

Publications of the Week

Inhaled Corticosteroids Selectively Alter the Microbiome and Host Transcriptome in the Small Airways of Patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

First Authors: William Yip and Xuan Li | Senior Author: Don Sin (pictured)  
Biomedicines | Centre for Heart Lung Innovation, St. Paul's Hospital, SFU, BC Cancer, and UBC



Patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are commonly treated with inhaled corticosteroid/long-acting β2-agonist combination therapy. While previous studies have investigated the host-microbiome interactions in COPD, the effects of specific steroid formulations on this complex cross-talk remain obscure. The authors collected and evaluated data from 'the Study to Investigate the Differential Effects of Inhaled Symbicort and Advair on Lung Microbiota', a randomized controlled trial. [Abstract](#)

Recent Structural Advances Towards Understanding of the Bacterial Type III Secretion Injectisome

First Author: Joshua Jenkins | Senior Author: Natalie Strynadka (pictured)  
Trends in Biochemical Sciences | Centre for Blood Research and UBC



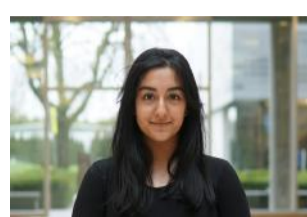
The resolution revolution in cryoelectron microscopy has enabled the determination of the molecular structure for many injectisome components, including the core dual membrane-spanning needle complex and key proteins in the cytoplasm. The structural insights generated from these analyses have provided milestone insights as to how the injectisome assembles and functions. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

May 2022 Award Winners

Science in Vancouver



Parmeet Sekhon (pictured), an undergraduate researcher in Dr. Ken Harder's lab at UBC, received a NanoMedicines Innovation Network Undergraduate Studentship award. Her project aims to explore the chemistry of lipid nanoparticle-mediated co-delivery of Cas9 mRNA and single-guide RNA. See which other Vancouver researchers received grants, awards, scholarships, and fellowships in May. [Read More](#)

UBC Medical Community Recognized by Medical Alumni Association

UBC Faculty of Medicine



The UBC Medical Alumni Association has celebrated the achievements of several members of the UBC medical community. Through their varied contributions, this year's award recipients have helped build a more dynamic and robust community through their service and actions. Suzanne Starkiewicz (pictured) received a Student Leadership Award and has shown commitment to cultivating a cohesive professional community. [Read More](#)

Three Faculty of Medicine Members Awarded 2022 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Three members of the UBC Medicine community — Dr. Andrea MacNeill, Cheyenne Johnson, and Dr. Elizabeth Bryce (pictured) — were recipients of the 2022 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards. Dr. Bryce co-founded the BC Provincial Infection Control Network and played a major role in developing infection prevention guidelines, performing surveillance on multi-resistant organisms, developing educational programs, and providing expertise for emerging infectious events. [Read More](#)

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Local News

The Next Generation of mRNA Vaccines Is Coming

Research2Realty



The COVID-19 pandemic ushered in a new type of vaccine that had never been approved before: messenger RNA — or mRNA for short — was the technology behind both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Dr. Anna Blakney (pictured), Associate Professor at the UBC School of Biomedical Engineering, is looking for ways to make mRNA technology even better. [Read More](#)

Dr. Federica Di Palma: Pandemic Proved Tremendous Benefit of Sharing Health Data in Real Time

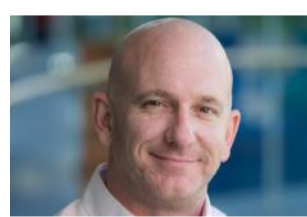
The Vancouver Sun



Health agencies faced the COVID-19 pandemic with an unprecedented openness to data sharing and were able to analyze the trajectory of the coronavirus and its rapidly evolving variants with speed and precision, writes Dr. Federica Di Palma (pictured), Genome BC's Chief Scientific Officer. The opportunity of accelerated data sharing is particularly notable in genomics. [Read More](#)

A Lift Up for Spinal Cord Injury Care

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



At the age of 16, John Chernesky (pictured) lost the use of his legs following a car crash that damaged his cervical spine, and is now an active participant in research and the Consumer Engagement Program Manager with Praxis Spinal Cord Institute. A clinical trial Chernesky participated in involved applying a novel non-invasive electrical spinal cord stimulation to his and other participants' cervical spines. [Read More](#)

Looking at the Genomic Features of Lung-Recurrent, Hormone-Sensitive Prostate Cancer

Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre



A small percentage of hormone-sensitive prostate cancer patients develop metastases in the lung after localized treatment. Why this phenomenon occurs is currently unclear, though the answer may lie in a patient's genome. Researchers from Dr. Alexander Wyatt's (pictured) lab conducted a detailed genomic characterization of this poorly studied clinical phenotype by assessing both primary and metastatic patient samples, a unique feature of their study. [Read More](#)

A Globetrotting PhD like No Other

UBC Vice-Provost International



Dr. Emmanuel Twumasi Osei (pictured) will tell you he is extremely proud to be an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology UBC Okanagan and Associate Member at the UBC – St Paul's Centre for Heart Lung Innovation. Just a few years back, that eventually seemed all but unattainable. It was the UBC joint PhD program that was the catalyst – essentially partnership arrangements with other universities around the world designed to share doctoral candidates, and the costs, as they work towards earning their PhD. [Read More](#)

Science Writing Behind the Scenes: An Interview with the Winner of the Canadian Blood Services Lay Writing Competition

Science Borealis



The winner of the Canadian Blood Services lay writing competition, Alexandra Witt (pictured), is a graduate student at UBC. In her article, titled "What does it take to make a lifesaving drug?" she wrote about her work developing a new drug that helps break down blood clots. Her entry describes the steps she takes testing proteins and the questions she asks herself throughout the process. [Read More](#)

UBC Entrepreneurs Join Fight Against Plastic Pollution

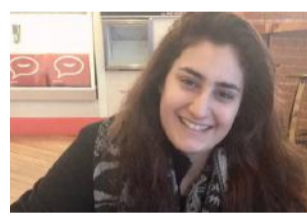
UBC News



The end of plastic pollution could be within reach with two UBC ventures working hard on solutions that could make this vision a reality. A2O Advanced Materials promotes sustainability through a new class of materials that make products that work longer and more efficiently. "These unique materials possess a plethora of remarkable properties such as reversibility, flexibility, self-healing, adhesion, biocompatibility, thermal stability, anticorrosion, and antimicrobial activity all at once," notes Co-Founder Dr. Savvas Hatzikiakos (pictured). [Read More](#)

From UBC Graduate Student to Published Book Co-Editor: A Conversation with Ariana Saatchi

UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences



As a PhD candidate at UBC Pharmaceutical Sciences, Ariana Saatchi (pictured) was in a unique position at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic. With her background and experience in infectious diseases and epidemiology, Saatchi describes feeling "on the cusp of capable but unable to tangibly contribute" to the COVID-19 frontline efforts. That all changed when she was approached to co-edit a new book together with Dr. David Patrick, Professor at the UBC School of Population and Public Health. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

June 7 9:00 AM	<b>SBME Annual Symposium</b> Life Sciences Centre & Online
June 7 4:00 PM	<b>What's New in Spinal Cord Repair?</b> Online
June 8 9:00 AM	<b>SBME Research Day</b> Life Sciences Centre & Online
June 8 12:00 PM	<b>Methods &amp; Approaches to Improving Health Equity Through Digital Innovation</b> Online
June 10 11:00 AM	<b>The 18<sup>th</sup> D. Harold Copp Lecture</b> Online

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[biolytical Laboratories](#)

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