

Publications of the Week

Pan-Cancer Analysis of Advanced Patient Tumours Reveals Interactions Between Therapy and Genomic Landscapes

First Author: Erin Pleasance | Senior Author: Marco Marra (*pictured, centre*)
Nature Cancer | Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre, BC Cancer and UBC



Advanced and metastatic tumours with complex treatment histories drive cancer mortality. The authors describe the POG570 cohort, a comprehensive whole-genome, transcriptome and clinical dataset, amenable for exploration of the impacts of therapies on genomic landscapes. Previous exposure to DNA-damaging chemotherapies and mutations affecting DNA repair genes were associated with genome-wide, therapy-induced mutagenesis. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

ntJoin: Fast and Lightweight Assembly-Guided Scaffolding Using Minimizer Graphs

First Author: Lauren Coombe | Senior Author: René Warren (*pictured*)
Bioinformatics | Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre



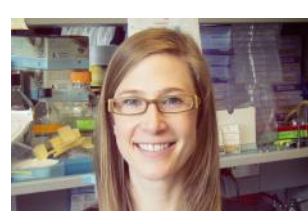
The ability to generate high-quality genome sequences is cornerstone to modern biological research. Even with recent advancements in sequencing technologies, many genome assemblies are still not achieving reference-grade. The authors introduce ntJoin, a tool that leverages structural synteny between a draft assembly and reference sequence(s) to contiguate and correct the former with respect to the latter. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Three Faculty of Medicine Researchers Named CIHR Sex and Gender Science Chairs

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Drs. Elizabeth Rideout (*pictured*), Wendy Robinson and Kate Shannon have been named Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Sex and Gender Chairs. As recipients of the funding opportunity, they will support in-depth investigations in the emerging field of sex and gender science to deepen society's understanding of how biological and social influences interact to affect health and disease. [Read More](#)

Dr. Stan Floresco Receives UBC Killam Teaching Prize

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Dr. Stan Floresco (*pictured*), a Professor in the Department of Psychology at UBC, has been awarded the UBC Killam Teaching Prize for his excellence in teaching. Dr. Floresco has always been passionate about teaching, and instructs a 3rd year broad-based course on brain and behaviour, and an advanced 4th year course on drugs and behavioural neuroscience. [Read More](#)

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Local News

UBC Discovery Opens New Avenues for Designing Drugs to Combat Drug-Resistant Malaria

UBC Faculty of Medicine



For the first time, UBC researchers in the Subramaniam lab (*pictured*) have shown a key difference in the three-dimensional structures of a key metabolic enzyme in the parasite that causes malaria, compared to its human counterpart. The finding brings researchers one step closer to developing new therapies to combat drug-resistant malaria. [Read More](#)

AbCellera Receives \$175.6 million from the Government of Canada to Discover Solutions for COVID-19 and Build a Manufacturing Facility for Antibody Drugs

AbCellera



AbCellera has received a commitment of up to \$175.6 million in support from the Government of Canada under Innovation, Science and Economic Development's Strategic Innovation Fund to expand efforts related to the discovery of antibodies for use in drugs to treat COVID-19, and to build technology and manufacturing infrastructure for antibody therapies against future pandemic threats. [Read More](#)

#LabLifeLesson: Life After the Lab with Dr. Stefanie Vogt, Research Scientist

Michael Smith Laboratories



Does continuing research after the academic lab sound like the right career move? Industry labs work towards a specific goal or application that may seem to have a more immediate effect on society than basic research labs. Dr. Stefanie Vogt (*pictured*), formerly a member of the Finlay lab at the Michael Smith Laboratories, answered some questions about her move from the academic bench to the local biotech company, AbCellera. [Read More](#)

InMed Receives CTA Approval for Second Phase 1 Clinical Trial with INM-755

InMed Pharmaceuticals Inc.



InMed Pharmaceuticals Inc., a clinical-stage pharmaceutical company developing medications targeting diseases with high unmet medical need and leading the way in the clinical development of cannabinal, has received regulatory and ethics board approval of its Clinical Trial Application (CTA) to conduct its second Phase 1 trial with INM-755. [Read More](#)

Researchers Unlock TB Vaccine Puzzle in Findings that Could Save Millions of Newborns

UBC Faculty of Medicine



The ability of Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) — one of the oldest, safest and cheapest vaccines available — to provide protection to newborns beyond its intended purpose of fighting off tuberculosis (TB) has been known since at least the 1940s, but until now no one has been able to explain why or show how it works. UBC researchers have identified a dramatic and rapid increase in neutrophils in mice and babies within three days of BCG vaccination. [Read More](#)

ARTMS and Telix Pharmaceuticals Announce Manufacturing Collaboration

ARTMS Products Inc.



Vancouver-based ARTMS Products Inc. and Telix Pharmaceuticals Limited have entered into a development collaboration agreement to employ ARTMS' high activity production of Gallium-68 for the manufacture of Telix's prostate cancer imaging product TLX591-CDx for the imaging of prostate cancer with positron emission tomography. [Read More](#)

Algeron Receives First Ethics Approval for Phase 2 Iifenprodil IPF and Chronic Cough Human Study in Australia

Algeron Pharmaceuticals



Algeron Pharmaceuticals Inc., a clinical stage pharmaceutical development company, has received ethics approval from the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital, Human Research Ethics Committee for the company's planned Phase 2 idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) and chronic cough clinical study of its re-purposed drug NP-120 (Iifenprodil), an NMDA receptor antagonist. [Read More](#)

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 **Upcoming Events in Vancouver**

- May 11 - 13
8:00 AM **Pint of Science Canada**
Online
- May 12
8:30 AM **Women's Brain Health: Young Investigators Symposium**
Online
- May 12
1:00 PM **One Hour @ UBC Lecture: Why it Takes so Long to Develop Treatments and Vaccines**
Online
- May 13
10:00 AM **Stem Cells from the Sofa Speaker Series: Dr. Jim Woodgett**
Online
- May 13
12:00 PM **BCREGMED Quarantine Sessions**
Online

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 **Other Science Jobs in Vancouver**

- Quality Control Manager, Microbiology and Environmental Monitoring**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Assistant Professor, Tenure Track**
UBC Department of Medical Genetics
- Research Associate, Gene Regulation**
UBC School of Biomedical Engineering
- CL3 Lab Facility Manager & Project Manager**
SFU
- Senior Associate, Biologics Discovery**
Amgen

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