

Publications of the Week

Characterization of a Small Molecule Inhibitor of Disulfide Reductases That Induces Oxidative Stress and Lethality in Lung Cancer Cells

First Author: Fraser Johnson (pictured, back row, second from right) | Senior Author: William Lockwood (back row, far right)
Cell Reports | BC Cancer Research Institute and UBC



Phenotype-based screening can identify small molecules that elicit a desired cellular response, but additional approaches are required to characterize their targets and mechanisms of action. The authors show that a compound termed LCS3, which selectively impairs the growth of human lung adenocarcinoma cells, induces oxidative stress. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Internalization and Trafficking of CSPG-Bound Recombinant VAR2CSA Lectins in Cancer Cells

First Author: Chris Kedong Wang | Senior Authors: Nader Al Nakouzi and Mads Daugaard (pictured)
Scientific Reports | Vancouver Prostate Centre, BC Cancer Research Centre, and UBC



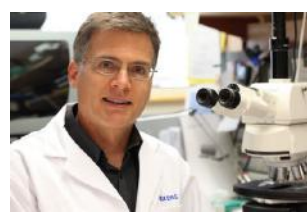
Proteoglycans are proteins that are modified with glycosaminoglycan chains. Chondroitin sulfate proteoglycans (CSPGs) are currently being exploited as targets for drug-delivery in various cancer indications, however basic knowledge on how CSPGs are internalized in tumour cells is lacking. In this study, the authors took advantage of a recombinant CSPG-binding lectin VAR2CSA to track internalization and cell fate of CSPGs in tumour cells. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Dr. Brad Nelson – Recipient of the Canadian Society for Immunology's 2022 Hardy Cinader Award

BC Cancer



The Canadian Society for Immunology (CSI) has awarded Dr. Brad Nelson (pictured), Distinguished Scientist and Co-Director of BC Cancer's Immunotherapy Program, with the prestigious 2022 Hardy Cinader Award. This award is the highest honour by the CSI, given to a Canadian scientist who exemplifies distinguished scientific leadership and accomplishments in immunology. [Read More](#)

DMCBH Members Leading Five UBC Research Excellence Clusters in 2022–23

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



UBC's Office of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation recently announced 40 emerging and established research excellence clusters that will be supported with funding in 2022/23. Five of these Research Excellence Clusters are led by DMCBH researchers. Dr. Joanne Matsubara (pictured) will lead the Vision Research Cluster, which focuses on new foundational discoveries to improve the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of eye and brain disorders. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Exploring How Patient-Derived Cancer Models Capture Real Tumour Features

Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre



In an article recently published in *Cancer Cell*, Dr. Marco Marra's (pictured) lab used sequencing approaches — including single-cell DNA sequencing and RNA sequencing — to analyze the genetic and transcriptional heterogeneity of glioblastomas (GBMs), patient-derived explants, and more traditional GBM cell lines (propagated as so-called "gliomaspheres") derived from the same tumours. [Read More](#)

Applications Now Open for 2022 Health Professional-Investigator Competition

Michael Smith Health Research BC



The Health Professional-Investigator awards are designed to help close the gap between health research and its implementation, and support BC health professionals who are actively involved in patient care to conduct and apply research relevant to health and/or the health system, ultimately to improve health outcomes in BC and beyond. [Read More](#)

Honey Bee Colony Collapse Could Mean Food Insecurity; Genomic Tools Will Help Support Better Mite Resistance

Genome BC



Honey bee colony collapse is a significant problem for Canada, and globally. Important crops including canola, blueberry, cranberry, almond, pear, apples, and more, are dependent on the industrious insect for pollination. Unfortunately, the mite *Varroa destructor* feeds on bees at adult and juvenile stages, weakening them and transmitting deadly viral infections which leads to colony collapse. [Read More](#)

How Does Signaling Among Different Types of Immune Cells Impact Embryonic Development?

Life Sciences Institute



The processes governing proper development of the embryo are being recognized as increasingly complex in nature and highly sensitive to the maternal environment. Dr. Jessica Rosin's (pictured) lab is focusing on how distinct populations of immune cells signal to nearby cells during embryogenesis to contribute to development, and how disruptions such as maternal stress and infection may contribute to neurodevelopmental disorders and craniofacial defects. [Read More](#)

UBC Scientists Discover How to 3D Print Testicular Cells

UBC Faculty of Medicine



In a pair of world firsts, UBC scientists have 3D printed human testicular cells and identified promising early signs of sperm-producing capabilities. The researchers, led by UBC Urology Assistant Professor Dr. Ryan Flannigan (pictured), hope the technique will one day offer a solution for people living with presently untreatable forms of male infertility. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- March 23 10:00 AM **NMIN Lecture: Dr. Gang Zheng** Online
- March 25 9:30 AM **Neglected Diseases: Recent Breakthroughs** Online
- March 25 12:00 PM **Women in Science – A Fireside Chat** Online
- March 30 12:00 PM **UBC's Three Minute Thesis Final** Online
- March 30 6:00 PM **Virtual Technologies: Advancing the Delivery of Health Care** Online

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