

**Publications of the Week**

### Control of Focal Adhesion Kinase Activation by RUNX1-Regulated miRNAs in High-Risk AML

First Author: Vijay Suresh Akhade (*pictured, back row, far right*) | Senior Author: Aly Karsan (*back row, centre*)  
 Leukemia | Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre and UBC



Examination of paired RNA-seq and microRNA-seq data from 301 acute myeloid leukemia (AML) cases revealed two microRNAs that positively correlated with *RUNX1* expression, contained *RUNX1*-binding sites in their promoters and were predicted to target *PTK2*. The authors show that the *hsa-let7a-2-3p* and *hsa-miR-135a-5p* promoters are regulated by *RUNX1*, and that *PTK2* is a direct target of both miRNAs [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

### Circulating Tumour DNA: Toward Evolving the Clinical Paradigm of Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma

First Author: James Topham | Senior Authors: David Renouf and David Schaeffer (*pictured*)  
 Therapeutic Advances in Medical Oncology | Pancreas Centre BC, BC Cancer, Vancouver General Hospital, and UBC

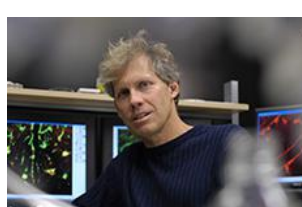


Over a decade of sequencing-based genomics research has unveiled a diverse somatic mutation landscape across patients with pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC), and the identification of druggable mutations has aligned with the development of novel targeted therapeutics. This review provides a clinically focused summary of circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA) advances, limitations, and opportunities in PDAC, and postulates ctDNA sequencing technology as a catalyst for evolving the clinical decision-making paradigm of this disease. [Abstract](#)

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**Awards**

### DMCBH Members Leading Four UBC Research Excellence Clusters in 2023-24

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



UBC's Office of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation has announced a total of 38 emerging and established Research Excellence Clusters that will be supported with funding in 2023/24. The Dynamic Brain Circuits in Health and Disease cluster seeks mechanistic insight into normal and dysfunctional brain circuits across nervous system illnesses and injuries and is led by Dr. Tim Murphy (*pictured*). [Read More](#)

### CIHR Awards SFU Science Researchers \$2M in New Funding

SFU Faculty of Science



SFU Faculty of Science researchers have been awarded \$2M from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) through the recent Project Grant competition. The Project Grant program funds research in all areas of health with the greatest potential to generate new fundamental or applied knowledge to advance health care, health systems, and/or health outcomes. Dr. Glen Tibbits (*pictured*) received \$1.08M to study how thin filament variants induce hypertrophy cardiomyopathy, a congenital heart disease. [Read More](#)

### CIFAR Researcher Carolina Tropini Is Appointed Alan Bernstein Fellow

Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR)



Dr. Carolina Tropini (*pictured*), a member of CIFAR's Humans & the Microbiome program, has been named the inaugural Alan Bernstein Fellow in honour of CIFAR's President Emeritus. With this appointment, CIFAR celebrates Bernstein's decade of leadership and his long-standing commitment to fostering the next generation of early career researchers. Close to 100 members of the CIFAR community supported the initiative, raising \$1 million. [Read More](#)

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**Local News**

### BC Children's Hospital Leads International Quest for Answers to Severe Allergies

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



Patient 10, as they are known in a study that was just published in the *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, had medical conditions including severe food and drug allergies, asthma, and eczema, and stumped experts across several specialties. About a decade ago, Patient 10 first came to the attention of Dr. Stuart Turvey (*pictured*), a BC Children's Hospital pediatric immunologist and researcher. [Read More](#)

### Trainee Profile: Shalini Iyer

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Shalini Iyer (*pictured*) is a PhD student in Dr. Mark Cembrowski's lab. Currently, she hopes to further her understanding of how perturbations in neurodevelopment can contribute to disorders such as autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Specifically, she hopes to identify genetic targets and test pharmacological interventions in a mouse model of ASD. [Read More](#)

### Trainee Profile: Karling Luciani

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Karling Luciani (*pictured*) is a master's student in Dr. Christian Schütz's lab. She completed a Bachelor of Sciences degree at the University of Guelph and majored in neuroscience. Her current thesis project looks at impulsivity and response inhibition in individuals with bipolar disorder. She uses functional magnetic resonance imaging and transcranial magnetic stimulation in her studies. [Read More](#)

### New Publication by UBC and Notch Therapeutics Researchers Aims to Improve Therapeutic Design of Living Drugs

Michael Smith Laboratories



A new publication from UBC researchers and the Notch Therapeutics team reveals a novel computer modeling workflow for predicting CAR T pharmacology and patient outcomes. Dr. Peter Zandstra (*pictured*), Director of the School for Biomedical Engineering (SBME) and Professor at the Michael Smith Laboratories, and Dr. Dan Kirouac, Adjunct Professor with the SBME, are co-authors on the recent *Nature Biotechnology* publication. [Read More](#)

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### Upcoming Events in Vancouver

March 16 12:00 PM	<b>What About Copper and Immuno-Oncology?</b> Online
March 16 7:00 PM	<b>Spring Break Science Slam</b> Fox Cabaret
March 28 9:00 AM	<b>BIG Research Day</b> Life Sciences Institute
March 28 5:00 PM	<b>Implementing &amp; Maintaining Women's Employee Resource Groups</b> SFU VentureLabs
April 27 7:40 PM	<b>Science of Cocktails</b> Science World

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### STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

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**Research Associate, the Personalized OncoGenomics Program**

Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre

**Research Assistant 3**

UBC

**Assay Scientist**

AbCellera

**Associate Director, Clinical Pharmacology / Pharmacometrics**

Zymeworks

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