

Publications of the Week

Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide Promotes Host Defense against Enteric Pathogens by Modulating the Recruitment of Group 3 Innate Lymphoid Cells

First Author: Hongbing Yu (pictured, left) | Senior Authors: Bruce Vallance (center) and Kevan Jacobson (right) | PNAS | Life Sciences Institute and UBC



Group 3 innate lymphoid cells enriched in the gut mediate host resistance against intestinal pathogens. Their function and development can be regulated by diverse factors, including neuropeptides secreted by the enteric nervous system. The authors show that the neuropeptide vasoactive intestinal peptide promotes the recruitment of these innate lymphoid cells and other immune cells to the gut through a receptor. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Virus Infection Is an Instigator of Intestinal Dysbiosis Leading to Type 1 Diabetes

First Author: Zachary Morse | Senior Author: Marc Horvitz (pictured) | Frontiers in Immunology | UBC



In addition to genetic predisposition, environmental determinants contribute to a complex etiology leading to onset of type 1 diabetes (T1D). Multiple studies have established the gut as an important site for immune modulation that can directly impact development of autoreactive cell populations against pancreatic self-antigens. Viral infection may be a contributing driver for microbiome dysbiosis and disruption of intestinal homeostasis prior to T1D onset. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

October 2021 Award Winners

Science in Vancouver



Dr. Anna Blakney (pictured), an Assistant Professor at UBC, was awarded a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Catalyst Grant to investigate RNA and protein vaccines against chlamydia. She plans to characterize the immune responses with protein, mRNA, and self-amplifying RNA vaccines in order to inform the design of future vaccine candidates. See which other Vancouver researchers won grants and awards in October. [Read More](#)

2021 Faculty of Medicine Award Recipients

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Each year, the Faculty of Medicine recognizes faculty and staff members for excellence in teaching, research, administration, innovation, and public service. Dr. Terrance Snutch (pictured) received the Bill and Marilyn Webber Lifetime Achievement Award for his uniquely impactful and interdisciplinary career at UBC. [Read More](#)

Undergraduate Students Showcase Summer Research Project Findings

UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences



The Summer Student Research Program allows UBC undergraduate students to spend a summer working on a research project under the guidance of faculty researchers, and culminates in a poster presentation competition. Kelly Tam (pictured), recipient of the 2021 poster competition's "Fan Favourite" and First Place awards, spent the past summer working with Dr. Karla Williams to examine the role polySia plays in breast cancer cell communication and metastasis. [Read More](#)

Dr. Moritz Koch Wins 2021 Klaus Tschira Foundation KlarText Award

Life Sciences Institute (LSI)



Congratulations to LSI's The Lifeline Newsletter Sustainability Columnist Dr. Moritz Koch (pictured), who has received a prestigious KlarText award in biology from the Klaus Tschira Foundation. The science communication award recognizes "particularly successful, generally understandable presentations" of recent PhDs' own doctoral theses. Awards are given in categories in the natural sciences, mathematics and computer science. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Halting COVID-19 in Its Tracks

UBC Faculty of Medicine



With emerging COVID-19 variants threatening the effectiveness of existing vaccines, there is an ever-pressing need to find new treatment approaches to fight the disease. At UBC's Faculty of Medicine, Drs. Dermot Kelleher (pictured) and Shane Duggan are tackling this challenge head on, redirecting elements of their groundbreaking research on esophageal disease to develop a novel aerosol treatment for COVID-19. [Read More](#)

2022 Scholar and Research Trainee Competitions: Applications Are Now Open

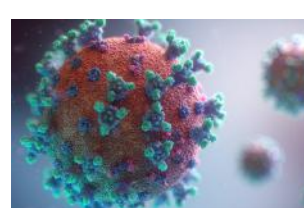
Michael Smith Health Research BC



Michael Smith Health Research BC's Scholar and Research Trainee awards provide funding to support BC's next generation of health researchers in advancing science and improving the health of British Columbians. The Scholar Awards help BC researchers build leading-edge health research programs, train the next generation of scientists, and make significant contributions to their field. [Read More](#)

Lilly to Supply 614,000 Additional Doses of AbCellera-Discovered Bamlanivimab Together with Etesevimab to the US Government for the Treatment or Post-Exposure Prevention of COVID-19

AbCellera



AbCellera has announced an additional purchase by the US government from Eli Lilly (Lilly) for bamlanivimab with etesevimab for administration together. This neutralizing antibody therapy is authorized for emergency use for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 or for post-exposure prophylaxis of COVID-19 in certain individuals. [Read More](#)

Q&A: SFU's CL3 Lab Now Welcomes Infectious Disease Research beyond COVID-19

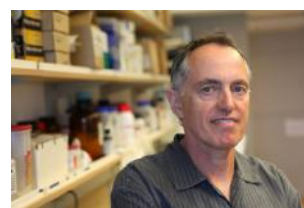
SFU



While many members of the SFU community were working remotely in 2020, Dwayne Ashman (pictured), Operations Director of SFU's Containment Level 3 (CL3) Lab, was on the Burnaby campus diligently helping set up the lab — the university's newest core facility. Alongside the lab's Scientific Director and SFU Health Sciences Professor, Dr. Ralph Pantophlet, Ashman's dedication and hard work helped equip researchers to safely join the global fight against COVID-19. [Read More](#)

UBC Researchers Develop New Test to Diagnose Aggressive Childhood Brain Tumours

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Researchers at UBC's Faculty of Medicine and BC Cancer, in partnership with BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, have developed a new test to more easily diagnose medulloblastoma, the most common malignant childhood brain tumour. "With this new test, more doctors may one day be able to identify children with the most aggressive forms of medulloblastoma and better tailor treatment," says the study's senior author, Dr. Poul Sorensen (pictured). [Read More](#)

Associating Host Immune Genes with COVID-19 Status and Disease Severity

Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre



The human leukocyte antigen (HLA) gene family is a large group of genes located on chromosome 6. These genes, which can be divided into three classes, are essential for proper immune function and recognition of foreign pathogens by the body. Dr. Inanc Birof's (pictured) lab has investigated possible associations between HLA and COVID-19 positive status, including disease severity. [Read More](#)

Announcing the 9 Teams Who Joined Lab2Launch This Fall

entrepreneurship@UBC



Twice a year, entrepreneurship@UBC recruits a cohort of research-based venture teams ready to translate their discoveries into impact in Lab2Launch. Working with UBC researchers and scientists who are focusing on the translation of a scientific or technological innovation which is unique, proprietary, and transformative, Lab2Launch helps propel venture teams through business model validation, venture creation, team building, investment, and growth. [Read More](#)

NervGen Pharma Announces Spinal Cord Injury Clinical Advisory Board

NervGen Pharma



NervGen Pharma, a clinical stage biotech company dedicated to creating innovative treatments for nervous system damage, has announced the formation of its Spinal Cord Injury Clinical Advisory Board comprised of five world-class scientific and clinical researchers in the field of spinal cord injury: Drs. James Guest, Steven Kirshblum, Brian Kwon (pictured), Linda Jones, and Daniel Lammertse. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- November 9 12:00 PM Data Science and Health CPD 2021: Post-COVID Perspectives for Data Science and Health Online
- November 9 1:00 PM BCDRN Meet the Researcher Series #7 Online
- November 11 9:00 AM ADDC Webinar — "Things I Wish I Knew": Regulatory Issues Online
- November 15 11:00 AM Hope on the Horizon for Diabetes Online
- November 18 2:30 PM WorkBC SSWR/Cloverdale Virtual Hiring Event with STEMCELL Technologies Online

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STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

- Program Manager, Services for Cell Therapy STEMCELL Technologies
- Senior Business Development Officer STEMCELL Technologies
- Manufacturing Technologist, Clean Room STEMCELL Technologies
- Quality Assurance Associate, Product Release STEMCELL Technologies
- Research Associate/BioEngineer STEMCELL Technologies

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Other Science Jobs in Vancouver

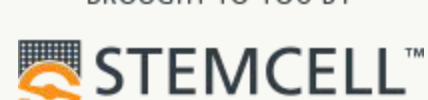
- Research Associate UBC
- Research Scientist, Antibody Analytical Characterization AbCellera
- Research Animal Technician 2 BC Cancer
- Research Scientist, Liver Aspect Biosystems
- Postdoctoral Fellow, Integrative Genomic Analysis of Lymphoid Cancers SFU

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