

Publications of the Week

Latent Gammaherpesvirus Exacerbates Arthritis through Modification of Age-Associated B Cells

First Author: Isobel Mouat (pictured) | Senior Author: Marc Horwitz
eLife | UBC and BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) infection is associated with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in adults, though the nature of the relationship remains unknown. The authors examine the contribution of viral infection to the severity of arthritis in mice. They provide the first evidence that latent gammaherpesvirus infection enhances clinical arthritis, modelling EBV's role in RA. [Abstract](#)

Serum Free Culture for the Expansion and Study of Type 2 Innate Lymphoid Cells

First Author: Pablo de Lucia Finkel | Senior Author: Wilfred Jefferies (pictured)
Scientific Reports | Vancouver Prostate Centre, Centre for Blood Research, Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, Michael Smith Laboratories, and UBC



This study is focused on ST2⁺ IL-25R^{hi} lung resident type 2 innate lymphoid cells (ILC2s) and demonstrates for the first time a methodology allowing mouse ILC2s to be cultured, and their numbers expanded in serum-free medium supplemented with interleukins (IL) IL-33, IL-2, IL-7, and thymic stromal lymphopoietin. The procedures describe methods to isolate ILC2s and support their growth for up to a week while maintaining their phenotype. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

June 2021 Award Winners

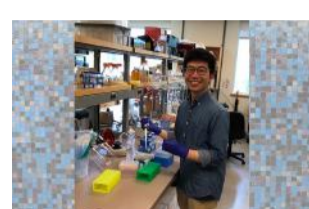
Science in Vancouver



Dr. Amina Zoubeidi (pictured) is a Professor in the Department of Urologic Sciences at UBC and a Senior Scientist at the Vancouver Prostate Centre. She was recently awarded the Canada Research Chair 1 in Cancer Therapy Resistance. Find out which other Vancouver researchers won grants, awards, or scholarships in this month's award summary. [Read More](#)

Dr. Kin Lam Wong Receives Dean's Convocation Medal

SFU Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies



As one of SFU's most outstanding graduate students from the Faculty of Science, Dr. Kin Lam Wong (pictured) is recognized with the Dean of Graduate Studies Convocation Medal. His doctoral thesis, "Decoding nutrient sensing and metabolic regulation in the *Drosophila* Hipp tumour model," examined the molecular links between diet and cancer. [Read More](#)

Convocation Medals Honour SFU's Best and Brightest

SFU News



Galvin Huen (pictured) was awarded the Gordon M. Shrum Gold Medal for his high scholastic standing and significant contribution to the university community. Early on at the Claydon Lab, Galvin fell in love with research through the excitement of discovery, where meticulous benchwork and laborious problem-solving were at the nucleus of his work with stem cells. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Human on a Chip

Trek Magazine



It takes at least 15 years and millions of dollars to bring a new drug to market, and most fail in Phase II or III of development. A key reason is that the differences between humans and non-human animals — still the standard subjects of preclinical studies — is too great. "We can do better," states Dr. Sarah Hedtrich (pictured) simply. Dr. Hedtrich leads research in the eponymous Hedtrich Lab within UBC's Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. [Read More](#)

The Long and Winding Code

Trek Magazine



CRISPR technology is based on a natural virus-defense system used by some bacteria, in which a protein slices into a genome and alters the genetic code of a living organism with tremendous precision. "Bacteria can be infected with viruses, so they developed a particular machinery that basically cuts the viruses into little pieces," explains Dr. Josef Penninger (pictured), Director of UBC's Life Sciences Institute and the Canada 150 Chair of Functional Genetics. [Read More](#)

With a First-of-Its-Kind GMP Facility, AbCellera Biologics Is Building the Future of Canadian Biotech, Right Here in BC

Vancouver Tech Journal



Two months after breaking ground on its new Vancouver headquarters, BC biotech giant AbCellera announced that it's building a 130,000-square-foot Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) manufacturing facility for the production of therapeutic antibodies, a first of its kind in Canada. GMP is a system and set of standards designed to ensure quality and consistently minimize the risks involved in the production of products. [Read More](#)

Can You Catch Obesity?

Trek Magazine



Dr. Brett Finlay (pictured) and colleagues think that many "non-communicable" diseases — including obesity, heart disease and diabetes — may actually be transmitted through the trillions of microbes in and on the human body. The best example of a causal role for microbes, mechanistically, is cardiovascular disease. People can get atherosclerosis because the microbes that break down red meat use an enzyme to do so that leads to a secondary product, which causes hardening of the arteries. [Read More](#)

The Little Discovery Engine That Could

Trek Magazine



The antibody: it's a very small thing with a very big potential. The right antibody at the right time can save your life. Or it can turn your fledgling UBC startup into a multi-billion-dollar company, almost overnight — although the latter possibility applies to a pretty rarified cohort. Either way, a good antibody can be hard to find. While the average person might produce a billion antibodies in a single day, they are typically versions that are designed to fend off familiar foes. [Read More](#)

The Future Is Now

Trek Magazine



Transfusion patients must receive either their own blood type or type O to avoid an immune response. The ability to convert any type of donated blood into type O, then, would be a game changer, and UBC researchers are inching closer to that lifesaving alchemy. By removing the antigens that distinguish A and B blood types from O, scientists have demonstrated that conversion is possible, but it has never been achieved at sufficient scale. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Canadian Ethicists Recognize the Critical Importance of Science and Research

The Conversation



On May 25, Member of Parliament Kirsty Duncan advanced Motion 38 to create a new Standing Committee for Science and Research (SCSR). It recognizes that science and research are of critical importance and essential ingredients to informed decision-making across the economic, environmental and social challenges in Canada. Dr. Tania Bubela (pictured), Dr. Judy Illes, and other ethicists suggest that critical ethical thinking, scholarship, and action have a role to play on every committee, especially the SCSR. [Read More](#)

Government of Canada Invests in Applied Research and Development Projects between Colleges, Local Businesses, and Community Organizations

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada



Colleges are at the forefront of applied research and development, and their work is vital to driving innovation and delivering tangible benefits within their regions. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, they have shown great strength and resiliency by rapidly mobilizing their resources to conduct pandemic-related applied research, while also maintaining R&D support for local small- to medium-sized enterprises. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

July 6 10:00 AM	Metadata Basics: Describing Research Data Online
July 7 11:00 AM	CBR Virtual Summer Seminar Series: "Organs-on-Chip: Design Considerations and Applications" Online
July 14 11:00 AM	Translating Discovery to Transform Health: Untold Stories from Medical Research Online
July 21 10:00 AM	Literature Reviews for Engineering, Forestry, Health Science, Land & Food Systems, and Science Online
August 6 4:00 PM	Online Open House: Synthetic Biology Laboratories at UBC's SBME Online

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UBC

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AbCellera

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