

Publications of the Week

Alternative Splicing and Heparan Sulfation Converge on Neurexin-1 to Control Glutamatergic Transmission and Autism-Related Behaviors

First Author: Hong Lu | Senior Author: Ann Marie Craig (pictured)
Cell Reports | Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Neurexin synaptic organizing proteins are central to a genetic risk pathway in neuropsychiatric disorders. Neurexins also exemplify molecular diversity in the brain, with over a thousand alternatively spliced forms and further structural heterogeneity contributed by heparan sulfate glycan modification. The authors reveal that regulatory modes of post-transcriptional and post-translational modification converge on neurexin-1 splice site 5 (S5): the S5 insert increases the number of heparan sulfate chains. [Abstract](#)

Deletion of Carboxypeptidase E in Beta Cells Disrupts Proinsulin Processing but Does Not Lead to Spontaneous Development of Diabetes in Mice

First Author: Yi-Chun Chen | Senior Author: Bruce Verchere (pictured)
Diabetes | Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics, BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, and UBC



Carboxypeptidase E (CPE) facilitates the conversion of prohormones into mature hormones and is highly expressed in multiple neuroendocrine tissues. Carriers of CPE mutations have elevated plasma proinsulin and develop severe obesity and hyperglycemia. The authors aimed to determine whether loss of Cpe in pancreatic beta cells disrupts proinsulin processing and accelerates development of diabetes and obesity in mice. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

June 2023 Awards

Science in Vancouver



Drs. Khaled Abdelrahman (pictured) and Brian MacVicar at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health received an Alzheimer Disease Research Grant to investigate the contribution of metabotropic glutamate receptor 5 to impaired neurovascular coupling in Alzheimer disease. See which other Vancouver researchers received grants, awards, fellowships, and scholarships in June. [Read More](#)

BC-CfE Executive Director Dr. Julio Montaner Awarded 2023 CIHR-IPPH Trailblazer Award

BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (BC-CfE)



The BC-CfE is proud to announce Executive Director & Physician-in-Chief Dr. Julio Montaner (pictured) is among the three 2023 Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute of Population and Public Health (CIHR-IPPH) Trailblazer Award Winners. Announced at the Canadian Public Health Association Conference, the Trailblazer Awards support early, mid and senior career researchers who have made exceptional contributions to population and public health in Canada and around the world through evidence-based policies and interventions. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Five Biotech Companies Making a Name for Themselves in Vancouver

Labiotech



According to a 2021 report commissioned by the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, the annual revenue for the BC life sciences sector reached \$5.4 billion, and, as of 2019, Metro Vancouver, or Greater Vancouver, is home to 1,300 organizations and 16,000 workers that make up a part of Canada's 'bio-economy'. This makes Vancouver home to some of Canada's top biotech companies. [Read More](#)

New Hire Focus: Dr. Joseph Lau Is Advancing Radiopharmaceutical Research

BC Cancer Research



Dr. Joseph Lau (pictured) is working to develop the next generation of radiopharmaceuticals for both diagnostic and therapeutic purposes. Radiopharmaceuticals are radioactive compounds used in cancer care. From a diagnostic perspective, his work focusses on making these radioactive agents better able to detect and visualize cancers in the body. [Read More](#)

New Study Shows Pathogenic Bacteria Use a Sugar in the Intestinal Mucus Layer to Infect the Gut

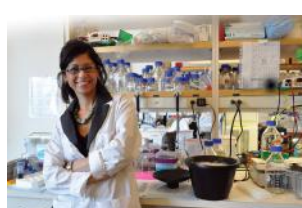
BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



Children's immature immune systems make them more susceptible to gut bacterial infections, and more and more kids are being diagnosed with inflammatory bowel disease, a chronic disease linked to gut bacteria. These are two of the reasons why Dr. Bruce Vallance (pictured) and his research team study how pathogenic bacteria expand within the gut and cause disease. [Read More](#)

A Q&A with Prostate Cancer Researcher Dr. Amina Zoubeidi

Terry Fox Research Institute



Dr. Amina Zoubeidi (pictured), Professor and Canada Research chair in Cancer Therapy Resistance at UBC, is an expert in the field of prostate cancer research. As the leader of a Terry Fox Program Project Grant, her team is receiving \$6 million over six years to decipher and target the mechanisms exploited by cancer cells in order to evade therapy. [Read More](#)

2024 Suite of Funding Programs: Advancing Health Research That Improves Health, Saves Lives, and Strengthens BC's Economy

Michael Smith Health Research BC



Michael Smith Health Research BC has announced their 2024 suite of funding programs that provide opportunities for BC health researchers across all regions of the province. The funding awards help develop, retain and attract the people whose research improves the health of British Columbians, addresses health system priorities, creates jobs, and adds to the knowledge economy. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- July 19 8:00 AM **SYSU-UBC Symposium on Infectious & Inflammatory Diseases**
Jack Poole Hall, Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre
- July 19 1:00 PM **The Neural Basis of Compulsive Behavior: Implications for Neuropsychiatry**
Rudy North Lecture Theatre, Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health & Online
- July 20 1:30 PM **Good Brain Health, Cognition and Wellbeing**
Rudy North Lecture Theatre, Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health & Online
- Jul 21 - Aug 18 1:00 PM **Diversify Research**
BC Cancer Research Centre
- July 25 10:00 AM **MSL EDI Committee Workshop Series: Workshop 2 – Building Queer and Trans Inclusive Spaces**
Michael Smith Laboratories

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Imagia Canexia Health
- Associate Scientist**
Qu Biologics
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UBC

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