

Publications of the Week

A Gap-Junction-Mediated, Calcium-Signalling Network Controls Blood Progenitor Fate Decisions in Hematopoiesis

First Author: Kevin Ho (pictured, right) | Senior Author: Guy Tanentzapl (fourth from right)
Current Biology | UBC



Stem cell homeostasis requires coordinated fate decisions among stem cells that are often widely distributed within a tissue at varying distances from their stem cell niche. This requires a mechanism to ensure robust fate decisions within a population of stem cells. The authors show that, in the *Drosophila* hematopoietic organ, the lymph gland gap junctions form a network that coordinates fate decisions between blood progenitors. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Epigenetic Blood Biomarkers of Aging and Mortality in COPD

First Author: Ana Hernandez-Cordero | Senior Author: Don Sin (pictured)
European Respiratory Journal | Centre for Heart Lung Innovation, PROOF Centre of Excellence, and UBC



Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is an age-related condition that is linked to cellular senescence. In COPD, contributors to cellular senescence include oxidative stress from environmental factors such as cigarette smoking and persistent lung inflammation. These factors can also augment replicative senescence, which is characterized by progressive telomere attrition, ultimately leading to cell cycle arrest and death. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

BC Cancer Researchers Receive More than \$3.9 Million in Grants from CIHR

BC Cancer Research



BC Cancer researchers, including Dr. Renelle Myers (pictured), were awarded 2021 Spring Project Grants by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The funding provided by CIHR will allow them and their teams to pursue research breakthroughs in cancer, leading to a better understanding of cancer and improved outcomes. [Read More](#)

Carl Hansen Receives the 2021 Bloom Burton Award

Bloom Burton



Bloom Burton & Co. has announced Dr. Carl Hansen (pictured) of AbCellera as the recipient of the 2021 Bloom Burton Award. From the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, AbCellera moved from initial screening of blood samples to human clinical trials of its antibody treatment for COVID-19 in 90 days — a process that normally takes years. [Read More](#)

Drs. Tillie Hackett and James Hogg Recognized as World Experts in Bronchi by Expertscape

Centre for Heart Lung Innovation



Drs. Tillie Hackett (pictured) and James Hogg have been recognized as world experts in bronchi by Expertscape, based on their publications in the field in the last ten years. Both investigators have placed in the top 0.1% of scholars from around the world. Dr. Hackett is a Professor and Vice-Chair of Research in the Department of Anesthesiology, Pharmacology & Therapeutics at UBC, and Dr. Hogg is an Emeritus Professor of Pathology at UBC. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Cancer Chemotherapy Drug Reverses Alzheimer's Symptoms in Mice

Michael Smith Laboratories



A drug commonly used to treat cancer can restore memory and cognitive function in mice that display symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, new UBC research has found. The drug, Axitinib, inhibits the growth of new blood vessels in the brain — a feature shared by both cancer tumours and Alzheimer's disease, but this hallmark represents a new target for Alzheimer's therapies. [Read More](#)

GSC Researchers Develop New Method of Single-Cell RNA Sequencing

BC Cancer Research Institute



Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre's (GSC) Technology Development team, including Dr. Simon Haile (pictured, left) and Richard Corbett (right), has come up with a new protocol that can sequence full-length RNA in a way that captures all classes of RNA transcripts produced by individual cells. Importantly, the adapted protocol enables sequencing of RNA transcripts from thousands of cells at a time. [Read More](#)

The Pandemic Ignited an Already Strong Medical Equipment Industry in B.C. but Entering the Sector Remains Tough

BC Business



B.C.-based life sciences companies raised a record \$2 billion last year, according to Life Sciences BC and the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade. The B.C. life sciences sector, which spans pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and medical devices, was gaining momentum even before COVID. A provincial government report found that it grew by 5.6 percent in 2018, more than double the industrial aggregate. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Canada Biomedical Research Fund

Government of Canada



Through Canada's Biomanufacturing and Life Sciences Strategy, the Government of Canada is investing more than \$2.2 billion over seven years to continue growing a strong, competitive biomanufacturing and life sciences sector, and to ensure Canada is prepared for future pandemics. The strategy includes foundational investments to help build Canada's talent pipeline and research systems, as well as foster the growth of Canadian life sciences firms. [Read More](#)

Life Sciences Organizations Call For Collaboration across Government to Improve Outcomes for Patients

Innovative Medicines Canada



Canadians look to the 44th Parliament to apply lessons learned from COVID-19 to protect current and future generations. This includes building healthcare systems equipped for both exceptional and everyday circumstances. To be successful, the government needs to partner with the entire health ecosystem in a way that leverages multiple strengths. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- October 20 10:00 am **From Discovery to Market: The Role of IP Strategy in Drug Development** Online
- October 21 - 22 10:00 am **Cascadia 3.0** University of Washington and Online
- November 2 8:00 am **15th Annual Earl W. Davie Symposium** Online
- November 3 9:00 am **Invest in BC presented by Lumira Ventures** Online
- November 9 12:00 pm **Data Science and Health CPD 2021: Post-COVID Perspectives for Data Science and Health** Online

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Renaissance BioScience

Laboratory Equipment Specialist, Flow Cytometry
AbCellera

Bioinformatician/Senior Bioinformatician
Boreal Genomics

Computational Biologist, Database Development (Bioinfo/QC)
Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre at the BC Cancer Research Institute

Senior Communications Manager
Genome British Columbia

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