

Publications of the Week

ARID1A Regulates R-Loop Associated DNA Replication Stress

First Author: Shuhe Tsai (pictured, front center) | Senior Author: Peter Stirling (back right)
PLOS Genetics | BC Cancer and UBC



While the impact of AT-Rich Interaction Domain 1A (ARID1A) loss on the function of the BAF chromatin remodeling complexes is likely to drive oncogenic gene expression programs in specific contexts, ARID1A also binds genome stability regulators such as ATR and TOP2. The authors showed that ARID1A loss leads to DNA replication stress associated with R-loops and transcription-replication conflicts in human cells. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

CD248 Enhances Tissue Factor (TF) Procoagulant Function, Promoting Arterial and Venous Thrombosis in Mouse Models

First Author: Piyushkumar Kappara (pictured, left) | Senior Author: Edward Conway (right)
Centre for Blood Research and UBC



CD248 is a pro-inflammatory, transmembrane glycoprotein expressed by vascular smooth muscle cells, monocytes/macrophages, and other cells of mesenchymal origin. Its distribution and properties are reminiscent of those of the initiator of coagulation, TF. The authors evaluated the role of CD248 in coagulation using mouse models of vascular injury, and by assessing its functional interaction with the TF / factor VIIa complex. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Evolving Roles of Muscle-Resident Fibro-Adipogenic Progenitors in Health, Regeneration, Neuromuscular Disorders, and Aging

First Author: Marlene Theret (pictured) | Senior Author: Osvaldo Contreras
Frontiers in Physiology | UBC



Normal skeletal muscle functions are affected following trauma, chronic diseases, inherited neuromuscular disorders, aging, and cachexia, hampering the daily activities and quality of life of the affected patients. The maladaptive accumulation of fibrous intramuscular connective tissue and fat are hallmarks of multiple pathologies where chronic damage and inflammation are not resolved, leading to progressive muscle replacement and tissue degeneration. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Dr. Cox Awarded the 2021 UBC Killam Teaching Prize

Vancouver Prostate Centre



Dr. Michael Cox (pictured) is the recipient of a 2021 UBC Killam Teaching Prize. The Killam Teaching Prize is awarded annually to faculty nominated by students, colleagues, and alumni in recognition of excellence in teaching. Dr. Cox was one of the earliest recruits to the Vancouver Prostate Centre, coming from the University of Virginia as a rising star in prostate cancer research, with expertise in molecular biology and signal transduction. [Read More](#)

UBC's 2021 Distinguished University Scholars

UBC Academic & Provost



The Distinguished University Scholar awards recognize exceptional members of faculty who have distinguished themselves as scholars in research and/or teaching and learning. The award is conferred by the President on the recommendation of an adjudication panel. This year's winners include Drs. Connie Eaves (pictured), Jan Friedman, and Judy Illes from the Faculty of Medicine. [Read More](#)

Dr. Marco Marra Joins Canada's Medical Hall of Fame

Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre



A recipient of numerous awards, Dr. Marco Marra (pictured) is one of the world's most cited scientists in the field of molecular biology & genetics with more than 500 scientific publications. Dr. Marra has mentored many scientists and graduate students who are now providing the expertise and insight needed to fulfill the promise of genomics through technological innovation, enhanced informatics, and creative clinical applications. [Read More](#)

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Local News

New Faculty Member Maria Tokuyama Has Always Been Motivated by the Thrill of Discovery and Joys of Mentorship

UBC Microbiology & Immunology



Dr. Maria Tokuyama (pictured), the newest faculty member in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at UBC, officially opened the research doors of the Tokuyama lab in March 2021. With a core research focus on viral immunology, the lab's ultimate goal is to identify novel endogenous viral factors that influence immunity and underlie differences in disease outcomes. [Read More](#)

UBC-Grown Biotech Companies Lead Global Pandemic Efforts

UBC News



Millions of Canadians have received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, but what many may not realize is that a key component of the injection was developed right here at UBC. Acuitas Therapeutics, a UBC spin-off company co-founded by Dr. Pieter Cullis (pictured), developed the lipid nanoparticle technology that allows the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine to enter human cells. [Read More](#)

Meet the Nine Teams Joining the Spring 2021 Lab2Launch Venture Building Program

Entrepreneurship at UBC



The Lab2Launch Venture Building program is for UBC scientists who are developing a scientific or technological innovation which is unique, proprietary, and difficult to reproduce. Teams are supported by a bench of industry and academic mentors who bring their expertise, insights, and experience to the venture building process to create phenomenal impacts for the community. [Read More](#)

Biotechnology in BC — Future Treatments and Potential Cures for Cancer

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Dr. Peter Zandstra (pictured), Director of UBC's School of Biomedical Engineering and the Michael Smith Laboratories, and Co-Founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Notch Therapeutics, is among a growing number of UBC researchers strengthening the university's ties to BC's biotech sector, which represents one of the largest in Canada. [Read More](#)

UBC Startup Acquired by Bill Gates-Backed Company

Business in Vancouver



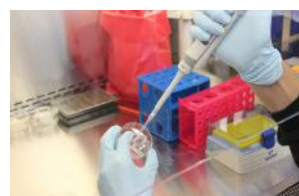
Metabolik Technologies has been acquired by US-based Allonnia, which is backed by Gates' Cascade investment. Metabolik developed a genetic engineering approach to super-charge bacteria that naturally consume toxic compounds in oil sands tailings ponds, notably naphthenic acids. The acquisition is mainly an intellectual property buy, although two Metabolik executives will be joining Allonnia, said Metabolik Co-Founder Dr. Vikramaditya Yadav (pictured). [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Programs Target Canada's Chronic Biotech Talent Shortage by Training Academics to Run Businesses

The Globe and Mail



A pair of Canadian biotechnology venture capital firms have launched new programs to arm academics with entrepreneurial skills in an effort to help fix a chronic talent gap in the country's burgeoning life sciences sector. The programs, by Lumira Ventures and Amplitude Venture Capital, join a growing mass of Canadian initiatives aiming to expand the shallow pool of domestic executives who can grow early-stage therapeutic developers. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- 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
- May 17 9:00 AM **Women's Brain Health Conference – Hot Topics Symposium** Online

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