

Publications of the Week

Reference-Free Assembly of Long-Read Transcriptome Sequencing Data with RNA-Bloom2

First Author: Ka Ming Nip | Senior Author: Inanc Birol (*pictured*)
Nature Communications | Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre and UBC



Long-read sequencing technologies have improved significantly since their emergence. Their read lengths, potentially spanning entire transcripts, is advantageous for reconstructing transcriptomes. The authors introduce "RNA-Bloom2", a reference-free assembly method for long-read transcriptome sequencing data. [Abstract](#)

A Novel Cell-Based Screen Identifies Chemical Entities That Reverse the Immune-Escape Phenotype of Metastatic Tumours

First Author: Lilian Nohara | Senior Author: Wilfred Jefferies (*pictured*)
Frontiers in Pharmacology | Michael Smith Laboratories, Centre for Blood Research, Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, Vancouver Prostate Centre, Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute, and UBC



The authors describe and validate the first high-throughput cell-based screening assay to identify chemical extracts and unique chemical entities that reverse the downregulation of antigen processing and presentation machinery components in cell lines derived from metastatic tumours. Through the screening of a library of 480 marine invertebrate extracts followed by bioassay-guided fractionation, curcuphenol was identified as the active compound of one of the extracts. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

May 2023 Award Winners

Science in Vancouver



Dr. Md Mahamud ur Rashid (*pictured*), a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Ed Prydzial's lab, received a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Fellowship to investigate HIV pathology and infection mediated by host-derived tissue factor on the virus. See which other Vancouver researchers received grants, awards, fellowships, and scholarships in May. [Read More](#)

James Kronstad Named Power Corporation Fellow

CIFAR



Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) Fellow, Dr. James Kronstad (*pictured*), was appointed as the Power Corporation Fellow. Dr. Kronstad's current research is on fungi that threaten human health as plant pathogens that challenge crop production or as direct agents of infectious diseases. He is a member of CIFAR's Fungal Kingdom: Threats & Opportunities program. [Read More](#)

Dr. Anne Junker and Victor Espinosa Named 2023 Clinical Trials BC Awards Recipients

Michael Smith Health Research BC



Clinical Trials BC announced the recipients of two recognition awards: the Leadership & Advocacy Award and the Service & Support Award. The awards honour individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions and impacts to the clinical trials community in BC and beyond. The Leadership & Advocacy Award is presented to Dr. Anne Junker (*pictured*), who contributed four decades of work in clinical practice and clinical trials-related activities in pediatrics. [Read More](#)

Sofia Graham Receives Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship Award

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering



Congratulations to postdoctoral research fellow, Dr. Sofia Graham (*pictured*), for receiving the prestigious Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship Award. Dr. Graham works with Dr. Govind Kaigala on bioanalytical tools and methods for precise and quantitative interrogation of biological systems. They apply these technologies to bring new insights into processes such as cancer cell invasiveness and immune-cancer interactions. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Renaissance BioScience's Novel RNAi Biopesticide Technology Receives Canadian Regulatory Approval for 2023 Field Studies

Renaissance BioScience



Renaissance BioScience announced that the Government of Canada's Pest Management Research Agency has approved the company's field study application for its sustainable and eco-friendly RNA interference (RNAi) biopesticide delivery technology. Renaissance believes its RNAi-based crop protection technology holds the potential to make a significant contribution to innovation required to feed an increasing human and animal population in an environmentally and economically sustainable way. [Read More](#)

Innovate BC Is Igniting Innovation with \$300,000 R&D Grant

Innovate BC



Applications are now open for Innovate BC's Ignite program, which awards up to \$300,000 to fund BC-based research and development projects that are creating game-changing innovations in the areas of natural resources, engineering, and applied sciences. The funding is awarded to teams of academia and industry who come together to solve a significant challenge that British Columbians face. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

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
June 20 8:00 AM	Next-Generation RNA Vaccines & Therapies Online
June 20 8:00 PM	Bill Nye the Science Guy's New Live Stage Show, "The End Is Nye" Queen Elizabeth Theatre

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UBC

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AbCellera

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Applied Biological Materials

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