

Publications of the Week

PODO447: A Novel Antibody to a Tumour-Restricted Epitope on the Cancer Antigen Podocalyxin

First Author: Diana Canals Hernaez (pictured) | Senior Author: Kelly McNagy
Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer | UBC



Podocalyxin (Podxl) is upregulated on tumours with high metastatic index, and its presence is associated with poor outcome. The authors generated a novel and tumour-restricted monoclonal antibody, PODO447, that recognizes a glycoepitope on Podxl expressed at high levels by a variety of tumours, including the majority of life-threatening high-grade serous ovarian tumours. [Abstract](#)

Single-Cell Analysis of Autophagy Activity in Normal and De Novo Transformed Human Mammary Cells

First Author: Sylvain Lefort | Senior Author: Connie Eaves (pictured)
Scientific Reports | BC Cancer



Assessment of autophagy activity has historically been limited to investigations of fixed tissue or bulk cell populations. To address questions of heterogeneity and relate measurements to functional properties of viable cells isolated from primary tissue, the authors created a lentiviral vector that allows the autophagosome and autolysosome content of transduced cells to be monitored at the single-cell level. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

UBC Pharmaceutical Sciences Professor and Dean Emeritus Appointed Member of the Order of Canada

UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences



UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences Professor and Dean Emeritus, Dr. John McNeill (pictured), has been appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada in recognition of his ground-breaking research into the links between cardiac disease and diabetes. The Order of Canada is one of the highest honours awarded to Canadian citizens and is presented annually by the Governor General in recognition of significant service to the nation. [Read More](#)

Four Members from UBC's Faculty of Medicine Appointed to the Order of Canada

UBC Medicine



UBC Faculty of Medicine's Drs. B. Lynn Beattie, Joseph Connors, Carol Herbert and Roger Wong (pictured) have been appointed to the Order of Canada. Considered one of the country's highest civilian honours, the Order of Canada recognizes those who have enriched the lives of others and made extraordinary contributions to the nation. [Read More](#)

Government of Canada and JDRF Canada Announce New Research Funding to Accelerate Stem Cell-Based Therapies for Type 1 Diabetes

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)



To mark the end of Diabetes Awareness Month, the Government of Canada has announced an investment of \$6 million for two Canadian research teams to accelerate the development of stem cell-based therapies for the treatment of type 1 diabetes. Dr. Francis Lynn (pictured) at the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and UBC will be leading one of the research teams. [Read More](#)

BC Cancer Excellence Award Winner Developing Eye-Drops at No-Cost to Patients

Terry Fox Laboratory at BC Cancer



Giovanna Cameron (pictured), supervisor of the Clinical Cell Therapy Laboratory, was recognized with a 2020 BC Cancer Excellence Award in the category of Patient Care Champion. Giovanna's work includes developing eye drops using a patient's own cells to help combat symptoms of graft-versus-host-disease in transplant patients. [Read More](#)

Fifteen BC Cancer Researchers and Clinicians Included on Clarivate's Highly Cited Researchers 2020 List

BC Cancer



Fifteen BC Cancer clinicians and scientists, including Dr. Angela Tam (pictured), have been named in Clarivate's Highly Cited Researchers 2020 list. Each has been ranked in the top one per cent in their fields using a method of data and analysis performed by bibliometric experts and data scientists at the Institute for Scientific Information at Clarivate. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Whole Genome and Transcriptome Analysis Enables Robust Detection of Cancer-Causing Gene Fusions

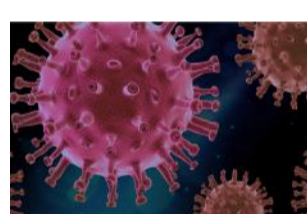
Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre at BC Cancer



Researchers have revealed another benefit of using whole genome and transcriptome sequencing to inform cancer patient care: the detection of gene fusions that are treatable with currently available therapeutics. The study was led by BC Cancer Medical Oncologist Dr. Jonathan Loree (pictured) as part of BC Cancer's Personalized OncoGenomics program. [Read More](#)

Consortium Including Genome BC Secures \$5.1M to Expand Genomics Platform for COVID Research

Genome BC



A national consortium including Genome BC will expand development of a software platform for genomics and health data and apply it to COVID-19. The \$5.1M project, called COVID Cloud, is co-funded by Canada's Digital Technology Supercluster and aims to increase Canada's capacity to harness exponentially growing volumes of genomics and biomedical data to advance precision health. [Read More](#)

Whole Genome and Transcriptome Sequencing Uncovers Biomarkers Predicting Response to Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors

Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre (GSC) at BC Cancer



While immune checkpoint inhibitor (ICI) therapy has been used to treat different cancer types, it is not universally effective and relapsed disease occurs. In a new study led by BC Cancer Medical Oncologist Dr. Janessa Laskin (pictured) and GSC Director Dr. Marco Marra, researchers conducted whole genome and transcriptome analysis of 98 patients treated with ICI therapy, aiming to uncover candidate genomic biomarkers of ICI sensitivity. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- December 8 3:00 PM **LifeSciences BC Showcase Series: Surrey** Online
- December 9 6:00 PM **GrasPods Trivia Night** Online
- December 10 11:00 AM **2020 Michael Smith Distinguished Lecture with Dr. Sangeeta Bhatia** Online
- December 16 1:00 PM **STEMCELL Connects Vancouver Seminar** Online
- December 16 2:00 PM **School of Biomedical Engineering Virtual Open House: A Sneak Peek at the Future of Medicine** Online

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- Research Technologist, Cell Separation**
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Other Science Jobs in Vancouver

- Research Associate**
UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Process Development Scientist/Associate, COVID-19 Project**
Qu Biologics
- Staff Scientist**
Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre at BC Cancer
- Research Scientist, Entomology**
Renaissance BioScience Corp.
- Scientist, Infectious Disease**
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