

Publications of the Week

Deciphering the Biosynthesis of a Novel Lipid in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Expands the Known Roles of the Nitroreductase Superfamily

First Authors: Jason Grigg and Janine Copp | Senior Author: Lindsay Ellis (*pictured*)
Journal of Biological Chemistry | Life Sciences Institute, Michael Smith Laboratories, and UBC



Mycobacterium tuberculosis's (Mtb) success as a pathogen is due in part to its sophisticated lipid metabolic programs, both catabolic and biosynthetic. Several of Mtb's lipids have specific roles in pathogenesis, but the identity and roles of many are unknown. The authors demonstrated that the *tyz* gene cluster in Mtb, previously implicated in resistance to oxidative stress and survival in macrophages, encodes the biosynthesis of acyl-oxazolones. [Abstract](#)

Optimizing the Number of Variants Tracked to Follow Disease Burden with Circulating Tumour DNA Assays in Metastatic Colorectal Cancer

First Authors: Méline Boutin and James Topham | Senior Author: Jonathan Loree (*pictured*)
Therapeutic Advances in Medical Oncology | BC Cancer and Pancreas Center BC



The number of somatic mutations detectable in circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA) is highly heterogeneous in metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC). The authors used archival tissue sequencing to perform an *in silico* assessment of the optimal number of tracked mutations to detect and monitor disease kinetics in mCRC using sequencing data from the Canadian Cancer Trials Group CO.26 trial. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Doctoral Students Awarded Canada Graduate Scholarships for 2023

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Congratulations to the current Graduate Program in Neuroscience students who have received awards through the Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral program from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. Shalini Iyer's (*pictured*) thesis project identifies sex-specific pharmacological interventions for autism by targeting a distinct neuron type. [Read More](#)

Master's Students Awarded Canada Graduate Scholarships for 2023

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Brianna Bristow (*pictured, left*) and Jessica Chalissery (*right*) are among Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health master's students to receive awards through the Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master's program from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. [Read More](#)

Dr. Ly Vu One of 11 Cancer Researchers to Receive Funding From a New Grant Program Committed to Challenging Gender Disparities

UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences



Dr. Ly Vu (*pictured*) is one of 11 recipients of A Grant of Her Own: The Women Scientists Innovation Award for Cancer Research. Dr. Vu received a V Scholar Award, translating into \$600,000 over a three-year period, that will support defining a high-resolution functional map of m6A RNA epi transcriptome in normal and malignant blood stem cells. [Read More](#)

Top Graduating Doctoral Student Award and Rising Star Award 2023 Recipients

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute is proud to support the future leaders of research with the Top Graduating Doctoral Student Awards and the Rising Star Awards. Jessica Archibald (*pictured, left*) employs specialized neuroimaging and neurophysiology techniques to delve into the intricacies of brain health and its correlation with pain experiences, and Rohit Singla (*right*) aims to improve chronic kidney disease diagnosis using quantitative ultrasound. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Biodegradable Gel Shows Promise for Cartilage Regeneration

UBC News



A gel that combines both stiffness and toughness is a step forward in the bid to create biodegradable implants for joint injuries, according to new UBC research. "Articular cartilage repair represents an important medical challenge because naturally speaking, it doesn't repair itself," explains Dr. Hongbin Li (*pictured*). [Read More](#)

Are Viruses Keeping Sea Lice at Bay in Wild Salmon?

UBC Science



More than 30 previously unknown RNA viruses in sea lice have been identified by UBC researchers. Sea lice are parasitic copepods (small crustaceans) found in many fresh and saltwater habitats, and have been implicated in the decline of wild salmon populations. The research sheds greater light on the types of viruses being carried by sea lice, and how the viruses and host are interacting. [Read More](#)

How Superbugs Get Their Superpowers

UBC Faculty of Medicine



A recent study led by UBC researchers is shedding light on how one of the world's most notorious superbugs, *Staphylococcus aureus*, develops resistance to antibiotics. "The rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria has rendered many life-saving drugs ineffective, jeopardizing our ability to combat infectious disease," says the study's senior author Dr. Natalie Strynadka (*pictured*). [Read More](#)

An Interview with Dr. Sutherland, Research Associate in Dr. Ed Pryzdial's Lab

Centre for Blood Research



Introducing Dr. Michael Sutherland (*pictured*)! Dr. Sutherland is a Research Associate with Canadian Blood Services in the UBC Centre for Blood Research and an Adjunct Professor in the UBC Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. He talks about his background, his research studying the activation of coagulation proteins on the surface of enveloped viruses and how it affects infection, and his interests outside the lab. [Read More](#)

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📅 Upcoming Events in Vancouver

July 7 2:30 PM	Pathways in Science: Exploring Majors and Careers SFU
July 19 8:00 AM	SYSU-UBC Symposium on Infectious & Inflammatory Diseases Jack Poole Hall, Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre
Jul 21-Aug 18 1:00 PM	Diversify Research BC Cancer Research Centre
August 3 7:00 PM	After Dark: Celebrating Pride Science World
October 2-4 8:00 AM	Healthcare Summit: The Future of Innovation, Personalized Medicine and Genomics Coast Coal Harbour Hotel

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UBC

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AbCellera

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Zymeworks

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