

Publications of the Week

Contrasting Outcomes of Genome Reduction in Mikrocytids and Microsporidians

First Authors: Vojtěch Žárský and Anna Karnkowska | Senior Author: Patrick Keeling (pictured)
BMC Biology | UBC

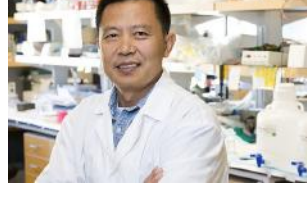


Intracellular symbionts often undergo genome reduction, losing both coding and non-coding DNA in a process that ultimately produces small, gene-dense genomes with few genes. Since little genomic data are available from mikrocytids, the authors assembled a draft genome of the type species, *Mikrocytos mackini*, and compared the genomic architecture and content of mikrosporidians and mikrocytids to identify common characteristics of reduction and possible convergent evolution.

[Abstract](#)

GluN2B-Containing NMDARs in the Mammalian Brain: Pharmacology, Physiology, and Pathology

First Author: Yang Ge | Senior Author: Yu Tian Wang (pictured)
Frontiers in Molecular Neuroscience | Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health and UBC



Glutamate N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor (NMDAR) is critical for promoting physiological synaptic plasticity and neuronal viability. The authors provide an overview of GluN2B-containing NMDAR pharmacology and its key physiological functions, highlighting the importance of this receptor subtype during both health and disease states. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

New FHS PhD Alumnus Wins Governor General's Gold Medal

SFU Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS)



Dr. Natalie Kinloch (pictured), a new Faculty of Health Sciences PhD alumnus, was awarded the 2023 Governor General's Gold Medal. In 2022, Dr. Kinloch defended her thesis, "Addressing and Leveraging Within- and Between-Host HIV Genetic Diversity Towards Ending the HIV Pandemic", where she completed detailed studies of both individual and population-level HIV diversity, working to further understand the virus and find insights into how to design HIV vaccine and cure approaches. [Read More](#)

Congratulations to the 2023 UBC Department of Medicine Faculty & Staff Award Recipients

UBC Department of Medicine



Each year, the UBC Department of Medicine honours faculty and staff members who have made significant and meaningful contributions to education, teaching, research, mentorship, and administration. Drs. Adeera Levin and Thalia Field (pictured) received the Donald M. Whitelaw Award for Outstanding Ground Rounds Presentation. [Read More](#)

Dr. Vandekerkhove Received the Gilead Research Scholar Program Solid Tumour Award

Vancouver Prostate Centre



Congratulations to Dr. Gillian Vandekerkhove (pictured), who received the Gilead Research Scholar Program Solid Tumour Award for her project "Circulating Tumour DNA for the Prediction of Prognosis and Treatment Resistance in Metastatic Urothelial Carcinoma". Her research leverages tissue and liquid biopsies to characterize the molecular landscape of genitourinary cancers and relate genomic changes with clinical outcomes. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Convocation Medalist Thrives as Data Scientist at Top Biotech Firm

SFU News



Newly minted SFU graduate Dr. Miranda Louwse's (pictured) top marks have landed her the Dean of Graduate Studies Convocation medal as one of the Faculty of Science's top three PhD students — while her impressive skills have also led to a full-time job with one of BC's pre-eminent life sciences companies, AbCellera. Dr. Louwse's role as a data scientist on the antibody assessment team involves working with lab scientists to transfer their assay data into a centralized database. [Read More](#)

Dr. Carol Chen Is Unravelling the Mysteries of High-Grade Gliomas

BC Cancer



Dr. Carol Chen (pictured) is dedicated to understanding the complexities and finding innovative solutions to high-grade gliomas (HGGs); a particularly aggressive form of brain cancer affecting children and young adults. The new BC Cancer scientist, who joined the Terry Fox Laboratory in 2023, is focused on understanding how mutations in certain proteins, called histones or histone-modifying enzymes, contribute to the development of HGGs. [Read More](#)

Vancouver Biotech Chinook Therapeutics to Be Acquired for US\$3.2B

Business in Vancouver



Vancouver-based Chinook Therapeutics is set to be acquired for US\$3.2 billion by Swiss multinational pharmaceutical company Novartis. "Through this merger, Novartis can apply its substantial resources to pursue broader development efforts and commercialization of atrasentan, zigakibart, and other programs in our pipeline," Chinook CEO and President Eric Dobmeier (pictured) said in a statement. [Read More](#)

Life-Saving Research Gets Provincial Funding Boost, Expanded Mandate

Life Sciences BC



People in BC will benefit from sustained cutting-edge research, especially focused on improving health care, as the province provides \$20 million over two years to the Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre. "The partnership announced today with the Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre will expand our province's leading genetic research, including life-saving cancer and medical research," said Premier David Eby. [Read More](#)

People in Profile: Cristina Rubino

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Meet Cristina Rubino (pictured) — A trailblazing neuroscientist who advocates for inclusivity and diversity in research. She is a PhD candidate in rehabilitation sciences at UBC. Working closely with Dr. Lara Boyd in the Brain Behaviour Laboratory, she studies human behaviour and neuroplasticity after stroke. [Read More](#)

Opinion: Historic Investments in BC's Life Sciences Sector Come at a Critical Time

The Vancouver Sun



The largest-ever BC delegation attended BIO International, a global biotech conference, in Boston. Led by Life Sciences BC and BC's Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation, over 50 BC companies and organizations showcased world-leading health innovation and its capacity to solve many pressing health conditions of our time. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

adMare BioInnovations Launches the adMare Institute

adMare BioInnovations



adMare BioInnovations has announced the launch of the adMare Institute, a new voice aimed at advancing the life sciences and related public policy in Canada. Through a commitment to impartial, balanced, and data-based analysis, the adMare Institute will offer insight into the sector and various stakeholders across Canada. The adMare Institute will explore pressing health and life science public policy issues, encouraging objective and comprehensive discussions. [Read More](#)

Canadian Life Sciences on Life Support? We Must Stem the Innovation Brain Drain

The Globe and Mail



Canada's health research and commercialization systems are in trouble — they need our attention now. We have a world-leading legacy in the life sciences. Canadians invented insulin, the pacemaker, and the first Ebola vaccine. We discovered the genes that cause ALS and cystic fibrosis. Canadians are also pioneers in the field of regenerative medicine through the discovery of stem cells and how to use them to treat disease and illness. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- June 20 8:00 AM **Next-Generation RNA Vaccines & Therapies** Online
- June 20 8:00 PM **The End Is Nye! An Evening With Bill Nye The Science Guy** Queen Elizabeth Theatre
- June 23 2:00 PM **Data Visualization for Science and Medicine** Paetzold Auditorium
- June 28 12:00 PM **WiP Seminar: Dr. Anita Ho** St. Paul's Hospital and Online
- June 28 5:00 PM **Life Sciences BC Summer Social** Zymeworks

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STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

Scientist, Process Development, Media
STEMCELL Technologies

Scientist, Biophysics, Cell Separation
STEMCELL Technologies

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STEMCELL Technologies

Lab Services Assistant
STEMCELL Technologies

Senior Marketing Associate
STEMCELL Technologies

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Other Science Jobs in Vancouver

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Zymeworks

Research Associate, Formulation
Cytiva

Associate Scientist, External Manufacturing (MSAT)
AbCellera

Senior Scientist, Discovery Protein Science
Amgen

Research Engineer, Bioprinting Innovation
Aspect Biosystems

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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.

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