

Publications of the Week

Tumour Associated Antigen PRAME Exhibits Dualistic Functions That Are Targetable in Diffuse Large B Cell Lymphoma

First Author: Katsuyoshi Takata | Senior Author: Christian Steidl *(pictured)*
Journal of Clinical Investigation | BC Cancer Research and UBC



PRAME is a prominent member of the cancer germline antigen family of proteins, which triggers autologous T cell mediated immune responses. Integrative genomic analysis in diffuse large B cell lymphoma uncovered recurrent, and highly focal deletions of 22q11.22 including the PRAME gene, which were associated with poor outcome. PRAME-deleted tumours showed cytotoxic T cell immune escape and were associated with cold tumour microenvironments. [Abstract](#)

Rapid Assessment of the Temporal Function and Phenotypic Reversibility of Neurodevelopmental Disorder Risk Genes in C. elegans

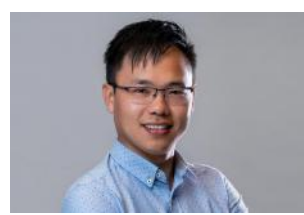
First Author: Lexis Kepler | Senior Author: Catharine Rankin *(pictured)*
Disease Models & Mechanisms | Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health and UBC



Hundreds of genes have been implicated in neurodevelopmental disorders. The authors developed a strategy to rapidly assess the temporal requirements and phenotypic reversibility of neurodevelopmental disorder risk gene orthologs using a conditional protein degradation system and machine vision phenotypic profiling in C. elegans. [Abstract](#)

Transsulfuration, Minor Player or Crucial for Cysteine Homeostasis in Cancer

First Author: Hai-Feng Zhang *(pictured)* | Senior Author: Poul Sorensen
Trends in Cell Biology | BC Cancer Research Institute, BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, and UBC



Cysteine, a thiol-containing amino acid, is crucial for the synthesis of sulfur-containing biomolecules that control multiple essential cellular activities. Altered cysteine metabolism has been linked to numerous driver oncoproteins and tumour suppressors, as well as to malignant traits in cancer. The authors provide new perspectives on this crucial but understudied metabolic pathway in cancer. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Dr. Leonard Foster Receives 2022 Distinguished Service Award from Youth Science Canada

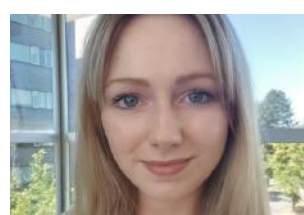
Life Sciences Institute



In Grade four, the future Dr. Leonard Foster *(pictured)* was testing Coleus cuttings in different water extracts to see which might be the best rooting compound. His parents, both teachers in the small interior community of McBride, BC, had a commercial greenhouse selling bedding plants as a side business, so propagation was a natural subject for his first outing at the school science fair. [Read More](#)

Master's Students Awarded CIHR Scholarships for 2022

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Congratulations to the current Graduate Program in Neuroscience students who have received awards through the Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master's program from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Sarah Erwin *(pictured)* is a Master's student in Dr. Mark Cembrowski's lab, whose research combines molecular, circuit, and behavioural techniques to study the precise cell-type logic of memory in the brain. [Read More](#)

Five UBC Science Instructors Awarded Killam Teaching Prizes

UBC Science



UBC Science is pleased to congratulate the recipients of the 2021/22 Killam Teaching Prize for their outstanding contributions in the classroom and their commitment to excellence in education. Dr. Michael Gordon *(pictured)* says, "My teaching philosophy is centred around the belief that my role is to set attainable goals, provide diverse resources to support different learning styles, establish an environment that supports mutual respect and trust, and make learning enjoyable." [Read More](#)

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Local News

Stopping an Invisible Killer in Its Tracks

Pathways Magazine



Ovarian cancer is a confounding disease. In the beginning stages it is readily treatable, but there are no effective early screening tests for the disease. "For too many women, diagnosis and treatment happen too late," says Dr. David Huntsman *(pictured)*, a UBC Professor of Pathology and Canada Research Chair in Molecular and Genomic Pathology. [Read More](#)

Hope, Accelerated

Pathways Magazine



Dr. Poul Sorensen's *(pictured)* breakthrough cancer research has saved countless lives. But he thinks we can cut the time from discovery to treatment by 50% — or more. In the late 1990s, Dr. Sorensen discovered an unusual genetic mutation that causes tumour cells to produce a cancer-causing enzyme. He and his team showed that, by manipulating certain biochemical pathways, the enzyme could, in theory, be switched off. [Read More](#)

Solving the Puzzle of Vulnerable Plaques in Heart Disease

Centre for Blood Research



Cardiovascular events like heart attack and stroke account for almost 20% of all deaths in Canada. Many of these events are caused by "vulnerable plaques" that have built up on blood vessel walls. To develop a better method to identify vulnerable plaque and at-risk patients, Dr. Ying Wang *(pictured)* and her team were recently funded by the New Frontiers in Research Fund to convert omics data into visible image pixels of plaques. [Read More](#)

How a Million Doses in a Single Test Tube Can Save the World

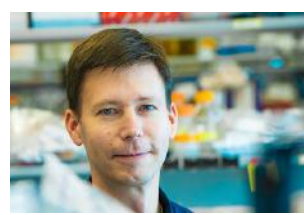
Pathways Magazine



When most people think about mRNA, they imagine the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna jab: the chill of the alcohol swab, the sting of the injection, the flood of relief that comes with knowing you are protected from the virus. When Dr. Anna Blakney *(pictured)* thinks about mRNA, her mind immediately travels to the post-COVID future. [Read More](#)

Stem Cells Help Type 1 Diabetes Patients Produce Insulin

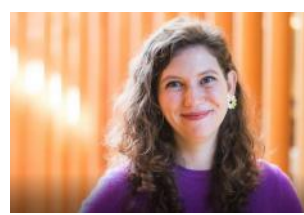
Pathways Magazine



A stem cell replacement treatment discovery — by researchers at UBC and Vancouver Coastal Health — offers new promise for patients with type 1 diabetes. "Seeing the results from the first clinical trials, we knew right away that it has the potential to eliminate the need for insulin injections altogether — and transform the management of type 1 diabetes once and for all," Dr. Tim Kieffer *(pictured)*, a UBC Professor of Cellular and Physiological Sciences, explains. [Read More](#)

We Love Talking About Science, and We're Not Alone

Research2Reality



For information to transfer from the minds of the researchers who understand it best to the people who need to hear it, communication skills are critical. Biomedical engineer Dr. Jenna Usprech *(pictured)*, instructor at the UBC School of Biomedical Engineering, is helping to build this skill into the educations of emerging researchers. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- April 22 12:00 PM **KT Connects – The '17 Year' Gap: Its Origin, Evolution, and Relevancy** Online
- April 22 1:00 PM **Exploring Careers in Industry** Praetzel Auditorium
- April 27 12:00 PM **How to Effectively Communicate Your Science to the General Public** Online
- April 30 10:00 AM **Soapbox Science Vancouver** Riley Park Farmer's Market
- May 2 6:30 PM **Research Horizons: What Now, What Next? An Evening with UBC's Newest University Killam Professors** Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre & Online

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STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

- Senior Program Associate, New Product Introduction** STEMCELL Technologies
- Research Associate** STEMCELL Technologies
- Project Manager, Research & Development** STEMCELL Technologies
- Scientist, Primary Cell Biology** STEMCELL Technologies
- Research Technologist (Part-Time Weekend)** STEMCELL Technologies

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Other Science Jobs in Vancouver

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- Bioinformatics Programmer** Emmes
- Scientist, In Vivo Biology/Pharmacology** Zymeworks
- Associate Research Scientist, Cell Enrichment & Flow Cytometry** AbCellera
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Cancer Biology – Target Discovery – Proteomics** UBC

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