

Publications of the Week

A High-Throughput Screening Platform for Enzymes Active on Mucin-Type O-Glycoproteins

First Author: Jacob Wardman | Senior Author: Stephen Withers *(pictured)*
Nature Chemical Biology | Michael Smith Laboratories and UBC



Mucin-type O-glycosylation is a post-translational modification present at the interface between cells where it has important roles in cellular communication. The authors developed a genetically encoded screening methodology for the discovery and engineering of the diverse classes of enzymes that act on O-glycoproteins.

[Abstract](#)

A MYCN-Independent Mechanism Mediating Secretome Reprogramming and Metastasis in MYCN-Amplified Neuroblastoma

First Author: Hai-Feng Zhang | Senior Author: Poul Sorensen *(pictured)*
Science Advances | BC Cancer and UBC



MYCN amplification (MNA) is a defining feature of high-risk neuroblastoma (NB) and predicts poor prognosis. However, whether genes within or in close proximity to the MYCN amplicon also contribute to MNA⁺ NB remains poorly understood. The authors identify that GREB1, a transcription factor encoding gene neighboring the MYCN locus, is frequently coexpressed with MYCN and promotes cell survival in MNA⁺ NB. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

UBC MD/PhD Student Dr. Rohit Singla Honoured with 2023 Canadian Medical Hall of Fame Award

UBC Faculty of Medicine



UBC Faculty of Medicine student Dr. Rohit Singla *(pictured)* has been awarded a 2023 Canadian Medical Hall of Fame Award for leadership and innovation. His research, under the supervision of UBC professors Drs. Chris Nguan and Robert Rohling, focuses on intelligent ultrasound systems for chronic kidney disease and transplantation. [Read More](#)

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Local News

UBC Researchers Study Alzheimer's Disease in People of Asian Ancestry

The Daily Scan



Researchers at the UBC Faculty of Medicine are leading the Vancouver site for an international study of Alzheimer's disease in people of Asian ancestry, a population that has been vastly underrepresented in Alzheimer's research to-date. "We aim to examine the differences and similarities in genetic and environmental risk factors for Alzheimer's disease between Asian immigrants and other North Americans of European ancestry," says Dr. Robin Hsiung *(pictured)*. [Read More](#)

Air Pollution and Agricultural Pesticides Associated with High Incidence of Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease in BC

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



Agricultural pesticides and fine particulate matter air pollution were associated with geographical hotspots for pediatric inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in the province, according to a study by BC Children's Hospital researchers. "Last year, we diagnosed the highest number of kids we've ever diagnosed with IBD — 160 — outstripping population growth by a wide margin," says pediatric gastroenterologist Dr. Kevan Jacobson *(pictured)*. [Read More](#)

Mother's Mood Matters: Prenatal Exposure to SSRIs Not Related to Higher Levels of Anxiety and Internalizing Behaviours across Childhood

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



In 2004, Dr. Tim Oberlander's *(pictured)* attention was drawn to a paper in *Science* reporting a study by colleagues in New York. The researchers reported that mice with early life exposure to a class of antidepressants called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) were much more anxious in adolescence than mice who had not been exposed to SSRIs. [Read More](#)

Trainee Profile: Catie Futhey

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Catie Futhey *(pictured)* is an MD/PhD student in the Graduate Program in Neuroscience under the supervision of Drs. Veronica Hirsch-Reinshagen and Mark Cembrowski. Catie's research project looks at the neuropathological underpinnings and clinical features of the cognitive impairment observed in Alzheimer's Disease and chronic schizophrenia. [Read More](#)

First-of-its-Kind Genetic Matching for Precision Organ Transplantation

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Advanced genetic matching technology could result in significantly lower rates of organ transplant rejection, according to ongoing award-winning research led by Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute researcher Dr. Paul Keown *(pictured)*. "Epitope-matching may soon enable us to limit the use of potent immunosuppression medications and see virtually no organ rejection among organ transplant patients," states Dr. Keown. [Read More](#)

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 **Upcoming Events in Vancouver**

- September 12 7:30 PM **Back to Science Slam**
Fox Cabaret
- September 13 12:00 PM **VoyageHer: Navigating STEM Careers with Seaspan**
Online
- 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
- October 2-4 8:00 AM **Healthcare Summit: The Future of Innovation, Personalized Medicine and Genomics**
Coast Coal Harbour Hotel

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Aspect Biosystems
- Senior Scientist, Discovery Protein Science, Membrane Proteins**
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