

Publications of the Week

HACE1 Blocks HIF1 α Accumulation under Hypoxia in a RAC1 Dependent Manner

First Author: Buzara Turge | Senior Author: Paul Sorensen (pictured)
Oncogene | BC Cancer, the Vancouver Prostate Centre, Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre, the Life Sciences Institute, and UBC



The *HACE1* (HECT domain and ankyrin repeat-containing E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase) gene is a tumour suppressor that inhibits the growth, invasive capacity, and metastasis of cancer cells. However, the direct regulatory pathways whereby *HACE1* confers this tumour-suppressive effect remain to be fully elucidated. The authors establish a link between *HACE1* and the major stress factor, hypoxia-inducible factor 1 alpha (HIF1 α). [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Multi-Omics Highlights ABO Plasma Protein as a Causal Risk Factor for COVID-19

First Author: Ana Hernández Cordero | Senior Author: Don Sin (pictured)
Human Genetics | The Centre for Heart Lung Innovation and UBC



SARS-CoV-2 is responsible for the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the current health crisis. Despite intensive research efforts, the genes and pathways that contribute to COVID-19 remain poorly understood. The authors, therefore, used an integrative genomics approach to identify candidate genes responsible for COVID-19 and its severity. [Abstract](#)

Cross-Species Examination of X-Chromosome Inactivation Highlights Domains of Escape from Silencing

First Author: Bradley Balaton | Senior Author: Carolyn Brown (pictured)
Epigenetics & Chromatin | The Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics, BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, and UBC



The authors determined X-chromosome inactivation (XCI) status across 12 species, showing mouse to be an outlier with few genes that escape inactivation. The clustering of genes that change XCI status across species implicates a domain-level control. This study broadens enrichment analysis of regulatory elements to species beyond human and mouse. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

February 2021 Award Winners

Science in Vancouver



Dr. Carolina Tropini (pictured), Assistant Professor at the UBC School of Biomedical Engineering and Department of Microbiology and Immunology, has been recognized as a Distinguished Researcher by the Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group. Read about which other Vancouver researchers won grants, awards, fellowships, or scholarships in February's award summary. [Read More](#)

Faculty of Medicine Members Awarded 2020 MSFHR C2 and Reach Awards

UBC Faculty of Medicine



A number of Faculty of Medicine researchers, including Dr. Thalia Field (pictured), have been awarded funding through the 2020 MSFHR Convening and Collaborating (C2) and Reach competitions. The funding will create pathways from research evidence to impact and help ensure that cutting-edge health research can directly improve the health of British Columbians and B.C.'s health system. [Read More](#)

Alexi Michael Winner of SBME's 3MT Heat

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering



Congratulations to Alexi Michael (pictured) for placing first in the UBC School of Biomedical Engineering's first Three Minute Thesis (3MT) heat. To a virtual audience of over 90 people, each of the ten contestants presented their thesis in pre-recorded, three minute videos embedded in a single powerpoint slide. All UBC finalists will be announced on March 12th, with the UBC 3MT Final taking place over live-stream on March 31st. [Read More](#)

UBC Orthopaedics Researchers Receive Clinical Trial Funding from the United States Department of Defense

UBC Department of Orthopaedics



UBC Orthopaedics Faculty members, Drs. Brian Kwon (pictured) and Babak Shadgan, have been awarded a \$3.7M USD grant from the U.S. Department of Defense Spinal Cord Injury Research Program. The funding will be used to conduct a clinical trial evaluating a novel implantable biosensor based on Near-Infrared Spectroscopy technology. [Read More](#)

Faculty of Medicine Members Receive Funding for Patient-Care Research and Commercialization

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Faculty of medicine researchers, including Dr. Lucia Nappi (pictured), have been awarded funding for patient-care research and commercialization through two competitions administered by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. The 2020 Innovation to Commercialization and Health Professional-Investigator awardees are advancing health research towards practical applications, improving patient care, and developing made-in-B.C. technologies. [Read More](#)

Innovate BC Awards \$900,000 to Three BC Research Projects

Innovate BC



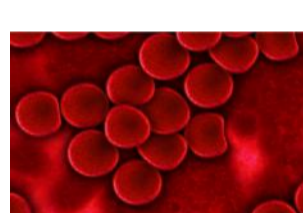
Innovate BC has announced \$900,000 awarded for three BC research projects. The funding, through Innovate BC's Ignite program, accelerates the commercialization of the following three projects, including a project by TRIUMF, BC Cancer, and Lawson Health Research Institute, to develop PET-isotopes and antibodies for non-invasive imaging of the immune system in order to improve management of cancer treatments. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Busting Deadly Blood Clots: Using siRNA Gene Therapy as a New Approach

Centre for Blood Research



Blood clots play a part in many severe health issues. Usually, a patient who develops a clot can dissolve it by taking an anticoagulant drug, but risks the common side effect of excessive bleeding. A recent study by the Kastrup lab at the Centre for Blood Research and Michael Smith Laboratories helps provide a potential solution to this issue through a new approach called siRNA gene therapy. [Read More](#)

Vaccine Safety Study to Examine Adverse Reactions to COVID-19 Shots

The Globe and Mail



Scientists who are mounting the largest independent study of vaccine safety in Canadian history are seeking the participation of hundreds of thousands of people across the country to get the information they need. The results of the study, to be released in regular instalments over the coming months, are intended to yield a fine-grained look at adverse reactions to COVID-19 vaccines. [Read More](#)

Dr. Carolina Tropini Is Solving the Gut Issue

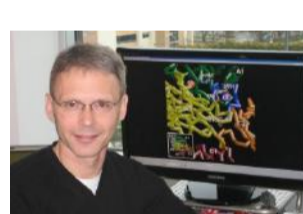
BioLAB Business



At this very moment, squiggling and squirming inside your gut are millions upon millions of tiny strands of bacteria that scientists believe may hold the key to understanding inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and human health. Dr. Carolina Tropini (pictured) is helping unravel the mysterious world of bacterial communities in the intestines, leading her research team in a bid to seek a treatment, if not a cure, for IBD. [Read More](#)

Dr. Ed Pryzdial's Research on Blood Clotting Can Aid Understanding of Many Disorders, Including COVID-19

UBC Life Sciences Institute



Sometimes, a virus can affect coagulation, and Dr. Ed Pryzdial (pictured) has been investigating that relationship for more than two decades. His group, in collaboration with Centre for Blood Research scientist Dr. Ed Conway, is currently working toward understanding how viruses — including the one that causes COVID-19 — trigger clotting. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

March 9 3:00 PM	Science Made Casual: Dr. Allen Eaves Online
March 10 1:00 PM	ONLINE Beaty@Home Live: Rivers and Biodiversity Online
March 10 5:00 PM	PDA Annual General Meeting and Election Night Online
March 11 3:00 PM	LifeSciences BC Showcase Series: Victoria Online
March 15 11:00 AM	Teen Nerd Nite: Quantum Leaps Conference Online

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STEMCELL Technologies
- Senior Research Associate, Bioengineering**
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- Postdoctoral Fellow, Experimental Dermatology**
UBC
- Research Associate, Preclinical**
Acuitas Therapeutics
- Process Development Scientist**
Qui Biologics

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