

Publications of the Week

A Rapid and Sensitive Nucleic Acid Amplification Technique for *Mycoplasma* Screening of Cell Therapy Products

First Author: Lisa Dreolini (pictured) | Senior Author: Robert Hoyt
Molecular Therapy: Methods & Clinical Development | Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre



Mycoplasma spp. bacteria can infect cell cultures, posing a potential threat to recipients of cell therapy products. Conventional *Mycoplasma* testing methods are highly sensitive, but typically require a minimum of 28 days to produce results. The authors present a nucleic acid amplification technique method for the detection of *Mycoplasma* which circumvents the need for live *Mycoplasma* spp. in the test procedure. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Androgen Receptor-Binding Sites Are Highly Mutated in Prostate Cancer

First Author: Tunç Morova (pictured, back row, fifth from right) | Senior Author: Nathan Lack (fourth from right)
Nature Communications | Vancouver Prostate Centre



While mutations of the androgen receptor (AR) protein have been extensively studied, little is known about those somatic mutations that occur at the non-coding regions where AR binds DNA. Using clinical whole genome sequencing, the authors have shown that AR binding sites have a dramatically increased rate of mutations that is greater than any other transcription factor, and specific to only prostate cancer. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

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Awards

UBC Researchers Awarded More than \$1M to Tackle Aggressive Bone Cancer in Children

UBC Faculty of Medicine



UBC Faculty of Medicine researchers Dr. Poul Sorensen and Dr. Mads Daugaard (pictured) have been awarded \$1,297,000 over the next three years from the St. Baldrick's Foundation to tackle Ewing sarcoma, an aggressive bone and soft tissue cancer in children and young adults. With the funding in place, the two teams of cancer researchers will explore three different therapeutic strategies. [Read More](#)

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Local News

BC to Track Origins and Spread of New Coronavirus with Genomic Technology

Genome BC



With funding from Genome BC, the BC Centre for Disease Control's (BCCDC) Public Health Laboratory will be able to identify where new cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in BC are coming from and monitor any spread in the community. The BCCDC is adding a critical new dimension to its outbreak response capabilities by incorporating genomic analysis into tracking. [Read More](#)

Podcast Episode 3 "Diabetes: From Beta Cells to Bicycles"

BC Diabetes Research Network



The BC Diabetes Research Network has released the third episode of their official podcast: "Diabetes: From Beta Cells to Bicycles". Host Krista Lamb was joined by BC Diabetes Research Network researcher and UBC Professor Dr. Jim Johnson (pictured), who discussed the recent shift towards beta cell research in understanding both type 1 and type 2 diabetes. [Read More](#)

MSFHR and Mitacs Partnership Unlocks Additional Funding for Applicants

Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research



In 2018, the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) began a partnership with Mitacs to offer a streamlined application process to enable researchers submitting applications for MSFHR competitions to also access Mitacs Accelerate funding. Through this partnership, MSFHR and Mitacs are enabling the next generation of researchers to develop their skills with real-world experience, while advancing current health research. [Read More](#)

Dr. Sheila Teves on Pursuing a Career in Basic Research

UBC Life Sciences Institute



As a postdoctoral researcher, Dr. Sheila Teves (pictured) used cutting-edge technology to make a discovery about stem cell division that overturned a misunderstanding that had persisted for 20 years. The UBC Life Sciences Institute sat down with Dr. Teves to ask her about this paradigm-shifting finding and the research that she plans to pursue at UBC. [Read More](#)

Bold Therapeutics to Initiate Phase 1b Trial of BOLD-100 in the Treatment of GI Cancers

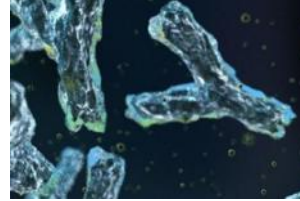
LifeSciences BC



Bold Therapeutics Inc., a Vancouver-based clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing novel anti-cancer therapies, has received clearance from Health Canada to initiate a Phase 1b trial of its first-in-class anti-resistance therapeutic, BOLD-100, in combination with FOLFOX for the treatment of gastric, pancreatic, colorectal and bile duct cancers. [Read More](#)

Darpa Cranks Up Antibody Research to Stall Coronavirus

WIRED



Sometime in the next day or two, a medical courier will deliver a styrofoam cooler to the offices of AbCellera, a biotech firm headquartered in Vancouver. Inside the box, packed in dry ice, will be a vial of blood prepared by researchers at the US National Institutes of Health, who drew it from a patient infected with the COVID-19 coronavirus. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- February 25 12:00 PM **Brown Bags @UBC**
Chan Gunn Pavilion
- February 26 7:30 PM **Nerd Nite v.50 Space Poop, Movie Making, and Our Drinking Water**
Fox Cabaret
- February 27 4:00 PM **D.R.I.N.K.S. (Discussions Relevant to Inspiring New Knowledge and Science)**
Mahony and Sons, Stamps Landing
- February 28 12:30 PM **Statistical Modeling for Cancer Research**
BC Cancer Research Centre
- February 29 7:30 PM **Science Slam and Beaty Museum Present: An Extra Day of Science**
Fox Cabaret

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- Scientific Recruiter**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Associate Product Manager, Mesenchymal & Myogenic**
STEMCELL Technologies
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Precision NanoSystems
- Lecturer, Genetics and Microbiology**
Simon Fraser University
- Bioinformatician**
BC Cancer
- Laboratory Operations Coordinator**
AbCellera

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