

Publications of the Week

A Scalable *Drosophila* Assay for Clinical Interpretation of Human *PTEN* Variants in Suppression of PI3K/AKT Induced Cellular Proliferation

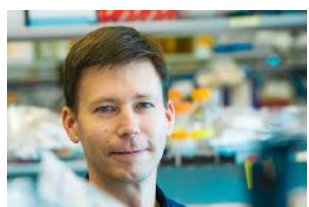
First Authors: Payel Ganguly and Landiso Madonsela | Senior Authors: Esther Verheyen (pictured, right) and Douglas Allan (left) | PLOS Genetics | Life Sciences Institute, Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, UBC, and SFU



Drosophila melanogaster offers great potential as an assay platform, but until now has been untested for high numbers of human variants adherent to the ClinGen Sequence Variant Interpretation Working Group guidelines for 'well-established assays'. The authors wished to test the utility of *Drosophila* as a platform for scalable well-established assays. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Role of Myeloid Cell Leptin Signalling in the Regulation of Glucose Metabolism

First Author: Sandra Pereira | Senior Author: Tim Kieffer (pictured) | Scientific Reports | Life Sciences Institute and UBC



Although innate immunity is linked to metabolic health, the effect of leptin signalling in cells from the innate immune system on glucose homeostasis has not been thoroughly investigated. The authors generated two mouse models using Cre-lox methodology to determine the effect of myeloid cell-specific leptin receptor (*Lepr*) reconstitution and *Lepr* knockdown on *in vivo* glucose metabolism. [Abstract](#)

Identification of Essential Genes in *Caenorhabditis elegans* through Whole Genome Sequencing of Legacy Mutant Collections

First Author: Erica Li-Leger | Senior Author: Donald Moerman (pictured) | G3: Genes, Genomes, Genetics | Life Sciences Institute Bioinformatics Facility and UBC



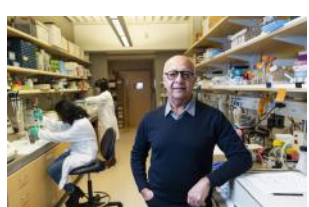
It has been estimated that 15-30% of the ~20,000 genes in *C. elegans* are essential, yet many of these genes remain to be identified or characterized. With the goal of identifying unknown essential genes, the authors performed whole genome sequencing on complementation pairs from legacy collections of maternal-effect lethal and sterile mutants. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

September 2021 Award Winners

Science in Vancouver



Dr. Shoukat Dedhar (pictured), Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at UBC and Senior Scientist at BC Cancer, received a grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to investigate the role of microbiota and the immune microenvironment in breast cancer metastasis. Find out which other Vancouver researchers won grants, awards, fellowships, and scholarships in September's award summary! [Read More](#)

Dr. Sanne Janssen Wins a Bluma Tischler Postdoctoral Fellowship

Life Sciences Institute



Dr. Sanne Janssen (pictured), a postdoctoral fellow in the Lorincz lab, has been named recipient of a Bluma Tischler award. The fellowship targets MD or PhD graduates in medicine, biochemistry, genetics, or associated disciplines carrying out research on the biochemical or genetic aspects of intellectual developmental disorders or other neurological disorders. [Read More](#)

Dr. Ted Steiner Awarded \$125,000 Grant for Inflammatory Bowel Disease Research

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Dr. Ted Steiner (pictured), who heads the UBC Division of Infectious Diseases, has published a number of important studies on the intestinal immune system. Now, a new three-year, \$125,000 grant from Crohn's and Colitis Canada will support his research into the changes that take place in damaged gut cells and how they compare to the permanent changes seen in people with inflammatory bowel disease. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Multifaceted and Ground-Breaking: An Interview with Aubrey J. Tingle Prize Winner Dr. Ruth Grunau

Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research



An international leader in preterm infant pain research, Dr. Grunau's (pictured) unique, highly innovative multidisciplinary research program has made an impact in neonatal care worldwide. Among her contributions to the field of infant pain and development, Dr. Grunau demonstrated that premature babies can perceive pain, and she developed the first quantitative, validated infant pain measure tool — viewed at the time as the "gold standard" — which became incorporated into scales used today. [Read More](#)

Acuitas Therapeutics Received Global Impact Award from Life Sciences BC

Life Sciences BC



Acuitas Therapeutics received the Global Impact Award at the 23rd Annual Life Sciences BC Awards, presented by FARRIS on September 23. The award, which is new this year, recognizes the Acuitas team for the extraordinary leadership and efforts they made in the development of COVID-19 vaccines. "I am incredibly proud of the work done by the Acuitas team," said President & CEO of Acuitas Therapeutics, Dr. Thomas Madden. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- October 7 9:30 am **Blakes Breakfast Speaking Series** Online
- October 7 12:00 pm **CHÉOS Lunch and Learn: Modernizing Clinical Trial Regulations** Online
- October 20 10:00 am **From Discovery to Market: The Role of IP Strategy in Drug Development** Online
- October 21 - 22 11:30 am **Cascadia 3.0** Online
- November 2 8:00 am **15th Annual Earl W. Davie Symposium** Online

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- Senior Research Technologist, Endothelial**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Procurement Category Manager, Biologics**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Senior Process Engineer**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Director, Lab Instrumentation**
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- Vice President of Operations**
Precision NanoSystems
- Partnerships Specialist**
UBC
- Senior Research Scientist, Biotherapeutic Binding, Characterization**
AbCellera
- Business Development Advisor, Transformation Office**
Vancouver Coastal Health

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