

Publications of the Week

**ER-PM Membrane Contact Site Regulation by Yeast Oxidation-Reduction Potentials and Membrane Stress Pathways**

First Author: Evan Quon (pictured, left) | Senior Author: Christopher Beh (back row)  
PLoS Genetics | SFU



In yeast, at least seven proteins (Ice2p, Ist2p, Scs2/22p, Tcb1-Tcb3p) affect cortical endoplasmic reticulum (ER) tethering and contact with the plasma membrane (PM). In  $\Delta$ -super-tether cells that lack these tethers, cortical ER-PM association is all but gone. Yeast oxysterol-binding protein homologue proteins are also implicated in membrane contact site (MCS) assembly, perhaps as subunits for multicomponent tethers, though their function at MCSs involves intermembrane lipid transfer.

[Abstract](#)

**Age-Associated B Cells in Viral Infection**

First Author: Isobel Mouat (pictured) | Senior Author: Marc Horvitz  
PLoS Pathogens | UBC



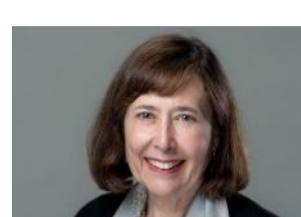
Age-associated B cells (ABCs) are a recently identified, unique B cell population that displays both protective and pathogenic characteristics, depending on the context. A major role of ABCs is to protect from viral infection. ABCs expand during an array of viral infections and display various functional capacities, including secretion of antibodies and activation of T cells. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

**Dr. Connie Eaves Elected to AACR Academy Class of 2022**

AACR



The mission of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Academy is to recognize and honour distinguished scientists whose scientific contributions have propelled significant innovation and progress against cancer. Dr. Connie Eaves (pictured) is recognized for her essential contributions to the development of functional methods to quantify and characterize hematopoietic, mammary, and cancer stem cells that are now considered benchmarks in the field. [Read More](#)

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Local News

**Dr. Michael Kobor to Lead New UBC Research Program in Healthy Aging**

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Renowned biomedical researcher Dr. Michael Kobor (pictured) has been appointed to lead the Edwin S.H. Leong Healthy Aging Program — a new UBC research program aimed at helping people live longer, healthier lives. As the inaugural Edwin S.H. Leong UBC Chair in Healthy Aging, Dr. Kobor will build a permanent program focused on deepening understanding of the aging process and developing innovative, practical strategies to improve how people age. [Read More](#)

**BC Diabetes Research Network Secures Funding**

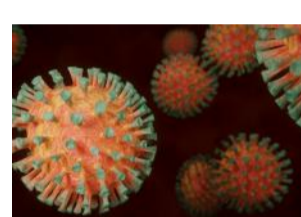
BC Diabetes Research Network



The BC Diabetes Research Network (BCDRN) has secured funding from the University of British Columbia to continue operating for two more years. The BCDRN is grateful for UBC's continued support of its vision and mission. The UBC Vice President of Research and Innovation Office announced the results of their fourth round of Grants for Catalyzing Research Clusters. [Read More](#)

**UBC Researchers Develop Innovative Dosing Strategy for COVID-19 Drug Facing Short Supply**

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Scarcity of a drug central to the treatment of critically ill COVID-19 patients inspired researchers at UBC and Vancouver Coastal Health to develop a novel dosing strategy that resulted in more people being treated with smaller doses of a life-saving drug. Tocilizumab, an immunosuppressive drug originally developed to treat severe forms of inflammatory arthritis, became scarce in early 2021 after it was discovered to be an effective treatment for life-threatening cases of COVID-19. [Read More](#)

**Revisiting Cold-Stored Platelets: An Effort to Improve Patient Care and Storage Feasibility**

The Centre for Blood Research



Cold-stored platelets were used back in the 1960s but their use was stopped because they were less effective for people who needed prophylactic transfusions; for example, those who have chronically low platelets due to chemotherapy. The problem with cold-stored platelets is that they don't stick around in the patient's body after you transfuse them. [Read More](#)

**Ask a Scientist: Will the COVID-19 Vaccine Affect My Fertility?**

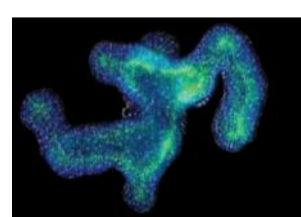
Canadian Institutes of Health Research



Dr. Deborah Money (pictured) at UBC debunks misinformation about COVID-19 and fertility. Current data and scientific studies indicate that the COVID-19 vaccines do not affect fertility, and are safe to receive during pregnancy. In fact, experts are recommending vaccination for people who are currently pregnant or planning to become pregnant in the future. [Read More](#)

**Why Organoids Are Playing a Growing Role in Medical Research**

Life Sciences Institute



Scientists are turning to small lab-grown cell clusters to probe basic questions, model diseases, and test drugs. It may sound like science fiction, but researchers are growing organ-like objects in the lab. Called organoids, these three-dimensional clusters of cells are often just a few millimetres in size — but they mimic some of the structure and function of the human body at the cellular level and resemble aspects of real organs. [Read More](#)

**Going With Her Gut, Inside the Lab and Out**

Research2Realty



Dr. Carolina Tropini (pictured) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and the School of Biomedical Engineering at UBC. Her research examines the application of novel tools to longstanding questions regarding the stability of microbial communities and their response to perturbations during disease. [Read More](#)

**Qu Biologics Raises US\$12M in Latest Effort to Recruit Workers amid Labour Crunch**

Business in Vancouver



Add another BC life sciences company to the growing list of those on the hunt for more workers. Qu Biologics has revealed the close of a US\$12-million equity financing round, which it says will help expand its team and launch three more clinical studies. The Burnaby-based biopharmaceutical firm is best known for developing what are known as site-specific immunomodulators. [Read More](#)

**No Home for My Genome (Sequencing Apparatus): Special Considerations for Laboratory Design**

The Centre for Blood Research



What goes into designing a lab space? Key words that frequently come up are flexibility, functionality, expansion, safety, interaction, form, and cost effectiveness. While it may not seem obvious at first, in a typical biochemistry lab building, the cost of architecture (38%) is about equal to the combined cost for heating, ventilation and air conditioning, plumbing, and electrical infrastructure. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

**Canada Needs to Grow Basic Science Capacity**

Policy Options



The importance of basic science research to human health and economic prosperity was demonstrated most recently and rather powerfully in the dramatic development of vaccines for COVID-19. It is essential that all Canadians, including parliamentarians, understand that without commitment to growing the basic science enterprise, the technology that saves lives and drives economies will not emerge. [Read More](#)

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**Upcoming Events in Vancouver**

March 30 12:00 PM	<b>UBC's Three Minute Thesis Final</b> Online
March 30 6:00 PM	<b>Virtual Technologies: Advancing the Delivery of Health Care</b> Online
March 31 12:30 PM	<b>HQP Research Presentation Series</b> Online
April 1 4:00 PM	<b>D.R.I.N.K.S. Vancouver</b> Mahoney and Sons
April 6 8:00 AM	<b>Norman Bethune Symposium</b> Online

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UBC

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AbCellera

**Structural Biology Scientist**

Gandeeva Therapeutics

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Chinook Therapeutics

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Response Biomedical

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**Survey Report: Hurdles of Genome Editing Using CRISPR**

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