

Publications of the Week

mDia1 Assembles a Linear F-Actin Coat at Membrane Invaginations to Drive *Listeria monocytogenes* Cell-to-Cell Spreading

First Author: Aaron Dhandia | Senior Author: Julian Guttman (pictured)
mBio | SFU, UBC, and the Life Sciences Institute



Direct cell-to-cell spreading of *Listeria monocytogenes* requires the bacteria to induce actin-based finger-like membrane protrusions in donor host cells that are endocytosed through caveolin-rich membrane invaginations by adjacent receiving cells. Mixed-cell infection assays show that optimal caveolin-based *L. monocytogenes* cell-to-cell spreading correlates with the formation of the linear actin filament-containing shell by mDia1. [Abstract](#)

Cardiac-Specific VEGFB Overexpression Reduces Lipoprotein Lipase Activity and Improves Insulin Action in Rat Heart

First Author: Rui Shang | Senior Author: Brian Rodrigues (pictured)
American Journal of Physiology-Endocrinology and Metabolism | ICORD and UBC



Recent work has indicated that cardiac vascular endothelial growth factor B (VEGFB) overexpression expands the coronary vasculature and facilitates metabolic reprogramming that favors glucose utilization. The interrogation of VEGFB function on cardiac metabolism uncovered an intriguing and previously unappreciated effect to lower lipoprotein lipase activity and prevent lipid metabolite accumulation to improve insulin action. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Sammy Zheng and Ryan Yen Recognized with American Society of Hematology Abstract Achievement Awards

Terry Fox Laboratory



The American Society of Hematology recognized Sammy Zheng (pictured, left) for his abstract entitled "Newly Developed Oncolytic Herpes Simplex Viruses Expressing Multiple Immunomodulatory Transgenes Effectively Target Acute Myeloid Leukemia Cells" and Ryan Yen (right) for his abstract entitled, "Identification of a Highly Deregulated eIF4F Translation Initiation Complex in Drug-Resistant BCR-ABL+ Cells by a Phospho-Proteomic Antibody Microarray." [Read More](#)

Virginie Jean-Baptiste from the Horwitz Lab Is First to Receive the Julia Levy Fellowship Award

UBC Department of Microbiology & Immunology



Virginie Jean-Baptiste (pictured), a PhD student in the Horwitz lab, is the first ever recipient of the Julia Levy Fellowship award. The award is named after Dr. Julia Levy, the first woman faculty member in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, who had an exceptional career and made important contributions to training the next generation of scientists. Jean-Baptiste's main research focuses on the neuropathophysiology of HIV-1 infection. [Read More](#)

Dr. Alison McAfee Receives the 2021 Michael John Page Postdoctoral Fellow Award

The Centre for Blood Research



The UBC Centre for Blood Research and Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology hosted the ninth Michael John Page Postdoctoral Fellow Award presentation on October 27, 2021. This year's award recipient, Dr. Alison McAfee (pictured), shared her research on factors affecting honeybee queen infertility, with a focus on temperature stress. [Read More](#)

Dean Regier Appointed Chair for the New Regulatory Advisory Council at Academy of Translational Medicine

Cancer Control Research



Dr. Dean Regier, Senior Scientist within Cancer Control Research, has been appointed Chair of the newly established Regulatory Advisory Council (RAC) within the Academy of Translational Medicine (ATM). The ATM has established a RAC with members from local and international industry and academic institutions, to provide guidance and advice to ATM and UBC for accelerating translational medicine. [Read More](#)

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Local News

How Adolescents with Inflammatory Bowel Disease Treated with Immunosuppressive Drugs Respond to COVID-19 Vaccination

COVID-19 Immunity Task Force



In a letter published in *Gut*, Dr. Kevan Jacobson (pictured), Dr. Pascal Lavoie, and collaborators from UBC report modestly lower antibody levels in adolescents, aged 12 to 17 years, with inflammatory bowel disease who are on the anti-tumour necrosis factor α anti-inflammatory therapy infliximab in combination with other immunosuppressive drugs or given as monotherapy, after a first dose of Pfizer-BioNTech's Comirnaty vaccine. [Read More](#)

UBC Launches Canada's First JDRF Centre of Excellence in Type 1 Diabetes Research

UBC Faculty of Medicine



The UBC Faculty of Medicine is launching Canada's first JDRF Centre of Excellence in Type 1 diabetes research. The Centre is being established in partnership with JDRF Canada toward a singular purpose: curing Type 1 diabetes. Co-leads of the Centre include UBC Professors Drs. Bruce Verchere (pictured), James Johnson, Megan Levings and Francis Lynn, as well as JDRF's Dr. Sarah Linklater. [Read More](#)

An Alternative Procedure for Extracting Nucleic Acids for COVID-19 Testing

Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre (GSC)



Globally, COVID-19 has challenged healthcare systems. To provide a sustainable supply of reagents, researchers from the GSC, BC Cancer Research Institute, UBC, Michael Smith Labs, BC Centre for Disease Control Public Health Laboratory, and the Provincial Health Services Authority, collaboratively optimized a nucleic acid extraction protocol that used readily available reagents on an open-deck liquid handling robot, and was suitable for COVID-19 testing. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- December 14 12:30 PM **Seminar: Identifying Predictive Gene Expression Signatures of Sepsis Severity**
Life Sciences Centre & Online
- December 15 12:00 PM **Updates to the Primary Care Guidelines for the Management of HIV/AIDS in Adults: Common Non-Infectious Co-Morbidities**
Online
- December 15 3:00 PM **MSL Seminar Series: December Trainee Talks**
Online
- December 16 4:00 PM **The Physics of Winter**
Online
- January 17 9:00 AM **SciCATS Workshop Series Part 2: Communicating Your Science through Podcasting Interviews**
Online

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STEMCELL Technologies
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