

Publications of the Week

Combination Treatment of Mannose and GalNAc Conjugated Small Interfering RNA Protects Against Lethal Marburg Virus Infection

First Authors: Xin Ye and Richard Holland | Senior Author: James Heyes (pictured)
Molecular Therapy | Genevieve Sciences



Marburg virus (MARV) infection results in severe viral hemorrhagic fever with mortalities up to 90%, and there is a pressing need for effective therapies. The authors established a small interfering RNA (siRNA) conjugate platform that enabled successful subcutaneous delivery of siRNAs targeting the MARV nucleoprotein. They identified a hexavalent mannose ligand with high affinity to macrophages and dendritic cells, which are key cellular targets of MARV infection.

[Abstract](#)

Correlation of SARS-CoV-2 Viral Neutralizing Antibody Titers with Anti-Spike Antibodies and ACE-2 Inhibition among Vaccinated Individuals

First Author: Brian Cronas | Senior Author: David Goldfarb (pictured)
Microbiology Spectrum | Centre for Health Evaluation & Outcome Sciences, St. Paul's Hospital, BC Emergency Health Services, BC Centre for Disease Control, and UBC



SARS-CoV-2 anti-spike antibody concentrations and angiotensin converting enzyme-2 (ACE-2) inhibition have been used as surrogates to live viral neutralizing antibody titers; however, validity among vaccinated individuals is unclear. The authors tested the correlation of these measures among vaccinated participants, and examined subgroups based on duration since vaccination and vaccine dosing intervals. [Abstract](#)

[View All Publications](#)

Awards

Dr. Michael Kobor Awarded the 2022 Geoffrey L. Hammond Lectureship

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



Dr. Michael Kobor (pictured) has been awarded the 2022 Geoffrey L. Hammond Lectureship. The former and inaugural Director of the Healthy Starts Research Theme at BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, Senior Scientist at the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics, and Professor at UBC was nominated for his pioneering research, visionary leadership, and dedication to mentorship.

[Read More](#)

Faculty of Medicine Researchers Awarded Funding from BC Knowledge Development Fund

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Faculty of Medicine researchers are among the UBC awardees of BC Knowledge Development Fund funding. Dr. Ali Bashashati (pictured) in the School of Biomedical Engineering and Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine was awarded funding for his project on an artificial intelligence-driven platform for translating precision medicine discoveries in women's cancers. [Read More](#)

DMCBH Members Receive Provincial Funding to Support Research Infrastructure and Innovation

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



The BC Knowledge Development Fund has announced funding to support research infrastructure and innovation at post-secondary institutions. Overall, UBC researchers have been awarded over \$20 million for 78 research projects. Dr. Duncan Leitch's (pictured) project will explore sensory system adaptations through electroreception. [Read More](#)

CFI Grants John R. Evans Leaders Fund to SBME Professors

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering (SBME)



The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) is set to invest over \$64 million in research infrastructure funding towards universities across the country to spark discoveries that will drive our world forward. Dr. Iker Hochhalloglu's (pictured) research is aimed at developing innovative machine learning methods for processing various medical image data. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Not Just a Risk: Understanding Cancer Genes Can Reveal How Early Tumours Form

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



Mutations in the Breast Cancer 1 (BRCA1) gene or Breast Cancer 2 (BRCA2) gene are well-known to substantially increase a woman's risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer. Dr. Christopher Maxwell (pictured) and his team seek to understand how the BRCA1 protein functions within the cell, believing that an increased understanding of its biological roles will yield new insights into how to detect or treat hereditary cancers associated with BRCA1 mutations. [Read More](#)

NMIN Board of Directors Names Dr. Gilbert Walker Scientific Director and CEO

NanoMedicines Innovation Network



The Board of Directors of the NanoMedicines Innovation Network (NMIN), a national Networks of Centres of Excellence funded by the Government of Canada, has appointed Dr. Gilbert Walker (pictured) Scientific Director and CEO. Dr. Walker has been involved in NMIN since its initial planning stage and has been an NMIN Principal Investigator, Co-Leader of the Network's Diagnostics research theme, and NMIN's Associate Scientific Director since the Network's founding. [Read More](#)

Unlocking the Mysteries of Concussion and the Brain

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



New UBC research could make diagnosis, treatment and prevention more effective for everyone — especially women. "The location and force of the impact, the patient's sex, age, history of head injury, and their individual physiology all contribute to how the brain responds to trauma," says Dr. Naznin Virji-Babul (pictured), a UBC Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and the Director of the Action-Perception Lab at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health. [Read More](#)

National Postdoc Appreciation Week: Dr. Grace Cole Seeks to Understand the Processes Behind Blood Cell Formation

Centre for Blood Research



Dr. Grace Cole (pictured) is investigating the process of blood cell formation. In doing so, they hope to discover a method to produce blood cells in the lab for patients that need them. Blood cells are formed in the arteries during embryonic development, through a process called endothelial to hematopoietic transition. Researching this process can help scientists understand how to produce blood cells in the lab setting, which could help them generate new blood cells for patients. [Read More](#)

National Postdoc Appreciation Week: Dr. Kerry Mathews Is Studying Single Cells to Improve Patient Lives

Centre for Blood Research



Outside of the lab, Dr. Kerry Mathews (pictured) is a huge hockey fan; inside the lab, she focuses on analyzing single cells using biology, imaging and machine learning tools. Her lab is developing technologies to analyze and sort single cells for different applications. In one of their diabetes projects, they're looking at single cell secretion to understand which cells produce higher levels of insulin compared to others. [Read More](#)

UBC Prof Co-Leads Study That Suggests Long-COVID Is an Autoimmune Disease

Vancouver Sun



Researchers, including a Professor of Medicine at UBC, have discovered long COVID patients can show signs of autoimmune disease a year after catching COVID-19. "The point of this paper, or the interesting thing about this paper, is that, in the COVID survivors we studied, the number of these autoantibodies is higher than those in people who were not so affected," Dr. Chris Carlsten (pictured) said. [Read More](#)

National Postdoc Appreciation Week: Dr. Kalyan Golla Is Uncovering the Secrets Behind Platelet Activation

Centre for Blood Research



In the Kim Lab, Dr. Kalyan Golla (pictured) is uncovering the secrets behind platelet activation. He aims to develop therapeutics that can prevent platelets from forming deadly blood clots, while still preserving their role to stop bleeding from natural injuries. Platelets are sticky and anucleated cells circulating in the blood. They initiate the process of blood clotting under both physiological hemostasis and pathological thrombosis. [Read More](#)

National Postdoc Appreciation Week: Dr. Shoeb Moradi Is a Protein Chemist Driven by a Love of Discovery

Centre for Blood Research



An avid movie enthusiast, Dr. Shoeb Moradi (pictured) is studying the bacterial protein secretion apparatus, the type-III secretion system (T3SS) of pathogenic bacteria at the atomic level. By structural elucidation of proteins that contribute to the formation of T3SS, he hopes to fully understand how bacterial virulence proteins are released into the cytoplasm of human host cells in order to help prevent intestinal diseases. [Read More](#)

SOLVE FSHD Invests US\$3 Million in Altay Therapeutics

GlobeNewsWire



SOLVE FSHD, a venture-philanthropy organization catalyzing the pace of innovation to accelerate a cure for facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD), has announced an investment of US\$3 million in Altay Therapeutics, a company focused on developing lifesaving therapies by targeting disease-causing transcription factors. This investment will support Altay Therapeutics' unique approach to finding an inhibitor of DUX4, a key transcription factor implicated in FSHD, that could provide an effective disease-modifying treatment. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

How to Grow Canada's Biotech Sector

TheFutureEconomy.ca



Canada must invest adequately in the commercialization and talent development for the biotech sector or we may lose our best and brightest to other countries. The right policies for data collection, the commercialization of new drugs, and taxes will help make Canada's hosting conditions ideal for biotech companies. Canada needs more entrepreneurs in the biotech sector to not only innovate but also inspire and train the next generation of talent. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- October 5 11:00 AM **Beyond Safety and Efficacy: Why Successful Commercialization Does Not Depend Only on Clinical Trials Data**
Online
- October 6 4:30 PM **From R&D to Commercialization: IP Essentials for Life Sciences Companies Presented by Gowling WLG**
Rosewood Georgia Hotel
- October 6 6:00 PM **UBC-BCIT Biotechnology Program Alumni Reunion**
Life Sciences Institute
- October 11 7:30 PM **Science Slam YVR**
Fox Cabaret
- October 25 4:00 PM **The Future of Regenerative Medicine**
Pan Pacific Hotel

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UBC

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