

Publications of the Week

Targeting AXL Kinase Sensitizes Leukemic Stem and Progenitor Cells to Venetoclax Treatment in Acute Myeloid Leukemia

First Author: Xiaojia Niu | Senior Author: Xiaoyan Jiang (pictured)
Blood | BC Cancer, UBC, and SignalChem Lifesciences



The abundance of genetic abnormalities and phenotypic heterogeneities in acute myeloid leukemia (AML) pose significant challenges to developing improved treatments. The authors demonstrated that a key GAS6/AXL axis is highly activated in AML patient cells, particularly in stem/progenitor cells. They developed a potent, selective AXL inhibitor that has favorable pharmaceutical properties and efficacy against preclinical patient-derived xenotransplantation models of AML.

[Abstract](#)

Macrophages with Reduced Expressions of Classical M1 and M2 Surface Markers in Human Bronchoalveolar Lavage Fluid Exhibit Pro-Inflammatory Gene Signatures

First Author: Hiroto Takiguchi | Senior Author: Don Sin (pictured)
Scientific Reports | St. Paul's Hospital and UBC

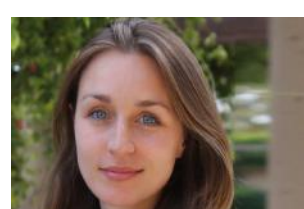


Macrophages in the human bronchoalveolar lavage fluid, which were negative for both M1/M2 surface markers, harboured a gene signature that was pro-inflammatory and suggested dysfunction in cellular homeostasis. These macrophages may contribute to the pathogenesis and manifestations of inflammatory lung diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

[Abstract](#)

Cause or Effect? The Spatial Organization of Pathogens and the Gut Microbiota in Disease

First Author: Jen Nguyen | Senior Author: Carolina Tropini (pictured)
Microbes and Infection | UBC



The human gut hosts a dense and diverse microbial community, spatially organized by multiple scales of structure. The authors reviewed how microbial organization differs between health and disease. They described how changes in spatial organization may induce alterations in gut homeostasis, concluding with a future outlook to reveal causality.

[Abstract](#)

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Awards

From Counterflow to Infection-Resistant Catheter Coatings: A Look into CBR Projects

The Centre for Blood Research



Drs. Jayachandran Kizhakkedathu (pictured, left) and Christian Kastrup's (right) labs at the Centre for Blood Research (CBR) were awarded funding through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research 2020 Fall round. The project grants aim to support Canadian researchers' innovative ideas that will advance health-related knowledge, health research, health care, health systems and/or health outcomes.

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UBC Cancer Researchers Receive International Team Science Award

UBC Faculty of Medicine



UBC cancer researchers are part of a team that has been awarded the 2021 Team Science Award by the American Association for Cancer Research. Dr. Paul Sorensen (pictured), a Professor in the Faculty of Medicine's Department of Laboratory and Pathology, is the Principal Investigator of the UBC component of the St. Baldrick's Foundation-Stand Up To Cancer Pediatric Cancer Dream Team.

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Investigator Awards Foster Researcher Growth and Opportunities for Discovery

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute facilitates clinician-scientists in their efforts to make new discoveries to improve the health and well-being of patients across their lifespan. Dr. Veronica Hirsch-Reinshagen (pictured) is using advanced MRI techniques to diagnose the microscopic tissue changes that occur in patients with traumatic spinal cord injuries.

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Meet the 2021 Three Minute Thesis Winners

UBC Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies



Ten graduate students took the virtual stage to find out who could best summarize and present years of research in only three minutes. Topics ranged from the discovery of novel antimicrobial fabrics that could help reduce the rate of infections in hospitals to the exploration of new modes of active travel in Vancouver. In an event with record-breaking attendance, the top three contestants were Tebogo Leepile (pictured, center), Jennifer Ferris (left), and Sarah Morris (right).

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Local News

Overgrowth of Gut Yeast in Newborns May Increase Asthma Risk

Michael Smith Laboratories



An overgrowth of yeast in the gut within the first few months of life may cause changes to the immune system that increase the risk of asthma later on, according to a study published by Rozlyn Boutin (pictured) in Dr. Brett Finlay's lab. The findings explain a possible cause of asthma and may help scientists develop new strategies to prevent or treat the condition.

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When a Pandemic and an Epidemic Collide

Michael Smith Laboratories

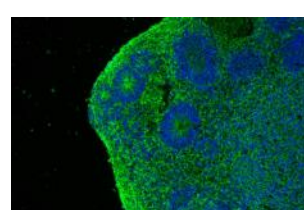


Researchers Paula Littlejohn and Dr. Brett Finlay (pictured) at the Michael Smith Laboratories are exploring the important effect that COVID-19 is having on our gut microbiome. Their findings have them concerned about how these impacts amplify malnutrition globally. COVID-19 can shift the gut microbiome into a dysbiotic state, increasing inflammation and the development of related diseases (such as type 2 diabetes).

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Biological Sciences Photo Contest 2021 Winners

SFU Department of Biological Sciences



The SFU Department of Biological Sciences is pleased to announce the winners of their second annual photo contest, and thanks Dale Northey for judging, and the participants for submitting photos. Pictured: A brain tissue organoid photographed by Ashley Jukich in Dr. Lisa Julian's lab, made from 3-dimensional cultures of human pluripotent stem cells.

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Interesting Articles

Federal Budget Recognizes Strategic Importance of Canada's Biotech Sector

Financial Post



The federal budget highlighted the vital role biotechnology innovation is playing in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic while aiming to prepare for future pandemic needs, and serves as one of the identified key sectors set to drive the economic recovery for Canada. Biotechnology featured as a priority area for the government across many program announcements, reflecting specific industry recommendations including improving access to investment capital.

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- April 30 9:00 AM **Microbiology and Immunology Undergraduate Research Symposium**
Online
- May 4 8:00 AM **Genome BC's Annual Genomics Forum**
Online
- May 4 9:00 AM **LSBC Blakes Breakfast Speaking Event**
Online
- May 13 9:00 AM **Stem Cell Talks 2021**
Online
- May 13 10:00 AM **LifeSciences BC Showcase Series: Surrey**
Online

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AlCellera
- Project Manager**
Precision NanoSystems
- Research Scientist, Muscle Tissue Engineering**
Aspect Biosystems

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