

Publications of the Week

Megabase-Scale Methylation Phasing Using Nanopore Long Reads and NanoMethPhase

First Author: Valod Akbari | Senior Author: Steven Jones (pictured)
Genome Biology | Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre, Michael Smith Laboratories, and UBC



The ability of nanopore sequencing to simultaneously detect modified nucleotides while producing long reads makes it ideal for detecting and phasing allele-specific methylation. The authors present NanoMethPhase, a software tool to phase 5-methylcytosine from nanopore sequencing, and SNVoter, which can post-process nanopore single nucleotide variant calls to improve accuracy in low coverage regions. [Abstract](#)

Granzyme B Mediates Impaired Healing of Pressure Injuries in Aged Skin

First Author: Christopher Turner | Senior Author: David Granville (pictured, second from right)
NPJ Aging and Mechanisms of Disease | Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute, Centre for Heart Lung Innovation, Bussan Spinal Cord Wound Clinic, International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries Centre, UBC



Pressure injuries (PIs), also known as bedsores or pressure ulcers, are a major cause of death and morbidity in the elderly. The serine protease, Granzyme B (GzmB), contributes to skin aging and impaired wound healing. Aging is a major risk factor for PIs; thus, the role of GzmB in PI pathogenesis was investigated. [Abstract](#)

The Role of Dietary Diversity in Preventing Metabolic-Related Outcomes: Findings from a Systematic Review

First Author: Hadea Mozaffari | Senior Author: Annalijn Conklin (pictured)
Obesity Reviews | St. Paul's Hospital, UBC



Dietary diversity has been linked to insulin resistance; however, studies are inconsistent on whether dietary diversity protects against metabolic-related outcomes. While diversity of less healthy foods was associated with greater adiposity, diversity of all foods and healthy foods was associated with reduced incidence of depression and cognitive decline. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

COVID-19 Experts Share 2020 SFU Media Newsmaker Award

SFU Faculty of Science



Mathematician Dr. Caroline Collin in the Faculty of Science and Dr. Kelley Lee (pictured) in the Faculty of Health Sciences were jointly awarded the 2020 SFU Media Newsmaker of the Year for their extensive contributions to the understanding of COVID-19. The annual SFU Newsmaker Awards recognize the commitment of SFU faculty and staff to sharing their expertise with the larger community. [Read More](#)

Nine LSI Researchers Receive Funding in CIHR Fall 2020 Round

Life Sciences Institute



Nine Life Sciences Institute (LSI) research groups have been awarded funding through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) 2020 Fall round. This includes Dr. Michel Roberge (pictured), who will use a rapid yeast platform to identify non-toxic, bioactive small molecules targeting a unique mechanism in SARS-CoV-2, called -1 frameshifting. [Read More](#)

2020-2021 CBR Travel Award Recipients Announced

Centre for Blood Research



Over the years, with the support of Travel Awards provided by the Centre for Blood Research (CBR), numerous researchers have had the opportunity to attend scientific conferences and further their professional development. Although many conferences are now virtual, the CBR was nonetheless pleased to provide up to \$500 to award recipients, including Dr. Alison McAtee (pictured). [Read More](#)

UBC Researchers Attract \$25.6M in Funding through CIHR Project Grants Fall 2020 Competition

UBC Research + Innovation



The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) have funded 354 research grants for a total investment of approximately \$274M through the Project Grants: Fall 2020 competition. Projects include UBC Principal Investigator Dr. Joerg Gspöner (pictured) research on protein phase separation, a recently discovered phenomenon that helps *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* survive in human macrophages. [Read More](#)

Scientists in Faculty of Medicine Receive More Than \$8M in Federal Research Funding

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Scientists at the UBC Faculty of Medicine have received more than \$8M as part of a research funding announcement through the Canadian Foundation for Innovation. Drs. Thibault Mayor (pictured) and Vivien Measday in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology have been awarded \$3.3M to study microbial diversity expansion for applied sciences. [Read More](#)

UBC Pharmaceutical Sciences Researchers Receive CIHR Project Grants Fall 2020 Competition Funding

UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences



UBC Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor Dr. Karla Williams (pictured) is co-primary investigator on a project titled "Materials and technologies for highly sensitive biomarker analysis of extracellular vesicles toward cancer diagnostics" in conjunction with Dr. Walter Algar from UBC Chemistry. The project has been awarded \$367,200 in Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) funding over a period of three years. [Read More](#)

Dr. Collins Awarded CIHR Project Grant

Vancouver Prostate Centre



Dr. Colin Collins (pictured) has been awarded a five-year Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) Project Grant for "Uncovering early mediators of lineage plasticity and validation of a metabolic vulnerability in neuroendocrine prostate cancer" with co-investigators Drs. Y.Z. Wang and Martin Gleave. This project will study two potential therapeutic approaches aimed at preventing the onset of neuroendocrine prostate cancer. [Read More](#)

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Local News

From Fetal Cells to Microchips, B.C. COVID-19 Researcher Using TikTok to Dispel Vaccine Rumours

CTV News



The social media app TikTok isn't all viral pranks and teen drama. A B.C.-based instructor who is leading research on COVID-19 is using the platform to dispel rumours and educate the public. When Dr. Anna Blakney isn't working as an Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia's School of Biomedical Engineering, she's creating content for TikTok. [Read More](#)

How Genomics Is Helping in the Fight against COVID-19 – a Business in Vancouver Podcast

Genome B.C.



Genome B.C. has focused attention in the last year on learning about the pandemic to advance treatment techniques and to prepare for future health threats. Pascal Spotheller (pictured), Genome B.C.'s President and CEO, talks to Business in Vancouver publisher and Editor-in-Chief Kirk LaPointe about Genome B.C.'s contributions to the genomic understanding of COVID-19. [Read More](#)

\$1.2M Grant Aims to Investigate the Immune Response of LTC Residents to COVID-19 Vaccines

SFU Faculty of Health Sciences



Faculty of Health Sciences Professors Mark Brockman (pictured, right) and Zabrina Brumme (left) are co-leading a study with Dr. Marc Romney, the Medical Lead for Microbiology and Virology at Providence Health Care, to examine the strength and durability of immune responses in residents and staff of long-term care (LTC) facilities following COVID-19 vaccination. [Read More](#)

Xenon Pharmaceuticals Announces Pricing of \$100.0 Million Public Offering

Xenon Pharmaceuticals



Xenon Pharmaceuticals Inc. has announced the pricing of its underwritten public offering of 4,324,325 common shares and, in lieu of common shares to a certain investor, pre-funded warrants to purchase up to 1,061,061 common shares pursuant to its existing shelf registration statement. The gross proceeds to Xenon from the offering, before deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and other offering expenses payable by Xenon, are expected to be approximately \$100.0 million. [Read More](#)

B.C. Biotech Set to Build Domestic Vaccine Production

Business in Vancouver



With Canada facing sharp vaccine shortages in January and February, Ottawa revealed it's tapping Vancouver-based Precision Nanosystems Inc. (PNI) to boost domestic vaccine manufacturing capacity in the coming years. Plans for PNI's new \$50 million biomanufacturing facility in Metro Vancouver are underway after the federal government revealed last month it was earmarking \$25 million for the endeavour. [Read More](#)

A Familiar Face Rejoins the Graduate Program in Neuroscience

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Dr. Timothy O'Connor (pictured) has returned as Director of the UBC Graduate Program in Neuroscience, a role he previously held from 2011-2017. He takes over in the interim from Dr. Lisa Gabel, who is starting a new role at UBC as Health Research Advisor in the VP Research and Innovation Office. He looks forward to providing support to prospective and current students. [Read More](#)

Women Lead on COVID-19 Research

UBC News



From vaccine development to building wearable infection detectors, women at UBC are making significant contributions to the COVID-19 research front. Dr. Teresa Liu-Ambrose (pictured) and her team are trying to figure out if the novel coronavirus is prematurely aging the brain by studying the cognitive function, brain structure, and brain function of adults who have been infected. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Government of Canada Helps over 30,000 Research Staff through Ongoing COVID-19 Crisis

Government of Canada



The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, has announced that the Government of Canada has provided wage support for up to 32,000 research staff whose salaries were adversely affected by COVID-19, and who were not eligible for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. This support was essential to safeguard the historic investments made by the federal government in fundamental research and research personnel since 2016. [Read More](#)

The Federal Granting Agencies Announce Funding to Encourage Vaccine Confidence in Canada

Government of Canada



The Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council launched a special \$2.25M funding opportunity to support activities that promote vaccine confidence in Canada. The agencies expect these activities will improve public understanding of vaccines and help Canadians to make evidence-based decisions, especially among populations that are hesitant about vaccines. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

March 15 11:00 AM	Teen Nerd Nite: Quantum Leaps Conference Online
March 16 4:00 PM	Annual Distinguished Neuroethics Lecture: Hacking the Mind Online
March 29 10:00 AM	UBC Science Communication Week Online
March 31 12:00 PM	UBC Three-Minute Thesis Competition 2021 Online
April 12 9:00 AM	Sex Cells! Online

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Other Science Jobs in Vancouver

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Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre

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Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre

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Zyneworks

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