

Publications of the Week

Activation of β -Catenin in Mesenchymal Progenitors Leads to Muscle Mass Loss

First Author: Nasim Kajabadi | Senior Author: Fabio Rossi (*pictured*)
 Developmental Cell | BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and UBC



Loss of muscle mass is a common manifestation of chronic disease. The authors find the canonical Wnt pathway to be activated in mesenchymal progenitors (MPs) from cancer-induced cachectic mouse muscle. They show that blocking ACTIVIN-A rescues the mass loss phenotype triggered by β -catenin activation in MPs, confirming its key functional role and strengthening the rationale for targeting this pathway in chronic disease. [Abstract](#)

Targeting Regulatory T Cell Metabolism in Disease: Novel Therapeutic Opportunities

First Author: Torin Halvorson | Senior Author: Megan Levings (*pictured*)
 European Journal of Immunology | BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and UBC



Regulatory T cells (Tregs) are essential for immune homeostasis and suppression of pathological autoimmunity, but can also play a detrimental role in cancer progression via inhibition of anti-tumour immunity. Thus, there is broad applicability for therapeutic Treg targeting, either to enhance function, for example through adoptive cell therapy, or to inhibit function with small molecules or antibody-mediated blockade. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Congratulations to Michelle Moksa and Andrew Sharon for Receiving a 2022 Faculty of Science Dean's Award for Excellence in Service

UBC Microbiology & Immunology



The Dean of Science Excellence in Service Awards recognize staff, students, and faculty in the UBC Faculty of Science whose service contributions have had a significant positive impact in achieving UBC Science's mission. This year's award recipients included two from the Department of Microbiology and Immunology: Michelle Moksa, a lab manager in Dr. Martin Hirst's lab and Andrew Sharon (*pictured*), a PhD candidate in Dr. Lisa Osborne's lab. [Read More](#)

The JDRF-CIHR Partnership to Defeat Diabetes Announces Four New Grants in Precision Medicine

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF)



Launched in 2017, the JDRF-CIHR Partnership to Defeat Diabetes is a landmark collaboration between the Government of Canada, through the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), and JDRF Canada for a total combined investment of \$30 million to support transformative type 1 diabetes (T1D) research. Dr. Shazhan Amed (*pictured*) and her team will use their grant to fill the information management gap in pediatric T1D care. [Read More](#)

Dr. Pieter Cullis Awarded 2023 Killam Prize for Health Sciences

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Dr. Pieter Cullis (*pictured*), a Professor in the UBC Faculty of Medicine's Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, has been awarded the 2023 Killam Prize for Health Sciences. Dr. Cullis and his UBC colleagues are responsible for fundamental advances in the development of nanomedicines employing lipid nanoparticle technology for cancer therapies, gene therapies, and vaccines. [Read More](#)

Faculty of Medicine Researchers Received Research Excellence Clusters Funding

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Faculty of Medicine researchers are among the UBC recipients of Research Excellence Clusters funding for 2023/24. These clusters are inter-departmental networks of researchers at UBC who collectively represent leaders in a particular field of study. Recipients include Dr. Mark Ansermino (*pictured*), who leads the Action on Sepsis cluster. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Q&A: Benefits of Open Science for All SFU Academics and Shaping the University's Research Culture

SFU



There has been a lot of curiosity surrounding SFU's Institute for Neuroscience and Neurotechnology's (INN) work on developing an open science framework at the university. Psychology Professor and INN Associate Director Dr. Brianne Kent (*pictured*) and INN Senior Program Manager and Informatics Team Lead Dr. Kelly Shen discuss how open science will help lead to more research funding and create greater accessibility of research by SFU academics. [Read More](#)

'Keto-Like' Diet May Be Linked to Increased Risk of Heart Disease

Centre for Heart Lung Innovation



Low carb, high fat diets, also called keto diets, have been gaining popularity as a quick way to lose weight. However, a recent study by Dr. Julia Iatan, a physician scientist at the Healthy Heart Program and Centre for Heart Lung Innovation and a postdoctoral fellow under the supervision of Dr. Liam Brunham (*pictured*), showed that a keto-like diet may be associated with increased risk of cardiovascular events such as chest pain, blocked arteries, heart attack, and stroke. [Read More](#)

UBC-Led Biomedical Innovation Hub to Accelerate Development and Manufacturing of Lifesaving Medicines for Canadians

UBC News



Canada's biotech ecosystem is poised for a major boost with the federal government's announcement that BC will be home to Canada's Immuno-Engineering and Biomanufacturing Hub. The BC-based research and innovation hub, led by UBC, brings together a coalition of provincial, national, and international partners to position Canada as a global epicentre for the development and manufacturing of next-generation immune-based therapeutics. [Read More](#)

Trainee Profile: Tetiana Poliakova

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Tetiana Poliakova (*pictured*) is a PhD student in Dr. Cheryl Wellington's lab. Her PhD project aims to increase the translational value of Alzheimer's disease (AD) mouse model studies by using commercially available cholesteryl ester transfer protein transgenic mice to understand how low-density lipoproteins affect amyloid and vascular pathologies in commonly used AD mouse models. [Read More](#)

MSL Reaches Out, Novel Science Outreach Program, Set to Launch

Michael Smith Laboratories



An exciting new outreach program is burgeoning at the Michael Smith Laboratories (MSL) and set to launch into the public sphere spring 2023. Spearheaded by Dr. Anna Blakney (*pictured*), a social media outreach maven in her own right, a team of graduate students and faculty members spent several weeks in the fall of 2022 designing interactive activities based on their own scientific research. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

March 22 12:00 PM	WiP Seminar: Dr. Shirin Kalyan St. Paul's Hospital & Online
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
March 31 12:30 PM	Unlocking Nature's Potential: Using Genomics for Understanding and Benefiting from Biodiversity Online
April 27 8:00 PM	Science of Cocktails Science World

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