

Publications of the Week

Channel-Independent Function of UNC-9/Innexin in Spatial Arrangement of GABAergic Synapses in *C. elegans*

First Author: Arsalan Hendi (pictured, back row, third from left) | Senior Author: Kota Mizumoto (back row, second from left) eLife | Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health and UBC



Precise synaptic connection of neurons with their targets is essential for the proper functioning of the nervous system. The authors show a novel role for a gap junction protein in controlling tiled synaptic arrangement in the GABAergic motor neurons in *C. elegans*, in which their axons and synapses overlap minimally with their neighboring neurons within the same class. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

RAD18 Opposes Transcription-Associated Genome Instability Through FANCD2 Recruitment

First Author: James Wells | Senior Author: Peter Stirling (pictured) PLOS Genetics | Terry Fox Laboratory and UBC



DNA replication is a vulnerable time for genome stability maintenance. Intrinsic stressors, as well as oncogenic stress, can challenge replication by fostering conflicts with transcription and stabilizing DNA-RNA hybrids. The authors show that RAD18 deficient cells have higher levels of transcription-replication conflicts and accumulate DNA-RNA hybrids that induce DNA double strand breaks and replication stress. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Dr. Vesna Sossi Named IEEE Fellow Recognizing Her Work in Brain PET Imaging

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Congratulations to Dr. Vesna Sossi (pictured) on the prestigious honour of being named an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Fellow! She is one of the first two women ever from the Nuclear Medical and Imaging Sciences Council community to be elevated to IEEE Fellow. She was awarded Fellow status "for contributions to quantitative and translational brain PET imaging." [Read More](#)

BCCF Innovation Support Fund Awardees

Terry Fox Laboratory



The BC Cancer Foundation (BCCF), in partnership with BC Cancer, established the Innovation Support Fund competition in 2010 to enable the acquisition of equipment essential to conducting research. The Innovation Support Awardees are Drs. Ly Yu (pictured), Christian Steidl, and Pamela Hoodless. Drs. Ly and Steidl are acquiring an imaging system and Dr. Hoodless is acquiring a cell imaging microscope. [Read More](#)

Kwangjin Park Awarded Michael Smith Health Research BC 2022 Research Trainee Award

Terry Fox Laboratory



Dr. Kwangjin Park (pictured) from the Hoodless lab has been awarded the Michael Smith Health Research BC 2022 Research Trainee Award for the project titled, "Roles of the Lysine Methyl Transferase 2d in Hepatocyte Identity and Hepatocellular Carcinoma Progression." Michael Smith Health Research BC's Research Trainee Program supports health researchers in the training phase of their research career to enable career development and enrich BC's health research talent. [Read More](#)

CBR Scientists Recognized for Impact on Advancing Organ Transplantation Research, Receive Two Community Awards

The Centre for Blood Research (CBR)



Dr. Jayachandran Kizhakkedathu, Dr. Erika Siren (pictured, left) and Daniel Luo (right) received the Logan Boulet Humanitarian Award 2021, while the Organ Transplant Innovation and Research Team Award 2021 was presented to the CBR and accepted by Dr. Kizhakkedathu. Award representative Rodney Staff presented both honours, on behalf of the Dawne Switensky Memorial Foundation, a Saskatchewan-based group that supports respectful organ donations. [Read More](#)

Faculty of Medicine Learners Receive 2022 Vanier Scholarships

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Faculty of Medicine doctoral students are among the UBC awardees of Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS). The Vanier CGS program awards up to \$50,000 per year for three years, for students working in social sciences and humanities, natural sciences, engineering, and health. Madeline Lauener (pictured) received funding for her project on optimizing and characterizing expanded CD56bright regulatory natural killer cells for the therapy of chronic graft-versus-host disease. [Read More](#)

Dr. Stephen Choi Is One of the Eight 2022 Mitacs Award Winners

Vancouver Prostate Centre



Congratulations to Dr. Stephen Choi (pictured), a postdoctoral cancer researcher in the Urologic Sciences Department at UBC, who is earning the Mitacs Award for Outstanding Innovation — Postdoctoral for his work to develop a groundbreaking treatment for prostate cancers. Turning conventional wisdom on its head, Dr. Choi discovered that suppressing lactic acid, a byproduct generated by cancer cells, can prevent cancer from spreading. His work is now being used to develop an innovative, low-cost drug therapy. [Read More](#)

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Local News

CBR Graduate Profile: Melina Messing

The Centre for Blood Research (CBR)



As a member of the McNagny lab, Dr. Melina Messing (pictured) pursued a PhD in experimental medicine with a focus on immunology. Her focus was the study of immune responses in various conditions including muscular dystrophy, allergic disease, and COVID-19. The latter was an impromptu project in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and led her to discover human immune biomarkers that are predictive of COVID-19 clinical outcomes. [Read More](#)

Closing the Gap Between Possibility and Reality

Research2Reality



Spinal cord injury is a condition that has no cure. But a group of investigators from across Canada and around the world is working together to change that. They call themselves Mend the Gap, and their work combines advances in drug delivery, tissue engineering, and image-guided surgery to try to find ways to help the injured spinal cord to regenerate. "Spinal cord injury is a really significant problem that we're excited to tackle because of its impact on society," says Dr. Peter Zandstra (pictured). [Read More](#)

From COVID-19 to the Common Cold: UBC Scientists Identify Broadly-Effective, Infection-Halting Compound

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Researchers at UBC's Life Sciences Institute have identified a compound that shows early promise at halting infections from a range of coronaviruses, including all variants of SARS-CoV-2 and the common cold. "Beyond COVID-19, there are many different types of coronaviruses that can cause serious and sometimes fatal disease, and even more are likely to emerge in the future," says Dr. Yossef Av-Gay (pictured). [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

January 20 8:30 AM	Life Sciences BC Career Connect Day Marriott Pinnacle Hotel
February 2 8:30 AM	Precision Health Symposium AMS Student News
February 2 11:30 AM	Women in Life Science – Panel Discussion 2023 Element Metrotown Hotel
February 7 10:00 AM	Academic-Industry Partnerships Roundtable Online
March 9 3:00 PM	Global Health Access & Equity Issues in LMICs and HICs: Compare & Contrast UBC

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AbCellera
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- Customer Service Associate I**
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Webinar: SARS-CoV-2 Viral Load, Disease Severity, and Transmission [WATCH NOW](#)

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