

Publications of the Week

The Cell Envelope of *Thermotogae* Suggests a Mechanism for Outer Membrane Biogenesis

First Author: Danielle Sexton | Senior Author: Elitza Tocheva (*pictured*)
PNAS | Life Sciences Institute and UBC



Thermotogae is an early-branching phylum with a unique outer membrane, the toga. The authors use cryo-electron tomography to characterize the *in situ* cell envelope architecture of *Thermotoga maritima* and show that the toga is made of extended sheaths of β -barrel trimers supporting small (~200 nm) membrane patches. [Abstract](#)

Beyond Sex Differences: Short- and Long-Term Effects of Pregnancy on the Brain

First Author: Tanvi Puri | Senior Author: Liisa Galea (*pictured*)
Trends in Neuroscience | Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health and UBC



Growing attention has been directed to the inclusion of females in neuroscience studies, and to the importance of studying sex as a biological variable. However, how female-specific factors such as menopause and pregnancy affect the brain remains understudied. In this review, the authors use pregnancy as a case in point of a female-unique experience that can alter neuroplasticity, neuroinflammation, and cognition. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

April 2023 Award Winners

Science in Vancouver



Dr. Ren Yuan (*pictured*) received a Health Professional-Investigator Award to use advanced technology to assess “normal looking” lung computer tomography images and identify early cancer-related changes in the lung tissue that cannot be seen by the human eye. See which other Vancouver researchers received grants, awards, and scholarships in April. [Read More](#)

International Partnership Supports Vaccine Research to Prevent Future Outbreaks

UBC Faculty of Medicine



UBC researcher Dr. Manish Sadarangani (*pictured*) is among five Canadian scientists receiving funding for pandemic preparedness projects as part of a new partnership between the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations. Dr. Sadarangani’s project will focus on how vaccines are designed and how this could be improved to give more robust immune responses. [Read More](#)

Innovation and Translational Research Awards 2023 Recipients

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI)



VCHRI is proud to support investigators and their groundbreaking health research with the Innovation and Translational Research Awards. Dr. Joanne Matsubara’s (*pictured*) study aims to examine the effects of blocking Granzyme B using a small molecule drug, VT1-1002, on choroidal vascularization, a major cause of sight loss, and the barrier function monolayer. [Read More](#)

BC Health Professionals Awarded Funding to Improve Health Outcomes

Michael Smith Health Research BC



A new cohort of 16 health professional investigators funded by Michael Smith Health Research BC are conducting and applying research to ultimately improve health outcomes in BC and beyond. Dr. Khaled Abdelrahman (*pictured*) will study the contribution of metabotropic glutamate receptor 5 to impaired control of brain blood flow in Alzheimer’s disease. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health Becomes an Open Science Institute

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



The Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health is pleased to officially become an Open Science Institute. Through a partnership with The Neuro’s Tanenbaum Open Science Institute, the Centre has adopted a set of Open Science principles for collaboration and sharing research findings. The Centre’s Open Science Initiative was spearheaded by Dr. Paul Pavlidis (*pictured*). [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Canadian PhD Students and Postgrads Plan Mass Walkout over Low Pay

Nature News



Graduate students and postdoctoral researchers at dozens of universities and research institutions across Canada walked out on May 1 in protest at government-funded salaries that have remained flat since 2003. A survey of more than 1,000 Canadian graduate students found that almost half of respondents either frequently struggled to make ends meet or were forced to make sacrifices to afford necessities, and 30% had considered leaving their studies because of financial hardship. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

May 9 8:00 AM	Celebrating 20 Years of Research Excellence Paetzold Auditorium
May 9 6:00 PM	Networking+ Night: Boost Your Professional Presence SFU VentureLabs
May 13 11:00 AM	Science Rendezvous with SFU Science SFU Academic Quadrangle 3000 Level
May 19 8:30 AM	StemCellTalks Vancouver- Stem Cell Engineering: A Promising Tool for Regenerative Medicine Life Sciences Institute
May 23 12:00 PM	Overcome Your Resistance and Embrace Virtual Networking SFU VentureLabs

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