

Publications of the Week

**In Silico Discovery of Small Molecules for Efficient Stem Cell Differentiation into Definitive Endoderm**

First Authors: Gherman Novakovskiy and Shugo Sasaki | Senior Author: Wyeth Wasserman *(pictured)*  
Stem Cell Reports | BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, Michael Smith Laboratories, Vancouver Prostate Centre, and UBC



Improving methods for human embryonic stem cell differentiation represents a challenge in modern regenerative medicine research. Using drug repurposing approaches, the authors discover small molecules that regulate the formation of definitive endoderm. Among them are inhibitors of known processes involved in endoderm differentiation and a new compound, with an unknown mechanism of action, capable of inducing endoderm formation in the absence of growth factors in the media. [Abstract](#)

**Clinical Application of Immune Repertoire Sequencing in Solid Organ Transplant**

First Authors: Paaksum Wong and David Cina | Senior Author: Paul Keown *(pictured)*  
Frontiers in Immunology | UBC



Measurement of T cell receptor or B cell receptor gene utilization may be valuable in monitoring the dynamic changes in donor-reactive clonal populations following transplantation and enabling adjustment in therapy to avoid the consequences of excess immune suppression or to prevent rejection with contingent graft damage and to indicate the development of tolerance. The authors examined research in immune repertoire sequencing in organ transplantation. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

**February 2023 Award Winners**

Science in Vancouver



Drs. Mirza Faisal Beg *(pictured)* and Karteek Popuri at SFU received a Canadian Institutes of Health Research grant to use artificial intelligence to extract body composition measurements from computerized tomography images for research and for integration into clinical workflows for precision medicine. See which other Vancouver researchers received grants, awards, fellowships, and scholarships in February. [Read More](#)

**DMCBH Researcher Receives International Behavioural and Neural Genetics Society Award**

Djavad Mowafagian Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



Congratulations to Dr. Catharine Rankin *(pictured)* on receiving the International Behavioural and Neural Genetics Society's 2023 Distinguished Investigator Award! The award not only recognizes the important scientific contributions of a leading researcher in the field of behavioural and neural genetics, but also their mentorship of trainees and continued impact on the field. [Read More](#)

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Local News

**At Last — Developing Potential Cures for Genetic Neurodevelopmental Disorders**

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



Dr. Blair Leavitt *(pictured)* and his team at BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics are developing new treatments for children with genetic neurodevelopmental disorders. "Fifteen years ago, any one of these goals would have been near impossible," says Dr. Leavitt. "But with today's technological advances we feel that actual cures for these children are within reach." [Read More](#)

**New Cells Crucial for Fingertip (Digit Tip) Regeneration Identified by Miller Lab Researchers**

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI)



In honour of International Women's Day, four VCHRI researchers share their experiences and offer advice for the next generation of women in science. The VCHRI is hosting an online event with female scientists who are making waves in the research community: Dr. Mehwish Anwer *(pictured)*, Katlyn Richardson, Dr. Lyndia Wu, and Dr. Amina Zoubeldi. [Read More](#)

**Postdoc Spotlight: Dr. Francis Mwimanzi**

CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network (CTN)



Dr. Francis Mwimanzi *(pictured)* started his CTN Mark Wainberg Postdoctoral Fellowship in the summer of 2022. A biomedical scientist who specializes in virology and immunology, Dr. Mwimanzi has embarked on a project to improve our understanding of the immune response to COVID-19 vaccines among people living with HIV. But how did he get to where he is today? [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

**Government of Canada Establishes New Research Hubs to Accelerate Canada's Vaccine and Therapeutics Production**

Government of Canada



The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, and the Honourable Jean-Yves Ducloux, Minister of Health, have announced an investment of \$10 million in support of the creation of five research hubs, including Canada's Immuno-Engineering and Biomanufacturing Hub, led by UBC. This investment will bolster research and talent development efforts led by the institutions, working in collaboration with their partners. [Read More](#)

**Spotlight on the Future of Indigenous Genomics Innovation**

TheFutureEconomy.ca



How will we fight climate change? What are our plans to deal with rare diseases and future pandemics? What can we do to future-proof our food systems? Thankfully, genomics offers us a host of solutions. Leading the way in the field of genomics are Indigenous leaders who are playing an important role in strengthening the solutions coming out of this field, despite having long been marginalized from research. [Read More](#)

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**Upcoming Events in Vancouver**

- March 8 12:00 PM **Celebrating Women in Science** Online
- March 9 3:00 PM **Global Health Access & Equity Issues in LMICs and HICs: Compare & Contrast** UBC
- March 16 7:00 PM **Spring Break Science Slam** Fox Cabaret
- March 28 9:00 AM **BIG Research Day** Life Sciences Institute
- March 28 5:00 PM **Implementing & Maintaining Women's Employee Resource Groups** SFU VentureLabs

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**STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver**

- Scientific Recruiter** STEMCELL Technologies
- Manager, Marketing Leads** STEMCELL Technologies
- Project Manager, Operations** STEMCELL Technologies
- Scientist** STEMCELL Technologies
- Scientific Marketing Manager** STEMCELL Technologies

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**Other Science Jobs in Vancouver**

- Research Technician** UBC
- Laboratory Operations Assistant** AbCellera
- Postdoctoral Fellow, Bioinformatics** Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre
- Technical Operations Manager** BioLytical Laboratories
- Senior Scientist, Formulation** Acuitas Therapeutics

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