

Publications of the Week

Pathogenic *BRCA1* Variants Disrupt PLK1-Regulation of Mitotic Spindle Orientation

First Author: Leo (Zhengcheng) He (pictured, left) | Senior Author: Christopher Maxwell (right) | Nature Communications | BC Children's Hospital, BC Cancer Research Institute, and UBC



Preneoplastic mammary tissues from human female *BRCA1* mutation carriers, or *Brca1*-mutant mice, display unexplained abnormalities in luminal differentiation. The authors show primary *BRCA1* mutant/+ cells exhibit defective *BRCA1* localization, high radiosensitivity, and an accelerated entry into cell division, but fail to orient their cell division axis. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Shared and Distinct Genetic Features in Human and Canine B Cell Lymphomas

First Author: Krysta Mila Coyle | Senior Author: Ryan Morin (pictured) | Blood Advances | SFU



Animal models of human cancers are an important tool for the development and preclinical evaluation of therapeutics. Canine B cell lymphoma is an appealing alternative to murine B cell lymphoma models due to its frequent, spontaneous incidence and clinical and histological similarities to some human mature B cell neoplasms. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

April 2022 Award Winners

Science in Vancouver



Dr. Kurt Haas (pictured), a Professor in the Department of Cellular and Physiological Sciences at UBC, received a Killam Teaching Prize. He has mentored and taught students at all levels, and created the Indigenous Community Outreach Project, which provides opportunities for Indigenous undergraduate students to participate in summer research internships. See which other Vancouver researchers received grants, awards, and scholarships in April. [Read More](#)

2022 NMN Undergraduate Studentships Awarded

NanoMedicines Innovation Network (NMN)



The NMN is pleased to announce the eight recipients of the 2022 NMN Undergraduate Studentships in NanoMedicines Research awards. The awardees, including Kodee Bao (pictured), will receive a stipend of \$1,500 a month for a maximum of four months between May 2022 and March 2023, to work on a nanomedicines-related research project under the supervision of an NMN investigator. [Read More](#)

An Open Data Initiative for Optimizing the Re-Use of Clinical Data to Improve Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Outcomes

Action on Sepsis Research Cluster



Congratulations to Dr. Mark Ansermino (pictured), Dr. Niranjana Kissoon, Dr. Matthew Wiens, Dr. Gina Ogilvie, Dr. Srinivas Murthy, Gurm Dhugga, Maggie Woo Kinshella, and Jessica Trawin! The team from the Pediatric Sepsis Data CoLaboratory, the Centre for International Child Health at BC Children's Hospital, and UBC has been awarded a Data Champions Pilot Project grant from the Digital Research Alliance of Canada. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Catching COVID-19 During Pregnancy Increases Risk of Hospitalization, Premature Birth: National Study

UBC News



As Canada faces a sixth wave of COVID-19 infections, researchers at the UBC Faculty of Medicine are urging people who are pregnant to remain vigilant based on data from Canada's first national, peer-reviewed study on COVID-19 in pregnancy. The findings show that pregnant people who catch COVID-19 are at greater risk of being hospitalized, being admitted to intensive care units, and experiencing an early birth. [Read More](#)

Not Enough Studies Are Looking at Sex Differences

Djavad Mowalaghan Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



Male and female bodies are very different, but new research from DMCBH member Dr. Liisa Galea's (pictured) lab found not many studies are taking these differences into account. The paper was recently published in *Nature Communications*. DMCBH spoke to lead authors Rebecca Rechlin, a research assistant in the Galea lab, and undergraduate student Tallinn Splinter to learn more about sex differences in the literature. [Read More](#)

Q&A with BC's Genomic Precision Health Initiative: Genome Sequencing BC

Genome BC



The Genome Canada-led All for One precision health partnership seeks to advance a new standard of health care for Canadians, expanding access to genome-wide sequencing for diagnosis and treatment of life-threatening genetic diseases. All for One is deployed across six implementation projects serving nine provinces, funded through Genome Canada's Genomic Applications Partnership Program. [Read More](#)

Mapping the Driver of Prostate Cancer

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Using cutting-edge genomic technologies, researchers have created the first functional map of sites within the genome that regulate androgen receptor activity — the primary driver of prostate cancer growth. Led by Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute researcher Dr. Nathan Lack (pictured) and published in the journal *Genome Biology*, the study opens the door to future explorations into this uncharted territory. [Read More](#)

Engineers at UBC Get Under the Skin of Ionic Skin

UBC News



In the quest to build smart skin that mimics the sensing capabilities of natural skin, ionic skins have shown significant advantages. "The obvious application is creating sensors that interact directly with cells and the nervous system, since the voltages, currents, and response times are like those across cell membranes," says Dr. John Madden (pictured). [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

May 10 1:00 PM	Clinical Trials at the Speed of COVID-19: Flexibility and Rapid Innovation UBC Robson Square & Online
May 11 4:00 PM	Life Sciences BC Showcase Series: Surrey Online
May 12 9:00 AM	Genome BC's Annual Genomics Forum Online
May 12 12:30 PM	How to Get Your Grant Application Noticed Online
May 20 11:00 AM	Cancer Nanomedicine: Using Gold Nanoparticles to Overcome Radiotherapy Challenges Online

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UBC
- Laboratory Operations Assistant**
AbCellera
- Production Assistant, Cell Biology**
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