

Publications of the Week

The Actin-Disassembly Protein Glia Maturation Factor γ Enhances Actin Remodelling and B Cell Antigen Receptor Signalling at the Immune Synapse

First Author: Nikola Deretic | Senior Author: Michael Gold *(pictured)*
Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology | UBC Life Sciences Institute



The authors show that reducing the levels of glia maturation factor γ in human B cell lines via transfection with a specific siRNA impairs the ability of B cells to spread on antigen-coated surfaces, decreases the velocity of actin retrograde flow, diminishes the coalescence of B cell antigen receptor (BCR) microclusters into a central cluster at the B cell-antigen-presenting cell (APC) contact site, and decreases APC-induced BCR signalling. [Abstract](#)

Comparison of Mesenchymal Stromal Cells from Peritoneal Dialysis Effluent with Those from Umbilical Cords: Characteristics and Therapeutic Effects on Chronic Peritoneal Dialysis in Uremic Rats

First Author: Yangchun Du | Senior Author: Caigan Du *(pictured)*
Stem Cell Research & Therapy | UBC



A long-term of peritoneal dialysis (PD) using a hypertonic PD solution leads to patient's peritoneal membrane (PM) injury, resulting in ultrafiltration failure and PD drop-out. This study was designed to compare the cytoprotection between PD effluent-derived mesenchymal stromal cells and umbilical cord-derived mesenchymal stromal cells in the treatment of both PM and kidney injury in uremic rats with chronic PD. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Winner of the David Podmore Graduate Studentship Is Investigating the First-Ever Potential Therapy for Intestinal Fibrosis

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



Makhub is an Arabic word meaning "It is written." It is a belief that nothing happens by chance, and that we have a responsibility to derive purpose from the hardships we face" — so starts Kwestan Safari's *(pictured)* summary of accomplishments in her successful application for the David Podmore Graduate Studentship, which recognizes a graduate student who exemplifies a willingness to tackle challenges, resiliency in the face of obstacles, and a deep commitment to child health research. [Read More](#)

Dr. Ruth Grunau Awarded 2021 Aubrey J. Tingle Prize

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Dr. Ruth Grunau *(pictured)*, a Professor in the Faculty of Medicine's Department of Pediatrics, has been awarded the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Aubrey J. Tingle Prize. The award is one of several recently announced by Life Sciences BC which recognize the talented individuals and organizations who contribute to the vibrant life sciences ecosystem in BC. [Read More](#)

Canadian Foundation for Innovation Invests More than \$1.6 Million in Ten SFU Research Projects

SFU Faculty of Science



In Canada, cancer is the leading cause of mortality and represents about 30 percent of all deaths in this country. Motivated to change that statistic, SFU Science Professor Dr. Valentin Jaumouillé's *(pictured)* research looks at advancing cancer treatments by better understanding the human immune system's response against cancer cells. [Read More](#)

Latest UBC Recipients of JELF Funding Announced to Attract and Retain Top Researchers

UBC Research & Innovation



UBC researchers received more than \$5.7M in funding for 37 projects from the Canada Foundation for Innovation's John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF). Dr. Anna Blakney *(pictured)* will focus on the prevention and treatment of infections, such as COVID-19, as well as inherited disorders and diseases, including cancer. Her work aims to revolutionize treatments with new biotechnologies involving the engineering of vaccine formulations. [Read More](#)

2021 SBME Internal Award Winners

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering (SBME)



The contributions, passion, and problem-solving acumen of the SBME staff, faculty and students has been the foundation of extraordinary growth and progress. To recognize their outstanding achievement and excellence within the SBME community, the first annual SBME Internal Award Winners have been announced. Winners include SBME Associate Director Dr. Karen Cheung *(pictured)*. [Read More](#)

SBME Student Beth Castle Named 2021 Canada Vanier Scholar

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering (SBME)



SBME PhD student Beth Castle *(pictured)* has been named a 2021 Vanier Canada Scholar. Titled after Major-General Georges P. Vanier, the first francophone Governor General of Canada, the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship is awarded to graduate scholars who exemplify academic excellence, research potential, and leadership. [Read More](#)

Life Sciences BC Announces Annual Award Winners

Life Sciences BC



Life Sciences BC has announced the recipients of the 22nd Annual Life Sciences BC Awards, presented by FARRIS. This year's award winners exemplify leadership and innovative thinking; they nurture talent and drive ongoing life sciences sector success within British Columbia and beyond. Two new awards this year recognize the exceptional leadership shown in response to COVID-19 over the past 16 months. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Precision NanoSystems Sets Time and Place to Open New Genetic Medicine GMP Biomanufacturing Centre in Vancouver

Precision NanoSystems



Precision NanoSystems (PN) will expand its global headquarters with a 75,000-square-foot facility currently under construction. Slated for completion in 2022, the new site will be located at 1055 Vernon Drive, in the Evolution Block building, in the Falster Creek Flats area of Vancouver. PN's new genetic medicine good manufacturing practice (GMP) Biomanufacturing Centre will also be housed at the site. [Read More](#)

New Study to Explore Potential of Magnetic Nanoparticles to Help Treat Type 2 Diabetes

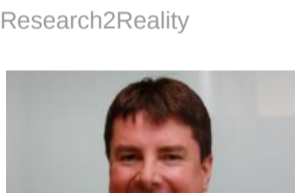
UBC Faculty of Medicine



Dr. Urs Häfeli *(pictured)*, Professor in UBC's Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, will work closely with Dr. Sarah Gray to test how magnetic nanoparticles — developed by Dr. Häfeli — can be used to deliver anti-diabetic drugs. Magnetic nanoparticles are a drug delivery tool that has been tested for other clinical interventions, such as cancer treatment and medical imaging. [Read More](#)

Could 'Bio-Printing' Make Organ Transplants Obsolete?

Research2Realty



Dr. Konrad Walus *(pictured)* has been doing weird things with printers since 2006. Working in the lab, he found that living cells printed using inkjet technology could not only survive the printing process but retain their biological function as well. This led him to wonder about the potential for printers to recreate organic structures by patterning cells in layers, similar to how plastic materials can be used to build up layered structures in regular 3D printing. [Read More](#)

A New State-of-the-Art Core Facility Sets the Stage for Advanced Pathology Research

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



The new Molecular and Advanced Pathology Core (MAPCore) is positioned to be a powerhouse of precision and translational medicine for revolutionary health outcomes and care. Co-created by Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute scientist Dr. David Huntsman *(pictured)*, MAPCore is home to cutting-edge equipment and expertise for advanced spatial genomics, single cell genomics, proteomics and other 'omics' research. [Read More](#)

Meet Evelyn Sun, Microbiology & Immunology's Newest Lecturer

UBC Microbiology & Immunology



Dr. Evelyn Sun *(pictured)* first joined the Department of Microbiology and Immunology as an undergraduate student in the Biotech program. From there, she stayed in the department for her entire educational life! From undergraduate student to a graduate student in the Hancock lab to a post-doctoral research fellow in the department, she is now what the Hancock lab calls an SOB: Survivor of Bob. [Read More](#)

A Reflection on the Progression to Type 2 Diabetes and the Debate about Casuality

UBC Life Sciences Institute



Dr. Jim Johnson *(pictured)*, Deputy Director of the Life Sciences Institute, has published a reflection on the lively debate around the high insulin levels, insulin resistance, obesity, and unstable blood sugar levels that mark common progression from metabolic health to type 2 diabetes. Although the sequence in which these features appear may differ among individuals, the seemingly progressive nature of type 2 diabetes and its origins have guided research for decades. [Read More](#)

GenXys Launches Precision Prescribing Program for Mental Health, Company Appoints New Independent Director

GenXys



GenXys Health Care Systems has announced the rollout of a national program to tailor medication therapies for patients suffering from mental health conditions, in collaboration with health benefits provider Green Shield Canada. The company also appointed veteran healthcare executive Chad Arazi *(pictured)* as an independent board member. [Read More](#)

Fasting May Help Ward Off Bacterial Infections according to Study in Mice

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



Fasting before and during exposure to *Salmonella enterica* bacteria protects mice from developing a full-blown infection, in part due to changes in the animals' gut microbiomes, according to new research published in *PLOS Pathogens* by Dr. Bruce Vallance *(pictured)* and colleagues at BC Children's Hospital and UBC. It remains controversial whether fasting protects a host from infection, or increases their susceptibility. [Read More](#)

Genome BC Announces New Chief Scientific Officer & VP Sectors

Genome BC



Genome BC has announced the appointment of Dr. Federica Di Palma *(pictured)* as Chief Scientific Officer & Vice President, Sectors. She brings over 20 years of international experience in science, technology and innovation with an emphasis on understanding complex biological systems. Dr. Di Palma holds a PhD in Immunogenetics from the University of Reading and brings strong international connections. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

August 18 11:00 AM	CBR Virtual Summer Seminar Series Online
September 8 12:00 PM	New Genomics for Non-Invasively Monitoring Canada's Polar Bear Populations Online
September 9 9:00 AM	ADDC Webinar — "Things I Wish I Knew": Venture Funding Online
September 11 10:00 AM	Soapbox Science Vancouver West End Farmers' Market
September 13 10:00 AM	World Sepsis Day 2021 Panel: Bridging Gaps in Post-Sepsis Care for Sepsis Survivors Online

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STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

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Project Manager, Operations
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Other Science Jobs in Vancouver

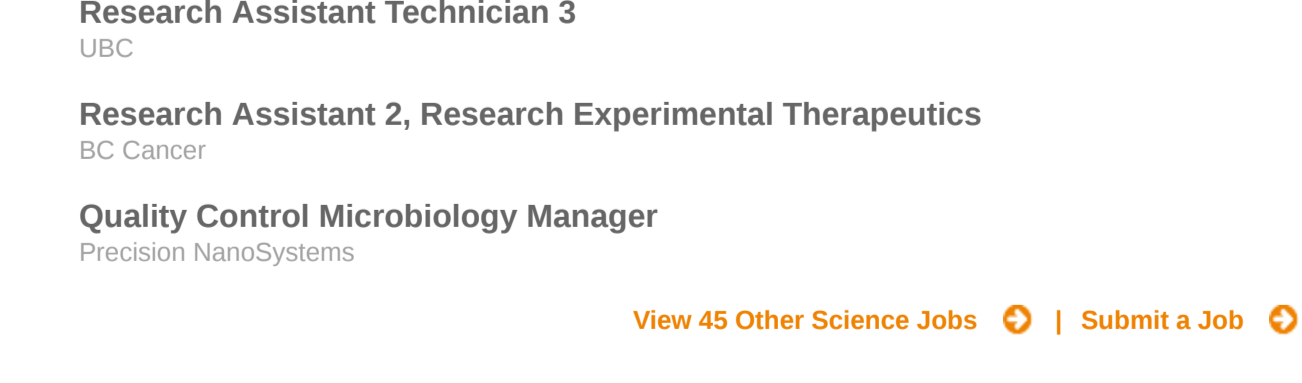
Project Coordinator, Laboratory Operations
Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre

Research Associate / Senior Research Associate, Biology
Chinook Therapeutics

Research Assistant Technician 3
UBC

Research Assistant 2, Research Experimental Therapeutics
BC Cancer

Quality Control Microbiology Manager
Precision NanoSystems

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