

Local News

A Combination of Genetically Engineered Oncolytic Virus and Melittin-CpG for Cancer Viro-Chemo-Immunotherapy

First Author: Amirhossein Bahreyni | Senior Author: Honglin Luo (*pictured*)
BMC Medicine | Centre for Heart Lung Innovation and UBC



Immunotherapy has emerged as an efficient therapeutic approach for cancer management. The authors designed and applied an immunogenic cell death inducer regimen, including a genetically engineered oncolytic virus (miRNA-modified coxsackieviruses B3), a pore-forming lytic peptide (melittin, found in bee venom), and a synthetic toll-like receptor 9 ligand (CpG oligodeoxynucleotides), for breast cancer and melanoma treatment. [Abstract](#)

Fetal Liver Development and Implications for Liver Disease Pathogenesis

First Authors: Jeremy Lotto and Tabea Stephan | Senior Author: Pamela Hoodless (*pictured*)
Nature Reviews Gastroenterology & Hepatology | Terry Fox Laboratory and UBC



The metabolic, digestive, and homeostatic roles of the liver are dependent on proper crosstalk and organization of hepatic cell lineages. The authors discuss the emergence of hepatic parenchymal and non-parenchymal cells, advances that have been made in *in vitro* modelling of liver development, and draw parallels between developmental and pathological processes. [Abstract](#)

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Local News

Precision Health Brings Hope to Children with a Rare Disease

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



The Precision Health Initiative (PHI) at BC Children's Hospital aims to provide answers to rare disease patients and their families. "Through the PHI, clinicians will be better able to combine the rigour of the scientific process and the knowledge of leading research experts, locally and internationally, to help solve these mystery cases and provide guidance for the care of these kids," emphasizes Dr. Anna Lehman (*pictured*), Co-Lead of the Rare Disease Discovery Hub at BC Children's. [Read More](#)

BIOCAPS Spotlight: Dr. Bharat Joshi

UBC Department of Cellular and Physiological Sciences



Dr. Bharat Joshi (*pictured*) is a research associate in Dr. Ivan Nabi's lab at UBC. He earned his master's degree from Saurashtra University, India and completed his PhD at the Microbiology Institute in Prague. He studies how cells regulate themselves, particularly in relation to cancer. Lately, his research has centered on the role of Gp78, an E3 ubiquitin ligase and cell membrane receptor protein, in mitophagy and cell cycle control in cancer cells. [Read More](#)

AbCellera Draws \$300M in Government Funding

Business In Vancouver



Federal and provincial officials have announced \$300 million in funding for the new \$700 million biotech campus to be built by AbCellera in Mount Pleasant. The federal government is contributing \$225 million towards the new facility through its Strategic Innovation Fund, and the BC government is contributing \$75 million. [Read More](#)

Computer-Aided Detection and Diagnosis of Colorectal Cancer

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Advances in artificial intelligence technology could save patients from unnecessary polyp excisions and lab result wait times. An innovation in artificial intelligence technology is aiding clinicians in identifying and classifying polyps and adenomas that could lead to colorectal cancer, according to the findings of Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute researcher Dr. Michael Byrne (*pictured*). [Read More](#)

Rescued from the Rubbish Bin: How the Thymus Could Stop Organ Transplant Rejection

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



For more than two decades, BC Children's Hospital researcher Dr. Megan Levings (*pictured*) has been immersed in the complex world of very specialized immune system cells — regulatory T cells. She was the first in the world to show that these unique white blood cells could be a powerful new therapy to stop harmful immune responses. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| May 31 12:00 PM | WiP Seminar: Alison Hoens with Drs. Linda Li & Codie Primeau St. Paul's Hospital & Online |
| June 3 9:00 AM | 11th Annual BC Obesity Conference UBC Robson Square |
| June 13 9:00 AM | SBME Symposium 2023 Life Sciences Institute |
| June 13 11:00 AM | Ignite Application Workshop Online |
| June 19-21 12:00 PM | Islet Study Group 2023 Life Sciences Institute |

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Amgen

Research Scientist, Therapeutic Tissue Development
Aspect Biosystems

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Zymeworks

Research Assistant/Technician 3-2
UBC

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