

Publications of the Week

Identification of Multivariable MicroRNA and Clinical Biomarker Panels to Predict Imatinib Response in Chronic Myeloid Leukemia at Diagnosis

First Author: Andrew Wu | Senior Author: Xiaoyan Jiang *(pictured)*
Leukemia | UBC and BC Cancer



Imatinib Mesylate (imatinib) was once hailed as the magic bullet for chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) and remains a front-line therapy for CML to this day alongside other tyrosine kinase inhibitors. In this study, researchers analyze clinical data and differentially expressed miRNAs in CD34⁺ CML cells from patients who were later classified as imatinib-responders or imatinib-nonresponders. [Abstract](#)

Ki67 Assessment Protocol as an Integral Biomarker for Avoiding Radiotherapy in the LUMINA Breast Cancer Trial

First Author: Torsten Nielsen *(pictured)* | Senior Author: Timothy Whelan
Histopathology | UBC



Adjuvant whole-breast radiation to the conserved breast is the standard of care for early invasive breast cancer. Here, researchers describe the protocol for Ki67 assessment, the companion diagnostic used to guide omission of adjuvant radiotherapy. Ki67 is a practical, reproducible, and inexpensive biomarker that can identify low-risk luminal A breast cancers as potential candidates for radiation de-escalation. [Abstract](#)

Development of a Novel Human Triculture Model of Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease and Identification of Berberine as Ameliorating Steatosis, Oxidative Stress, and Fibrosis

First Author: Hossein Rafiei *(pictured)* | Senior Author: Ingrid Elisia
Frontiers in Pharmacology | BC Cancer Research Institute



Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) and its progression to non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) and hepatocarcinoma is a serious and growing problem. However, the development of new therapies is severely hindered by a lack of high-throughput assays for drug testing. Here, researchers developed a simple triculture model that recapitulates the main features of NAFLD/NASH and should be useful for high-throughput preclinical drug discovery. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Dr. Lara Boyd Named Distinguished University Scholar

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Dr. Lara Boyd *(pictured)*, a Professor in the UBC Faculty of Medicine, has been recognized as a 2023 Distinguished University Scholar for her work in motor learning and developing novel therapeutic approaches that stimulate recovery after a stroke. Dr. Boyd's research advances understanding of the neurobiology of motor recovery after stroke by the study of biomarkers to develop new interventions that can be personalized for patients with stroke. [Read More](#)

Dr. Amanda Amoah Receives Walter Benjamin German Research Foundation Fellowship

BC Cancer Terry Fox Laboratory Research



BC Cancer congratulates Dr. Amanda Amoah *(pictured)* from the Kuchenbauer Lab for receiving the Walter Benjamin German Research Foundation Fellowship for the work titled "Characterization of miR-106a in inv(3)t(3;3) AML and its exploitation as an avenue for treatment". The Walter Benjamin Programme is a funding scheme offered by the German Research Foundation for postdoctoral researchers in the early stages of their research career. [Read More](#)

Dr. Govind Kaigala Wins Microtas Analytical Chemistry Young Innovator Award

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering (SBME)



Congratulations to SBME's Dr. Govind Kaigala *(pictured)* for being awarded the 2023 Analytical Chemistry Young Innovator Award. His research particularly focuses on quantifying heterogeneity that is ubiquitous and unfavorable for the treatment of cancers. One of the accomplishments he is most proud of is the influence his team's work has had on the design of biotech products in the industry. [Read More](#)

BC Cancer Investigators Receive Support from the Osteosarcoma Institute

BC Cancer Research

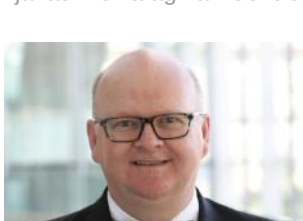


BC Cancer congratulates their researchers Dr. Poul Sorensen *(pictured, right)* and Dr. Gregg Morin *(left)* for being awarded \$500,000 USD from the Osteosarcoma Institute. Their project, titled "Harnessing the osteosarcoma surfaceome for immunotherapy targets to block metastatic capacity", aims to validate novel IT targets that could improve outcomes for patients with metastatic osteosarcoma. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Investigating New Technologies to Monitor and Treat Parkinson's Disease

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



Dr. Martin McKeown's *(pictured)* team at the Pacific Parkinson's Research Centre and the Movement Disorders Clinic, located at the DMCBH, are working on several novel technologies for Parkinson's disease that will hopefully improve the quality and effectiveness of patient care and treatment. "We think this technology will be a game-changer," says Dr. McKeown. "This will allow people with Parkinson's to stay independent in their homes for as long as possible." [Read More](#)

Genetic Testing Could Greatly Benefit Patients with Depression, Save Health System Millions

UBC Faculty of Medicine



According to new research from UBC, a special kind of genetic test that helps determine the best antidepressant for patients with moderate-to-severe depression could generate substantive health system savings and greatly improve patient outcomes. "Genes play an important role in how our bodies metabolize different antidepressants, which ultimately influences their efficacy," said co-senior author Dr. Jehannine Austin *(pictured)*. [Read More](#)

Eleven UBC Science Researchers Featured on Global Highly Cited List

UBC Science



Eleven UBC Science-affiliated researchers have been listed among the most highly cited investigators worldwide in 2023 by Clarivate Analytics. The researchers, including Dr. Brett Finlay *(pictured)* from the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, have demonstrated significant and broad influence reflected in their publication of multiple highly cited papers over the last decade. [Read More](#)

UBC Researchers Leading the Way in Using Fluid Biomarkers for Diagnosis of Neurological Disorders

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



Dr. Cheryl Wellington *(pictured)*, DMCBH member and Professor and Vice-Chair of Research in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and her lab have created UBC's Neurology Fluid Biomarker Network. The network's vision is to expand into a distributed core facility for neurology fluid biomarkers to develop, validate, and implement tests that improve the diagnosis, prognosis, and management of neurological disorders. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Government of Canada Invests \$15M in First-of-Its-Kind Pan-Canadian Genome Library

BC Cancer Research Institute



Despite Canada's research capacity and many established genomics laboratories, there is no national database to capture, store, and access Canadian genomic data in an equitable, secure, and sustainable manner. To close this gap and harness the potential of genomic medicine, the Government of Canada announced a \$15 million investment to create a Pan-Canadian Genome Library which will allow for easier sharing of genomic data across the country. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- November 21 12:00 PM **Navigating the Biomedical Job Market: Understanding Industry Demands and How to Position Oneself for Success**
Online
- November 24 4:00 PM **Science Made Casual: What It Takes to Become a Successful Scientist**
BCCRC Diamond Lecture Theatre
- November 28 8:00 AM **Approaches for Accessible Clinical Trials**
Robert H. Lee UBC Alumni Centre and Online
- November 28 12:00 PM **Propels: Career Paths in Biotech**
MacLeod Building
- November 29 4:00 PM **2023 Venture Showcase**
UBC Robson Square

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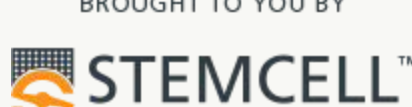
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Other Science Jobs in Vancouver

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BC Children's and Women's Hospital & Health Centre
- Director, Laboratory Quality and Process Improvement**
The Provincial Health Services Authority

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