

**Publications of the Week**

### Cryo-EM Analysis of Scorpion Toxin Binding to Ryanodine Receptors Reveals Subconductance That Is Abolished by PKA Phosphorylation

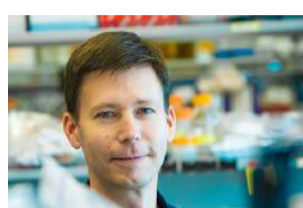
First Author: Omid Haji-Ghassemi | Senior Author: Filip Van Petegem *(pictured)*  
 Science Advances | Life Sciences Centre and UBC



Calcins are peptides from scorpion venom with the unique ability to cross cell membranes, gaining access to intracellular targets. The authors used cryo-electron microscopy (EM) to reveal the binding and structural effects of imperacalcin, showing that it opens the channel pore and causes large asymmetry throughout the cytosolic assembly of the tetrameric ryanodine receptors. [Abstract](#)

### Protocol Development to Further Differentiate and Transition Stem Cell-Derived Pancreatic Progenitors from a Monolayer into Endocrine Cells in Suspension Culture

First Author: Mitchell Braam | Senior Author: Timothy Kieffer *(pictured)*  
 Scientific Reports | Life Sciences Institute, STEMCELL Technologies, and UBC



The generation of functional  $\beta$ -cells from human pluripotent stem cells (hPSCs) for cell replacement therapy and disease modelling of diabetes is being investigated by many groups. The authors developed a protocol to harvest and aggregate hPSC-derived pancreatic progenitors generated using a commercially available kit into near uniform spheroids and to further differentiate the cells toward an endocrine cell fate in suspension culture. [Abstract](#)

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**Awards**

### CHAIR 2022 Leadership Award Winners – Community

Coalition for Community & Healthcare Acquired Infection Reduction (CHAIR)



Since 2014, CHAIR has recognized the leadership of an individual or organization passionate about reducing acquired infections through engineered infection prevention technologies. Drs. Edouard Asselin and Amanda Clifford *(pictured)* received a Community Award for their passion and commitment to leading research in infection prevention and control. [Read More](#)

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**Local News**

### COVID-19 Infections Increase Diabetes Risk, New Study Shows

The Daily Scan



COVID-19 infection is associated with a higher risk of developing diabetes, according to a new study published in *JAMA Network Open*. This risk is higher in men and much higher in people with severe disease, but was not present in vaccinated people. “We were interested in looking at the long-term impact of COVID-19 infection on the development of diabetes,” says Dr. Naveed Janjua, the lead author of the study. [Read More](#)

### We Are What We Eat — Following a Passion for Food and Nutrition to Research on IBD

BC Children's Hospital



While bacteria are the main component of the gut microbiome, Dr. Genelle Lunken *(pictured)* is keen to study the impact nutrition has on fungi and viruses in our guts. Her lab at BC Children's Hospital Research Institute is working to move nutrition, microbiome, and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) research towards personalized therapy. “That may not happen in my lifetime, but I hope to at least generate some results that will eventually lead to that being able to happen,” she says. [Read More](#)

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**Interesting Articles**

### Governments of Canada and the United Kingdom Advance Partnership in Biomanufacturing and Quantum Science

Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada



Under a new biomanufacturing memorandum of cooperation, Canada and the UK have committed to jointly developing and producing the critical products each country needs to respond to the next health emergency. This partnership will help to support the work that Canada is undertaking via its Biomanufacturing and Life Sciences Strategy to strengthen domestic innovation and industrial capabilities to better prepare for and respond to health emergencies. [Read More](#)

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**Upcoming Events in Vancouver**

June 13 9:00 AM	<b>SBME Symposium 2023</b> Life Sciences Institute
June 13 11:00 AM	<b>Ignite Application Workshop</b> Online
June 15 9:00 AM	<b>UBC's 2023 Partnering in Research Conference</b> UBC Robson Square
June 19-21 12:00 PM	<b>Islet Study Group 2023</b> Life Sciences Institute
June 20 8:00 PM	<b>The End is Nye! An Evening with Bill Nye the Science Guy</b> Queen Elizabeth Theatre

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## The End is Nye.

Bill Nye The Science Guy LIVE!

Queen Elizabeth Theatre  
June 20, 2023 8 PM

Submit your articles and events by reaching out to us at [info@scienceinvancouver.com](mailto:info@scienceinvancouver.com).

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