

Publications of the Week

The miR-185/PAK6 Axis Predicts Therapy Response and Regulates Survival of Drug-Resistant Leukemic Stem Cells in CML

First Author: Dr. Leon Lin (pictured) | Senior Author: Xiaoyan Jiang
Blood | BC Cancer



To investigate the role of miRNAs in regulating drug resistance and leukemic stem cell fate, the authors performed global transcriptome profiling in treatment-naïve chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) stem/progenitor cells and identified that miR-185 levels anticipate their response to ABL tyrosine kinase inhibitors. Integrative analysis with mRNA profiles uncovered PAK6 as a crucial target of miR-185.

[Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Intestinal Restriction of *Salmonella* Typhimurium Requires Caspase-1 and Caspase-11 Epithelial Intrinsic Inflammasomes

First Author: Shauna Crowley (pictured) | Senior Author: Bruce Vallance
PLoS Pathogens | BC Children's Hospital



The authors investigated the role of the inflammasome effector caspases-1 and -11 during *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhimurium infection of murine intestinal epithelial cells. *Salmonella* burdens were significantly greater in the intestines of caspase-1/11 deficient (*Casp1/11*^{-/-}), *Casp1*^{-/-} and *Casp11*^{-/-} mice, as compared to wildtype mice. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

April 2020 Award Winners



Dr. Zabrina Brumme (pictured) from SFU and the B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS is leading one of the dozen "rapid response" research projects funded by Genome BC that will address the most pressing questions in the fight against COVID-19. Find out which other Vancouver researchers won grants, awards, fellowships and scholarships in our April awards summary! [Read More](#)

Dr. Jayesh Kulkarni Receives Inaugural NanoMedicines Innovation Network Postdoctoral Award

NanoMedicines Innovation Network



The NanoMedicines Innovation Network (NMIN) has announced Dr. Jayesh Kulkarni (pictured) from UBC as the recipient of its inaugural NMIN Postdoctoral Fellowship Award in Targeted Gene Therapy. This award provides a stipend of \$40,000 a year for a maximum of two years to enable exceptional postdoctoral scholars to pursue nanomedicine academic research training with Canadian experts. [Read More](#)

The Women's Brain Health Young Investigator Award Winners Announced

UBC Women's Health Research



The Women's Health Research Cluster is passionate about supporting the professional development of young investigators. They have selected seven winners for the 2020 Young Investigators Award. Among the winners is Dr. Catriona Hippman (pictured), who studies whether pharmacogenetic testing for CYP2D6 and CYP2C19 can offer guidance for pregnant women taking selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Soil in Wounds Can Help Stem Deadly Bleeding

UBC Medicine



New work from researchers at UBC's Michael Smith Laboratories and Centre for Blood Research has found that the presence of soil in wounds helps activate a blood protein, known as coagulation Factor XII. Once activated, the protein kicks off a rapid chain reaction that helps lead to the formation of a plug, sealing the wound and limiting blood loss. [Read More](#)

SaNOtize Obtains Health Canada Approval to Commence Phase II Trial for Potential COVID-19 Therapy

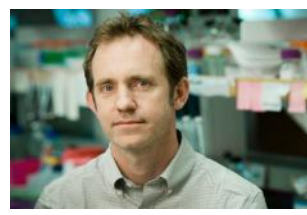
SaNOtize Research and Development Corporation



SaNOtize Research and Development Corporation has announced that it has been granted approval by Health Canada to conduct a multi-centre Phase II prevention and efficacy trial for a front-line antiviral treatment for use against COVID-19. SaNOtize also announced that new laboratory tests confirmed that SaNOtize's Nitric Oxide Releasing Solution inactivated more than 99.9% of SARs-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, within two minutes. [Read More](#)

Investment Offers Hope for Kids with Epilepsy Linked to Gene Mutations

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



With a generous gift from the Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation, the UBC Faculty of Medicine has uncovered more gene mutations responsible for epilepsy in children who don't respond to traditional therapies. The study, led by Dr. Matt Farrer (pictured) who is an Affiliate Professor with the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, will help neurologists provide earlier, more precise diagnoses and personalized treatment options for BC kids with epilepsy. [Read More](#)

DNA Testing Could Help in COVID-19 Treatment: Q&A with Dr. William Gibson

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



Preliminary research from Dr. William Gibson (pictured), a BC Children's Hospital investigator and Professor in the Department of Medical Genetics at UBC, highlights the potential benefits of testing COVID-19 patients for genetic variants of ACE2. In this Q&A, Dr. Gibson discusses why genotyping the ACE2 gene could potentially improve patient care for COVID-19. [Read More](#)

B.C. Scientists to Begin Genetic Sequencing on Canadians with COVID-19

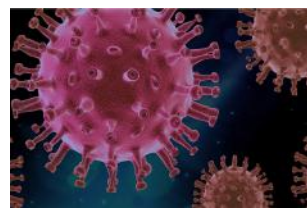
BC Cancer



Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre at BC Cancer will be using cutting-edge technology to look at the DNA of 10,000 Canadians who have tested positive for COVID-19. Researchers expect to identify if there are differences between people who have mild symptoms versus those who have severe symptoms and generally how the virus affects people differently. [Read More](#)

XPhyto Therapeutics Partners with German Biotech Firm to Develop Coronavirus Screening Test

Proactive Investors



Vancouver-based XPhyto Therapeutics Corp. is teaming up with a German biotech company to develop and commercialize oral screening tests for coronavirus. The agreement with 3a-Diagnostics GmbH, which specializes in developing, producing and marketing point-of-care test systems, will see the two companies work on an oral, dissolvable, thin-film screening test that will rapidly detect infectious diseases. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Prime Minister Announces New Support for COVID-19 Medical Research and Vaccine Development

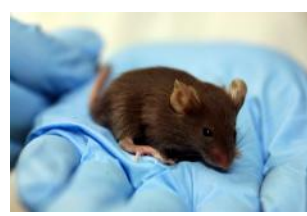
Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada



Canada's Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau (pictured), has announced more than \$1 billion in support of a national medical research strategy to fight COVID-19 that includes vaccine development, the production of treatments, and tracking of the virus. This new funding builds on the \$275 million investment for coronavirus research and medical countermeasures announced in March. [Read More](#)

Animal Care in Research Labs Continues, Despite the Pandemic

University Affairs



Most universities look like ghost towns at the moment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the technicians, students and scientists who work with research animals are keeping busy. This complex part of the scientific enterprise cannot simply be powered down temporarily like any other piece of campus infrastructure. [Read More](#)

Genome Canada Leads \$40 Million Genomics Initiative to Address COVID-19 Pandemic

Genome Canada



Genome Canada has launched the Canadian COVID Genomics Network (CanCOGeN), a newly formed initiative backed by \$40 million in federal funding. CanCOGeN will coordinate and scale up existing genomics-based COVID-19 research in Canada and internationally in order to accelerate public impact. This initiative is part of a \$1 billion package of measures announced by the Prime Minister to support new countermeasures to fight the virus. [Read More](#)

Scientists Cut Peer-Review Corners Under Pressure of COVID-19 Pandemic

CBC News



The novel coronavirus was engineered in a lab using HIV. Stem cells are a potent weapon against the new pandemic. People with blood type A are more susceptible to COVID-19. None of these "discoveries" have been proven. But all have been widely disseminated. They're examples of what many scientists are beginning to fear is an erosion of traditional safeguards against bad science under the pressing need for answers to the wave of sickness sweeping the globe. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

May 4-8 2:00 PM	UBC Faculty of Medicine Virtual Career Week 2020 Online
May 6 10:00 AM	STAT Digital Event: Vaccines. Can They Come Soon Enough? Online
May 6 12:00 PM	BCREGMED Quarantine Sessions Online
May 7 10:00 AM	LifeSciences BC Member Coffee with Wendy Online
May 11-13 8:00 AM	Pint of Science Festival Online

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

- Quality Control Manager, Microbiology and Environmental Monitoring**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Assistant Professor, Tenure Track**
UBC Department of Medical Genetics
- Research Associate, Bioinformatics Lab**
UBC Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics
- Senior Associate, Biologics Discovery**
Amgen
- Project Coordinator, Drug Formulation Services**
Precision Nanosystems

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