

Publications of the Week

Elucidating the Importance and Regulation of Key Enhancers for Human *MEIS1* Expression

First Authors: Ping Xiang, Xining Yang, and Leo Escano | Senior Author: Arefeh Rouhi (pictured)
Leukemia | BC Cancer Research Centre and UBC



Myeloid ecotropic virus insertion site 1 (MEIS1) is essential for normal hematopoiesis and is a critical factor in the pathogenesis of a large subset of acute myeloid leukemia (AML). To understand the transcriptional regulatory mechanisms contributing to human *MEIS1* expression, the authors created a knock-in green fluorescent protein reporter system at the endogenous *MEIS1* locus in a human AML cell line. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Protein Hydrogels with Reversibly Patterned Multidimensional Fluorescent Images for Information Storage

First Author: Tianyu Duan | Senior Author: Hongbin Li (pictured)
Biomacromolecules | UBC



Fluorescent polymeric hydrogels are promising soft and wet media for information storage that are desirable for lifelike biomaterials and flexible electronics. The authors report a protein-based hydrogel that can serve as an information storage medium. They developed a novel strategy to decorate/release fluorescent proteins onto/from a blank protein hydrogel slate in light-controlled and spatially defined fashions, reversibly generating fluorescent patterns such as quick response codes. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

June 2022 Award Winners

Science in Vancouver



Dr. Mani Larijani (pictured), Professor and Shrum Chair in Biological Mechanisms of Disease at SFU, received a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Discovery Grant to study the evolutionary trajectories of DNA/RNA-editing enzymes involved in adaptive and innate immunity. See which other Vancouver researchers received grants, awards, fellowships, and scholarships in June. [Read More](#)

Dr. Lisa Osborne Wins Funding for Two Projects From Scialog's Microbiome, Neurobiology and Disease Competition

Life Sciences Institute



Dr. Lisa Osborne (pictured), an Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, is a member of two winning interdisciplinary teams awarded funding in year two of Scialog: Microbiome, Neurobiology, and Disease. The initiative, sponsored by Research Corporation for Science Advancement, the Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group, and the Frederick Gardner Cottrell Foundation, with support from Walder Foundation, aims to catalyze advances in the understanding of the gut-brain axis. [Read More](#)

Dr. Pieter Cullis to Receive Life Sciences BC's 2024 Global Impact Award

Life Sciences Institute (LSI)



Life Sciences BC has announced the 24th Annual Life Sciences BC Awards, presented by Farris, naming former LSI Director Dr. Pieter Cullis (pictured) as the recipient of the Global Impact Award. Life Sciences BC awards recognize the achievements of individuals, companies, and organizations that have had success in advancing successful health innovations and contribute to BC's life sciences ecosystem. [Read More](#)

Interdisciplinary Teams Awarded Funding for Innovative Health Research

UBC Health



Health Innovation Funding Investment awards enable interdisciplinary groups of health researchers to undertake innovative activities that have the potential to create change. Dr. Robert Rohling (pictured) is part of a team that received funding to develop quantitative ultrasound imaging for organ inflammation and fibrosis. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Constructing Novel Next-Generation Physical Maps Using Physlr

Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre (GSC)



Current sequencing methods generate information (or "reads") that cover small pieces of non-continuous DNA. To gather information about whole genomes, overlapping reads need to be identified and merged (or "assembled") in order to create a genome assembly. Amirhossein Afshinfard (pictured) and a team at the GSC developed a new tool that makes use of linked-read sequencing data to create next-generation physical maps with fewer gaps that will facilitate a wide range of applications, such as scaffolding of draft assemblies. [Read More](#)

MSL Welcomes New Leadership Team: Drs. Martin Hirst, Freda Miller, and David Ng

Michael Smith Laboratories



The Michael Smith Laboratories (MSL) is pleased to welcome its new leadership team which includes Director Dr. Martin Hirst (pictured, left), Deputy Director Dr. Freda Miller (center), and Associate Director Dr. David Ng (right). This experienced team includes a mixture of longstanding and newer members to the MSL, all seasoned experts in their own fields. [Read More](#)

Conversations That Matter: Knowing Your Genome

Vancouver Sun



Here in Vancouver, Genome BC has been leading the way in the expansion of knowledge and specific beneficial advances in science and technology. COVID-19 research was one such benefactor. Dr. Pascal Spotheller (pictured) joined a Conversation That Matters about the role Genome BC is playing in our lives and in the expansion of scientific research and biomedical technology. [Read More](#)

Combining Genetics and Brain MRI Can Aid in Predicting Chances of Alzheimer's Disease

SFU News



In a newly published study, researchers from Dr. Mirza Faisal Beg's (pictured) group at SFU's Functional and Anatomical Imaging and Shape Analysis Lab identified distinct properties of brain MRIs and genetics that impact the prediction of Dementia of Alzheimer's Type (DAT) for patients at various stages of the disease, then developed a biomarker that can help predict future conversion to DAT. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

July 20 12:00 PM	BC Brain Wellness Program Presents World Brain Day: Brain Health for All Online
August 16 9:00 AM	SBME Synergy Research Day Life Sciences Centre
August 16 12:00 PM	CBR Research Day 2022 Life Sciences Centre
September 15-18 8:30 AM	ISCoS Annual Scientific Meeting Vancouver Convention Centre
September 22-23 7:30 AM	Skunkworks: Hacking Wounds Holiday Inn & Suites Vancouver Downtown

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STEMCELL Technologies

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