

Publications of the Week

Pannexin-1 Opening in Neuronal Edema Causes Cell Death but Also Leads to Protection via Increased Microglia Contacts

First Author: Nicholas Weilinger (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Brian MacVicar
Cell Reports | Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health and UBC



Brain swelling, or edema, is a major cause of mortality after stroke, traumatic brain injury, and other insults. Neuronal swelling during cytotoxic edema is triggered by Na⁺ and Cl⁻ entry and is Ca²⁺ independent. However, the causes of neuronal death during swelling are unknown. Here, researchers investigate the role of large-conductance Pannexin-1 channels in neuronal death during cytotoxic edema.

[Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

Cardiomyocyte Ryanodine Receptor Clusters Expand and Coalesce After Application of Isoproterenol

First Author: David Scriven | Senior Author: Edwin Moore (*pictured*)
Journal of General Physiology | UBC



Earlier work has shown that ventricular ryanodine receptors (RyR2) within a cluster rearrange on phosphorylation as well as with a number of other stimuli. Using dSTORM, researchers investigated the effects of 300 nmol/liter isoproterenol on RyR2 clusters. This study concludes that isoproterenol induces rapid, significant, changes in the molecular architecture of excitation-contraction coupling.

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Awards

Q&A with Dr. Grace Cole, Recipient of the 2023 Neil Mackenzie Mentorship Excellence Award

Centre for Blood Research



Dr. Grace Cole (*pictured*) is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Karsan Lab. Dr. Cole is the recipient of the 2023 Neil Mackenzie Mentorship Excellence Award for the critical impact in their community. They are researching which factors promote blood cell formation during development so that protocols around stem cell transplant and the need for donors can be improved.

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New Provincial Funding Supports Research to Improve Pain Management for B.C. Children

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Dr. Catrina Loucks (*pictured*) is among the recipients of new funding from the B.C. government for her research aimed at improving pain management for vulnerable B.C. children, including those with cancer and other conditions. Dr. Loucks, Assistant Professor in the UBC Faculty of Medicine, is the Principal Investigator at the Loucks Pain Management Pharmacogenomics Lab at BC Children's Hospital Research Institute.

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Local News

DMCBH Trainees Host Town Hall to Raise Awareness and Support for Graduate Student and Postdoc Funding

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



DMCBH trainees have been actively involved with Support Our Science (SoS), a grassroots organization with the mission of improving pay for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars in Canada. In support of advocacy week and a follow-up movement to last spring's walkout, UBC's Neuroscience Trainee Association hosted a town hall and panel to highlight the goals and mission of SoS.

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Vancouver Spinal Injury Drug Gets Fast-Tracked Review

Business Intelligence for B.C.



A Vancouver biotech that is in early clinical trials with a drug candidate that may repair damaged nerves in spinal cord injuries has received Food and Drug Administration Fast Track designation. The NervGen Pharma Corporation recently began Phase 1b/2a of its drug candidate, NVG-291. The company says testing in rodents has been found to promote nervous system repair and "functional recovery" in spinal cord injury, peripheral nerve injury, multiple sclerosis, and stroke.

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The Future of Sustainable Mining Belongs to the Microbe

Illumina



For generations, the metals and minerals that the mining industry produces have been integral to improving quality of life. The industry is on the cusp of a staggering increase in demand for materials critical for low-carbon and renewable energy technology. Bacteria can keep potentially harmful amounts of selenium, which occurs naturally in coal deposits, from entering rivers by changing it into selenite crystal.

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Helping British Columbians See Clearly

UBC Faculty of Medicine



The retina is our bridge to the visual world, transforming the light that enters our eyes into the images we see. Dr. Eduardo Navajas (*pictured*), Clinical Associate Professor and Director of Resident Research at UBC's Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, is working to preserve this precious gateway for thousands of British Columbians.

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- October 31 9:00 AM **SBME Research Day**
LSC East Atrium
- November 1 12:00 PM **Propels Leading Teams: Principles of Effective Leadership**
Irving K Barber Learning Centre
- November 1 4:00 PM **BCCRC Alumni Industry Career Panel**
ICORD Lecture Theatre
- November 2 8:00 AM **Invest in BC presented by Lumira Ventures**
Terminal City Club
- November 7 12:00 PM **Effective Communication for Biomedical Engineers**
Life Sciences Centre

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adMare BioInnovations
- Principal Scientist/Associate Director, Biologics**
Abdera Therapeutics Inc.
- Animal Research Associate II**
Zymeworks

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