, In Vivo Pharmacology**
Xenon

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OPTIMIZING IN VITRO LUNG MODELS
Webinar by Dr. Rachael Rayner

STEMCELL TECHNOLOGIES

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