Volume 6.19: May 23, 2022

Publications of the Week

Elevated Islet Prohormone Ratios As Indicators of Insulin Dependency in Auto-Islet Transplant Recipients

First Author: Yi-Chun Chen | Senior Author: C. Bruce Verchere *(pictured)*
American Journal of Transplantation | BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics, and UBC

Pancreatic islet transplantation has therapeutic potential in type 1 diabetes and is also an established therapy in chronic pancreatitis. However, the long-term transplant outcomes are modest. Identifying indicators of graft function will aid the preservation of transplanted islets and glycemic control. The authors analyzed beta cell prohormone peptide levels in a retrospective cohort of total pancreatectomy autologous islet transplant patients. **Abstract**

Paradoxical Roles of Caspase-3 in Regulating Cell Survival, Proliferation, and Tumourigenesis

First Author: Ebrahim Eskandari | Senior Author: Connie Eaves *(pictured)*
Journal of Cell Biology | Terry Fox Laboratory and UBC

Caspase-3 is a widely expressed member of a conserved family of proteins, generally recognized for their activated proteolytic roles in the execution of apoptosis in cells responding to specific extrinsic or intrinsic inducers of this mode of cell death. However, accumulating evidence indicates that caspase-3 also plays key roles in regulating the growth and homeostatic maintenance of both normal and malignant cells and tissues in multicellular organisms. **Abstract**

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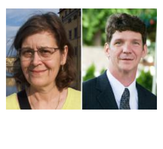
Awards

UBC Medicine Researchers Awarded 2022 Innovation and Translational Research Awards

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Six researchers from UBC Medicine have been awarded 2022 Innovation and Translational Research Awards from the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute. Dr. Piotr Kozlowski *(pictured)*, Associate Professor in the Department of Radiology and Department of Urologic Sciences, will develop a novel technique for prostate cancer detection and grading. **Read More**

Two LSI Researchers Funded by Cystic Fibrosis Canada in Competition Shaped by Patient Priorities

Life Sciences Institute (LSI)

Drs. Cara Haney *(pictured, left)* and Yossef Av-Gay *(right)* are among ten research project leads to receive funding from Cystic Fibrosis Canada in its latest round. Announced on May 10, more than $2.1M in grants aimed at addressing the priorities and improving the health outcomes of people impacted by cystic fibrosis were awarded through the 2021 Grants & Awards Competition. **Read More**

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Local News

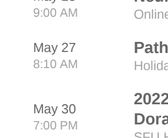
Flexsus Selects GenXys to Accelerate Precision Medicine Program

GenXys Health Care Systems

GenXys Health Care Systems, the global leader in precision prescribing software with embedded pharmacogenetic data, recently finalized another customer deal to advance precision medicine initiatives with Ohio-based Flexsus, the laboratory division of FlexHealth. Combined with GenXys' best-in-class precision prescribing platform, Flexsus can now perform pharmacogenomic testing and report results that identify medication that may be most efficacious for individuals based upon their genomic profile, with the goal of enhancing patient wellness. **Read More**

Genome Polishing: ntEdit+Sealer Produces High Quality Long-Read Genome Assemblies as a Genome Finishing Protocol

Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre



Having a high-quality assembled genome — free of errors and gaps — is important for countless biological studies. In comparison to short reads, long reads are better for sequencing highly repetitive DNA regions; however, long reads are also known for their relatively higher error rates. Dr. Inanç Birol's *(pictured)* lab addresses this shortcoming by developing ntEdit+Sealer, an alignment-free genome finishing protocol ideal for correcting genome assemblies generated from long read sequencing data. **Read More**

New UBC Immunotherapeutics Research Excellence Cluster Launches

Life Sciences Institute

Concerned by the translational lag between lab bench discovery and the production of drugs to treat patients, as well as the increasing evidence that immune and inflammatory cell behaviour and function contribute to all human disease and normal tissue repair, Drs. Kelly McNagny *(pictured, right)* and Pauline Johnson *(left)* have set out to shorten the way. The new Immunotherapeutics Cluster's goal is to develop a community focused on designing and developing the next generation of immunotherapeutics to promote health and prevent and treat disease. **Read More**

COVID-19: UBC Research Shows How Blood Tests Can Predict Patient Outcomes

Vancouver Sun

Researcher Dr. Kelly McNagny wasn't working in the field of new and dangerous viruses when the pandemic hit more than two years ago. His team at UBC's School of Biomedical Engineering was actually developing new blood-test technology to help doctors predict which children are likely to have issues with allergies. But when the coronavirus swept the globe and started filling up hospitals and intensive care units, "We realized that the same toolkit could be applied to COVID patients," Dr. McNagny said. **Read More**

This Innovation Hits a Nerve, But in a Good Way

Research2Reality

The next generation of prosthetic devices may incorporate materials that are smarter and more life-like than plastic and metal. An ionic skin might even be the key to letting users sense pressure. Soft and flexible like natural skin, engineer Dr. John Madden *(pictured)* is working on a biocompatible hydrogel that can send information about pressure in a way that could potentially communicate with the human nervous system. **Read More**

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

May 25
9:00 AM
Neuroscience and Neurotechnology Seminar Series
Online

May 27
8:10 AM
PathDay 2022
Holiday Inn, 711 W. Broadway

May 30
7:00 PM
2022 Varshney Visiting Scholar Public Lecture – Dr. Prabhakaran Dorairaj – the Right Diet and Lifestyle for a Healthy Heart
SFU Harbour Centre

May 31
9:00 AM
What Has Gone Wrong with Publication Practices?
Online

June 7
9:00 AM
SBME Annual Symposium
Life Sciences Centre

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