

Publications of the Week

**The IL6/sIL-6Rα Trans-Signalling Increases PGE<sub>2</sub> Production in Human Granulosa Cells**

First Author: Sai-Jiao Li | Senior Author: Peter Leung (pictured)  
Biology of Reproduction | BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and UBC



The proinflammatory cytokine interleukin 6 (IL6) is expressed in granulosa cells and follicular fluid and is involved in the modulation of various follicular functions, including follicular development and ovulation. Primary and immortalized human granulosa-lutein cells were used to investigate the effects of IL6 on the expression of prostaglandin-endoperoxide synthase 2 and the subsequent synthesis of prostaglandin E2 (PGE<sub>2</sub>). [Abstract](#)

**Dysregulation of the Peripheral Glutamatergic System: A Key Player in Migraine Pathogenesis?**

First Author: Tarique Benbow (pictured) | Senior Author: Brian Cairns  
Cephalalgia | UBC



Although the role of glutamate in migraine pathogenesis remains uncertain, there has been significant interest in the development of drug candidates that target glutamate receptors. Activation of trigeminovascular afferent fibers is now recognized as a crucial step to the onset of a migraine episode. New evidence suggests a dysfunction in peripheral glutamate regulation may play a role in this process. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

**Professor Gabrielle Lam Receives Mara H. Wasburn Early Engineering Educator Grant**

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering (SBME)



SBME's very own Assistant Professor of Teaching, Dr. Gabrielle Lam (pictured), has been awarded the American Society for Engineering Education Mara H. Wasburn Early Engineering Educator Grant. This grant is awarded to a woman who has demonstrated commitment to innovation in teaching, as well as a commitment to increasing access, retention, and advancement of women in engineering. [Read More](#)

**2021 FHS Undergraduate Awards**

SFU Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS)



Maggie Duncan (pictured) received the FHS Award for Extraordinary Achievement. With the support of two Undergraduate Student Research Awards, Duncan screened natural products as potential inhibitors of the Influenza A M2 viroporin which lead to her most memorable experience as an undergraduate student: presenting her research in the form of a poster at the International Conference on Antiviral Research in Baltimore. [Read More](#)

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Local News

**A Road Map for Early Brain Disease Detection**

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Up until now, normal levels of brain myelin — a key indicator of conditions such as multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease and concussion — were not well characterized, making the use of it as a diagnostic tool similar to navigating a maze without a map. A new scientific study led by Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute researcher Dr. Shannon Kolind (pictured) is the first to discover not only a robust atlas of brain myelin levels, but the key role age plays in their trajectory. [Read More](#)

**Incisive Genetics Announces Closing of a \$2.5 Million Seed Investment**

Incisive Genetics



Incisive Genetics, a privately held biotech company specializing in the research and development of a novel non-viral delivery platform for targeted CRISPR-based gene therapies, announced the close of its \$2.5 million seed financing. This funding will enable the company to develop its manufacturing process and capabilities, advance key studies to enhance its gene editing delivery platform technology, and further add to its intellectual property portfolio. [Read More](#)

**First National Cannabis Trial for Cancer Symptoms Being Led by BC Cancer**

BC Cancer



The first-ever national clinical trial of medical cannabis oil extracts for multiple cancer-related symptoms has started recruiting patients receiving treatment at the BC Cancer Vancouver and Victoria centres. The study will evaluate three cannabis oils, using Health Canada-approved extracts already publicly available, on four cancer-related symptoms: nausea, pain, anxiety, and insomnia. A fourth oil, a placebo, will also be included in the study. [Read More](#)

**SFU Biomedical Engineering Graduatd Sets Her Vision on Improving Lives in Her Home Country of Zimbabwe**

SFU Faculty of Applied Sciences



It all started with a high school trip to a clinic with a medical imaging centre in Harare, Zimbabwe. It was there that Tatendaisha Jakaza (pictured) discovered her passion for medicine and engineering, and her desire to understand how imaging technology such as CT scans and ultrasound machines work. It was also then that Jakaza became determined to make a difference through medicine and technology in her home country. [Read More](#)

**UBC Research Shows Wastewater Genomic Testing Can Effectively Track COVID-19 Variants of Concern within a Region**

UBC News



Wastewater testing can accurately and rapidly identify levels of COVID-19 infections in the community, including the rise of variants of concern, suggests new research led by UBC professor Dr. Ryan Ziels (pictured). Dr. Ziels and his colleagues analyzed sewage samples from five municipal wastewater plants in the Metro Vancouver region during a period of increased COVID-19 case counts, from February to April 2021. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

**Government of Canada Releases National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships**

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada



Researchers, research institutions, federal granting agencies, and the Government of Canada have a shared responsibility to identify and mitigate any potential national security risks related to research partnerships. The National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships will integrate national security considerations into the development, evaluation, and funding of research partnerships with partners from the private sector. [Read More](#)

**Brains, Not Just Buildings, Key to Expanding Domestic Life Sciences**

BioTalent Canada



Canadians are rightfully pleased that our country is now among the world leaders in COVID-19 vaccination rates. At the same time, however, our excitement is tempered by the recognition that we have been so dependent on foreign producers to make it happen. Among the many eye-opening impacts of the global pandemic, Canada's inability to develop and produce vaccines domestically has been particularly concerning. [Read More](#)

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**Upcoming Events in Vancouver**

July 21 10:00 AM	<b>Literature Reviews for Engineering, Forestry, Health Science, Land &amp; Food Systems, and Science</b> Online
July 23 12:00 PM	<b>Knowledge Translation and Public Engagement: Using Theory to Build Practice during the COVID-19 Crisis</b> Online
August 5 9:00 AM	<b>ADDC Webinar — "Things I Wish I Knew": Cell-Based Imaging</b> Online
August 6 12:30 PM	<b>Brain-Tech 2021: Idea Generation and Hackathon for Brain Wellness</b> Online
August 6 4:00 PM	<b>Online Open House: Synthetic Biology Laboratories at UBC's SBME</b> Online

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**STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver**

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**Other Science Jobs in Vancouver**

**Computational Biologist, Software Development**

Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre

**Laboratory Research Assistant**

Vancouver Prostate Centre

**Research Scientist, Primary Cell Biology & Innovation**

AbCellera

**Scientist/Senior Scientist, Mass Spectrometry**

Zymeworks

**Research Scientist, Immunology**

Aspect Biosystems

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