

Publications of the Week
Methylation of Histone H3 Lysine 4 Is Required for Maintenance of Beta Cell Function in Adult Mice

 First Author: Ben Vanderkruk | Senior Author: Brad Hoffman *(pictured)*
 Diabetologia | BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and UBC


Beta cells control glucose homeostasis via regulated production and secretion of insulin. This function arises from a highly specialized gene expression programme that is established during development and then sustained, with limited flexibility, in terminally differentiated cells. This study investigated whether methylation of histone H3 lysine 4, a marker of gene promoters with unresolved functional importance, is necessary for the maintenance of mature beta cell function.

[Abstract](#)
Homologous Recombination Deficiency Signatures in Gastrointestinal and Thoracic Cancers Correlate with Platinum Therapy Duration

 First Authors: Erica Tsang and Veronika Csizmok | Senior Author: Daniel Renouf *(pictured)*
 npj Precision Oncology | BC Cancer, Pancreas Centre BC, Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre, SFU, and UBC


There is emerging evidence about the predictive role of homologous recombination deficiency (HRD), but this is less defined in gastrointestinal (GI) and thoracic malignancies. The authors reviewed whole genome and transcriptomic data from advanced GI and thoracic cancers in the Personalized OncoGenomics trial to evaluate HRD scores and single base substitution 3 (SBS3), which is associated with *BRCA1/2* mutations and potentially predictive of defective HRD. [Abstract](#)

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Awards
Dr. Zabrina Brumme Wins Prestigious CAHR Excellence in Research Award

SFU News



The Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR) has awarded the 2023 CAHR - Canadian Foundations for AIDS Research Excellence in Research Award (Basic Sciences category) to Dr. Zabrina Brumme *(pictured)*, SFU Faculty of Health Sciences Professor and Laboratory Director for the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS. [Read More](#)

Urology Care Foundation Announces Recipient of the 2022 Rising Stars in Urology Research Award

PRNewswire



The American Urological Association (AUA) and the Urology Care Foundation — the official foundation of the AUA — announced Dr. Ryan Flannigan *(pictured)* as the latest recipient of the Rising Stars in Urology Research Award. Dr. Flannigan aims to establish a regenerative therapy platform to grow sperm from a patient's stem cells in a laboratory setting by leveraging computational modelling and 3D bioprinting in pursuit of a regenerative therapeutic approach for male infertility. [Read More](#)

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Local News
Gandeeva and Moderna Enter into Cryo-EM Research Collaboration to Explore Protein Surface Structure at Atomic Resolution

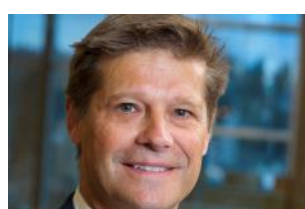
Gandeeva Therapeutics



Gandeeva Therapeutics has announced the initiation of a research collaboration with Moderna to explore applications of Gandeeva's differentiated technology platform for a Moderna program. "We are excited to begin working with Moderna on a specific application of our artificial intelligence-enabled cryo-electron microscopy (EM) platform that leverages our technology infrastructure and deep experience in structural biology and medicinal chemistry," said Dr. Sriram Subramaniam *(pictured)*, Founder and CEO of Gandeeva. [Read More](#)

Sustained Therapeutics Announces Second Phase II Trial of New Drug Platform

Sustained Therapeutics



A Vancouver-based therapeutics company has begun a second Phase II trial of its novel long lasting non-opioid pain medication, with a specific focus on treating chronic scrotal pain (CSP), a debilitating condition estimated to affect 1% of the male population. "Many men suffering CSP are in the prime of their lives, and struggle with decreased quality of life, chronic and often debilitating pain," says Dr. Martin Gleave *(pictured)*, Founder and Chief Medical Officer of Sustained Therapeutics. [Read More](#)

A New Kind of Influencer: Dr. Peter Zandstra on Engineering Cell Fate Decisions

Signals



Few people have made bigger contributions to the Canadian regenerative medicine ecosystem than Dr. Peter Zandstra *(pictured)*. He is co-founder of two companies advancing cutting-edge biotechnologies for therapeutic use (Notch Therapeutics and ExCellThera, both of which are developing technologies set to transform the lives of patients), and he's the Founding Director of UBC's School of Biomedical Engineering, a school that is building the next generation of Canadian bioengineers. [Read More](#)

Are Autoantibodies the Key to Long COVID?

The Daily Scan



Autoimmunity may be the driver of long COVID, according to a new study published in the *European Respiratory Journal*. This study, led by researchers from McMaster University in collaboration with Drs. Chris Carlsen *(pictured)*, Agnes Che Yan Yuen, Kevin Soon-Keen Lau, and Christopher Ryerson from the Centre for Heart Lung Innovation in St. Paul's Hospital, investigated the presence of autoantibodies in blood samples of patients with long COVID and their potential connection with long COVID symptoms. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles
Universities Call on Ottawa to Boost Funds

Globe and Mail



Canada's universities are calling for a significant boost to research funding to keep pace with other wealthy countries and avoid losing promising scientists to a brain drain. Paul Davidson, President of Universities Canada, the umbrella group that represents nearly 100 Canadian institutions, said other countries such as the US and Britain are making serious investments to prioritize scientific research, while Canada's young scientists are living on scholarships and grants that haven't increased in years. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

April 5 12:00 PM	Novel Methods for Equitable People-Centred Health Measurement St. Paul's Hospital & Online
April 20 4:00 PM	Celebrate Research Public Lecture St. Paul's Hospital & Online
April 27 9:00 AM	MBB Graduate Colloquium 2023 Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre
April 27 8:00 PM	Science of Cocktails Science World
April 28 9:00 AM	2023 MBIM Undergraduate Research Symposium Michael Smith Laboratories

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