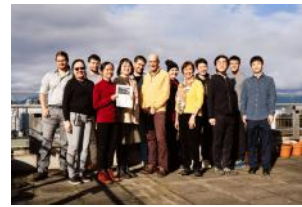


Publications of the Week

**Proteomic Analysis of Archival Breast Cancer Clinical Specimens Identifies Biological Subtypes with Distinct Survival Outcomes**

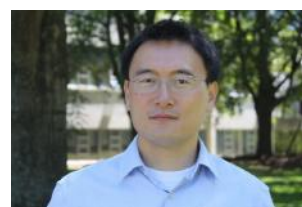
First Authors: Karama Asleh and Gian Luca Negri | Senior Author: Gregg Morin (pictured, center)  
Nature Communications | Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre, BC Cancer Research Institute, Vancouver General Hospital, and UBC



Despite advances in genomic classification of breast cancer, current clinical tests and treatment decisions are commonly based on protein level information. Formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissue specimens with extended clinical outcomes are widely available. The authors perform comprehensive proteomic profiling of 300 FFPE breast cancer surgical specimens from patients diagnosed in 2008-2013 and 1986-1992 with linked clinical outcomes. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

**Technologies for Measuring Red Blood Cell Deformability**

First Author: Kerry Mathews | Senior Author: Hongshen Ma (pictured)  
Lab on a Chip | Centre for Blood Research, BCIT, Vancouver Prostate Centre, Vancouver General Hospital, and UBC



Human red blood cells (RBCs) are approximately 8 µm in diameter, but must repeatedly deform through capillaries as small as 2 µm in order to deliver oxygen to all parts of the body. The loss of this capability is associated with the pathology of many diseases, and is therefore a potential biomarker for disease status and treatment efficacy. Measuring RBC deformability is a difficult problem because of the minute forces that must be exerted on these cells, as well as the requirements for throughput and multiplexing. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

**Dr. Wyatt, Chi, and Fonseca Awarded Canadian Cancer Society Challenge Grant**

Vancouver Prostate Centre



Congratulations to Drs. Alexander Wyatt, Kim Chi, and Nicolette Fonseca (pictured) on being awarded a three-year Canadian Cancer Society Challenge Grant - Sept 2021 competition for their project, Accelerating clinical development of plasma circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA) fraction as a management tool in advanced prostate cancer. Their aim is to develop a ctDNA-based computational model to predict life expectancy across different treatment contexts. [Read More](#)

**Faculty of Medicine Members Nominated for the 2022 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards**

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Ten members of the UBC Faculty of Medicine community have been nominated for the 2022 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards. Nominees include Dr. Janessa Laskin (pictured), a Medical Oncologist at BC Cancer and Clinical Associate Professor in the Faculty of Medicine's Division of Medical Oncology at UBC, who has brought cutting edge genomics technologies to clinical research. [Read More](#)

[View All Featured Awards](#) | [View Monthly Award Summaries](#)

Local News

**DMCBH Trainee Spotlight: Dr. Megan Rowland**

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



Dr. Megan Rowland (pictured) is a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Annie Ciernia's lab. She started her PhD looking at liver development, but ultimately made a switch and ended up focusing on the brain, and specifically studied a protein called ATRX which is involved in intellectual disability. She was drawn to Dr. Ciernia's lab because it combines experimental and computational approaches to understand how epigenetic mechanisms regulate gene expression and how that might be related to neurodevelopmental disorders like autism spectrum disorder. [Read More](#)

**Sequencing the Spruce Weevil Genome**

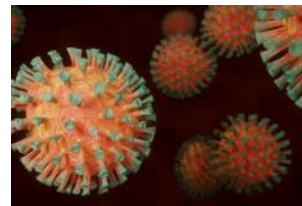
Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre



In a collaboration between the Genome Sciences Centre's Bioinformatics Technology Lab, the Michael Smith Lab at UBC, North Carolina State University in Raleigh, and Laurentian Forestry Centre Natural Resources Canada, the nuclear and mitochondrial genomes of *Pissodes strobi* were sequenced. "By releasing the spruce weevil genome, we provide a reference genome for one of the most disruptive conifer pests in North America," says Kristina Galalova (pictured). [Read More](#)

**Removing Barriers to Liver Transplantation in COVID-19-Positive Patients**

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Sometimes you have to push boundaries to advance medical science. That is exactly what Dr. Eric Yoshida, a Principal Investigator with Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute and the former Medical Director of the BC Liver Transplant Program, and his team did in 2021 when they successfully completed an orthotopic liver transplant into a young patient with active COVID-19. [Read More](#)

**New Paper from the de Boer Lab Develops "Oracle" to Predict Evolution of Regulatory DNA**

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering



Dr. Carl de Boer's (pictured) lab, whose current research is focused on understanding the logic and evolution of gene regulation, has just published a paper in *Nature* that offers an exciting new computer model, an "Oracle," which was able to query vastly more DNA sequences than is possible in traditional experiments. [Read More](#)

**Creating a 'Personalized Pharmacy in Our Gut'**

Research2Reality



Gut bacteria are a major line of defence that protects us from harmful microbes that come in with our food that would otherwise set up camp. And they also help us digest food that we can't break down properly on our own, creating new compounds that are crucial to our nutrition and health. Biomedical engineer Dr. Carolina Tropini (pictured) wants to help them. [Read More](#)

**BC Biotech Companies Vie to Create Cheap Psilocybin**

Business in Vancouver



Vancouver drug-research companies are seeking cheaper ways to produce psychedelic mushrooms, or the active ingredient psilocybin, to cater to new demand. Core One Labs' researchers, led by Dr. Robert Hancock (pictured) at UBC, had been working for about a year on ways to create psilocybin from fermented *E. coli* bacteria when they recently discovered a new method. [Read More](#)

**New Animation Makes Cancer Genomics Understandable for Everyone**

Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre



Helping people comprehend cancer genomics — especially those unfamiliar with the science of precision medicine — can be a challenge. To help illustrate the process and benefit of using genomic data for precision cancer treatment planning, BC Cancer's Personalized OncoGenomics team has developed a new animated video that communicates the science in plain vocabulary with engaging graphics in six languages. [Read More](#)

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**Upcoming Events in Vancouver**

March 17 9:00 AM	<b>adMare's Lunch &amp; Learn: Building Talent with Amplitude Ventures</b> Online
March 18 12:00 PM	<b>Science Communication Career Workshop</b> Online
March 23 10:00 AM	<b>NMIN Lecture: Dr. Gang Zheng</b> Online
March 25 9:30 AM	<b>Neglected Diseases: Recent Breakthroughs</b> Online
March 30 12:00 PM	<b>UBC's Three Minute Thesis Final</b> Online

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**STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver**

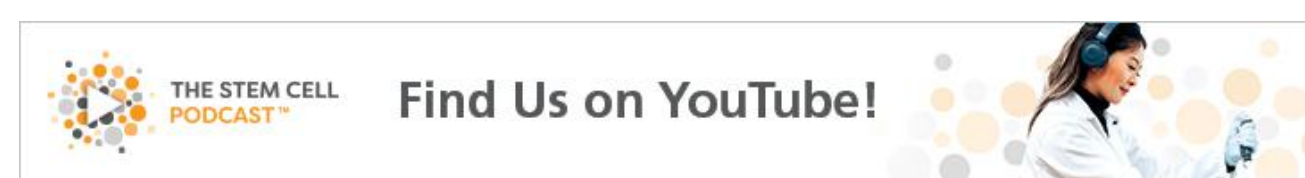
- Sales Development Representative**  
STEMCELL Technologies
- Quality Control Scientist, Cell Line Development**  
STEMCELL Technologies
- Scientific Inside Sales Representative**  
STEMCELL Technologies
- Sales Support Coordinator**  
STEMCELL Technologies
- Product Manager, Primary and Cultured Cell Products**  
STEMCELL Technologies

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**Other Science Jobs in Vancouver**

- Research Technician, Immunogenomics**  
Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre
- Senior Quality Assurance Associate**  
bioLytical Laboratories
- Product Manager, Reagents**  
Precision NanoSystems
- Research Scientist, Gene Expression**  
Aspect Biosystems
- President and Chief Executive Officer**  
Genome BC

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