

Publications of the Week

Induction of Stable Human FOXP3⁺ Tregs by a Parasite-Derived TGF- β Mimic

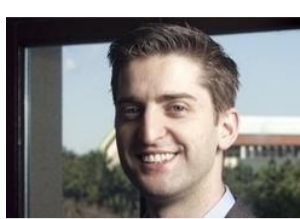
First Author: Laura Cook *(pictured, left)* | Senior Author: Megan Levings *(right)*
Immunology & Cell Biology | BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and UBC



Immune homeostasis in the intestine is tightly controlled by FOXP3⁺ regulatory T cells (Tregs), defects in which are linked to development of chronic conditions, such as inflammatory bowel disease. As a mechanism of immune evasion, several species of intestinal parasites boost Treg activity. The parasite *Heligmosomoides polygyrus* is known to secrete a molecule which mimics the ability of TGF- β to induce FOXP3 expression in CD4⁺ T cells. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Functional Mapping of Androgen Receptor Enhancer Activity

First Author: Chia-Chi Flora Huang | Senior Author: Nathan Lack *(pictured)*
Genome Biology | Vancouver Prostate Centre, UBC, and SFU



Androgen receptor (AR) is critical to the initiation, growth, and progression of prostate cancer. Once activated, the AR binds to cis-regulatory enhancer elements on DNA that drive gene expression. To characterize the regulatory logic of AR-mediated transcription, the authors generated a locus-specific map of enhancer activity by functionally testing all common clinical AR binding sites with self-transcribing active regulatory regions sequencing. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Public Vote Awards Opioid Detector Philanthropic Innovation Prize

Vancouver General Hospital & UBC Hospital Foundation



Despite current treatment options, overdose deaths have increased over 22 times in the last decade because of high potency illicit opioids like fentanyl. Dr. Martha Ignaszewski's *(pictured)* team is developing a device that is better able to measure an individual's salivary opioid load, which could then be safely paired with an effective opioid agonist therapy dose. [Read More](#)

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Local News

SFU and UBC Researchers Collaborate to Understand the Role of Caveolin-1 in Cancer

SFU News



SFU Computing Science Professor Dr. Ghassan Hamarneh *(pictured)* is using his medical imaging analysis expertise to help UBC researchers understand the role of caveolin-1 (CAV1) in certain cancer types. CAV1 is a protein associated with poor outcomes in aggressive breast and prostate cancer. It is also associated with tumour metastasis and tumour suppression, but it is unclear how CAV1 differentiates between these two roles. [Read More](#)

Coho Genomics Will Support Policy Decisions

Genome BC



In 2015, Genome BC, Genome Quebec, and Genome Canada funded a large-scale project to develop genomic tools to address challenges in improved management and the re-evaluation of hatchery / wild interactions of Coho salmon. The interdisciplinary team sequenced the Coho salmon genome, documented the genetic diversity of thousands of individual fish, and determined how Coho salmon from different geographic regions vary genetically. [Read More](#)

COVID-19: SFU Researchers Find Good Results in New Rapid-Testing Kit from BC Company

Vancouver Sun



SFU researchers have validated a faster, cheaper COVID-19 test that could help kickstart the expansion of wider rapid testing. "This research offers a cheaper, faster alternative to the most reliable and sensitive test currently used worldwide without sacrificing sensitivity and reproducibility," said Dr. Peter Uhrau *(pictured)*, a Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Professor at SFU who led the team evaluating the COVID-19 testing kit. [Read More](#)

BC Research Funders Create First-Time Partnership for Nine New COVID-19 Projects

Genome BC



Genome BC, the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, and the BC Centre for Disease Control Foundation for Public Health have partnered for the first time to fund rapid response research initiatives that will have a direct impact — in a matter of months — on people in British Columbia during the COVID-19 pandemic. Valued at approximately \$1.3 million, a total of nine new projects have been selected for funding, covering a range of priority research areas. [Read More](#)

Conversations That Matter: BC Life Sciences Sector Is World Class

Vancouver Sun



While the resource sector remains at the core of BC's economy, life science success stories like STEMCELL Technologies and Zymeworks are forming a centre of excellence here that is growing. Wendy Hurlburt, *(pictured)*, President & CEO of Life Sciences BC, discusses how infrastructure and collaborations can help life science companies scale in BC. [Read More](#)

Salmon Virus Originally from the Atlantic, Spread to BC Wild Salmon from Farms

UBC Science



Piscine orthoreovirus (PRV) — which is associated with kidney and liver damage in Chinook salmon — is continually being transmitted between open-net salmon farms and wild juvenile Chinook salmon in British Columbia waters, according to a new genomics analysis published by Drs. Emiliano Di Cicco *(pictured)* and Andrew Bateman in *Science Advances*. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- June 2 11:00 AM **The Centre for Blood Research Virtual Seminar Series: Dr. Eun-Ju Lee** Online
- June 4 11:00 AM **The 17th D. Harold Copp Lecture** Online
- June 8 9:00 AM **SBME Annual Symposium 2021** Online
- June 8 1:00 PM **BCDRN Meet the Researcher Series #5** Online
- June 9 10:00 AM **BC Showcase for BIO Digital** Online

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- Program Manager, Services for Cell Therapy**
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- Lecturer, Cell and Molecular Biology / Neuroscience**
UBC

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By Amanda McQuade [WATCH NOW](#)

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