

Publications of the Week

Bi-Allelic Dicer1 Mutations in the Gynecologic Tract of Mice Drive Lineage-Specific Development of DICER1 Syndrome-Associated Cancer

First Author: Yemin Wang | Senior Author: David Huntsman *(pictured)*
Cancer Research | UBC



DICER1 is an RNase III enzyme essential for microRNA (miRNA) biogenesis through cleaving pre-miRNA hairpins. The authors developed a genetically engineered conditional compound heterozygous Dicer1 mutant mouse strain that fully recapitulates the bi-allelic DICER1 mutations in DICER1 syndrome-associated human cancers. [Abstract](#)

Identification of an Optimized Receptor-Binding Domain Subunit Vaccine Against SARS-CoV-2

First Author: Hong Yu | Senior Author: Robert Brunham *(pictured)*
The Journal of Immunology | BC Centre for Disease Control, Centre for Blood Research, and UBC



Current vaccine efforts to combat SARS-CoV-2 are focused on the whole spike protein administered as mRNA, viral vector, or protein subunit. However, the SARS-CoV-2 receptor-binding domain (RBD) is the immunodominant portion of the spike protein, accounting for 90% of serum neutralizing activity. The authors identified an optimized RBD-based subunit vaccine suitable for clinical trials. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

UBC Researchers Leading Projects Awarded \$37 Million through CIHR Project Grants: Spring 2023 Competition

UBC Research + Innovation



A total of 50 projects led by UBC researchers were awarded \$37 million in combined funding through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Project Grant: Spring 2023 competition. Dr. Samuel Aparicio's *(pictured)* project investigates the mechanisms and targeting of repair deficient cancers with G-quadruplex small molecule ligands. [Read More](#)

Dr. Florian Kuchenbauer and Dr. François Bénard Receive CPDC Funds for Developing an LAT1-Targeting PET Tracer for Imaging Cancer

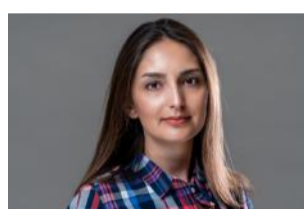
Terry Fox Laboratory



BC Cancer's Drs. Florian Kuchenbauer *(pictured, left)* and François Bénard *(right)*, in collaboration with TRIUMF Innovations and led by Dr. Robert Britton from SFU, have secured a grant from the Centre for Probe Development and Commercialization (CPDC) to conduct ground-breaking research in cancer imaging. [Read More](#)

Afsaneh Panahi (Kuchenbauer Lab) Awarded IMS Young Investigator Award for Exemplary Abstract

Terry Fox Laboratory



Afsaneh Panahi *(pictured)*, a graduate student at the Kuchenbauer lab has been awarded an International Myeloma Society (IMS) Young Investigator Award for Exemplary Abstract, for the abstract titled, "Dysregulated APOBEC3B promotes cell proliferation and DNA damage in multiple myeloma." The IMS hosts annual meetings in myeloma, focusing on basic, preclinical and clinical aspects of multiple myeloma and related plasma cell disorders. [Read More](#)

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Local News

A Promising Treatment for Terminal Cancer Patients May Be Just the Beginning

BC Cancer



Chimeric antigen receptor modified T cells (CAR Ts) have become a powerful new tool to treat some forms of blood cancer that don't respond to standard therapies. "[The novelty in our initial trial] was about how we're building a manufacturing platform in a public health care setting, and making it available to patients, health care professionals, and researchers by sharing our results and through collaborations," says Dr. Kevin Hay *(pictured)*. [Read More](#)

People in Profile: Ana Luque

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Meet Ana Luque *(pictured)* — a biotechnology engineer who is dedicated to improving patient outcomes for those with kidney disease. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in experimental medicine at UBC and working as a graduate research assistant at the Vancouver Prostate Centre. She spends the majority of my time in the lab, primarily analyzing results in the tissue culture room or conducting molecular biology experiments. [Read More](#)

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 **Upcoming Events in Vancouver**

- August 3
7:00 PM

After Dark: Celebrating Pride
Science World
- August 11
7:00 PM

Space Telescopes with Chris Gainor
West Vancouver Memorial Library
- September 12
7:30 PM

Back to Science Slam
Fox Cabaret
- September 14
5:00 PM

25th Annual Life Sciences BC Awards Presented by Farris
Vancouver Convention Centre West
- September 21
10:00 AM

Pars for Prostate Fundraiser
Westwood Plateau

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STEMCELL Technologies
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Providence Research
- Research Scientist, In Vivo Pharmacology**
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