

Publications of the Week

Investigating the Anti-Cancer Potential of Pyrimethamine Analogues Through a Modern Chemical Biology Lens

First Author: Jennifer Brown | Senior Author: Brent Page *(pictured)*
European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry | UBC



Pharmacological inhibition of dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR) is an established approach for treating a variety of human diseases, including foreign infections and cancer. The DHFR inhibitor pyrimethamine (Pyr) has compelling anti-cancer activity in *in vivo* models, but requires high concentrations to induce therapeutic responses. The purpose of this work was to investigate structural analogues of Pyr to improve its *in vitro* and cellular activity. [Abstract](#)

RNF185 Control of COL3A1 Expression Limits Prostate Cancer Migration and Metastatic Potential

First Author: Benjamin Van Espen | Senior Authors: Martin Gleave *(pictured)* and Ze'ev Ronai
Molecular Cancer Research | UBC



RNF185 is a RING finger domain-containing ubiquitin ligase implicated in endoplasmic reticulum-associated degradation. Prostate tumour patient data analysis revealed a negative correlation between RNF185 expression and prostate cancer progression and metastasis. Researchers identify RNF185 as a gatekeeper of prostate cancer metastasis, partly via its control of COL3A1 availability. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

December 2023 Award Winners

Science in Vancouver



BC Cancer researcher Dr. Samuel Aparicio *(pictured)* has been named the 2022 recipient of the Canadian Cancer Society's Robert L. Noble Prize. Created in honour of Dr. Noble, whose research in the 1950s led to the discovery of a widely used anticancer drug, the prize is given for outstanding achievements in basic biomedical cancer research. See all award winners for December 2023 in our monthly award summary. [Read More](#)

Dr. Morris Barer and Deborah Money Appointed to Order of Canada

UBC Faculty of Medicine



UBC Faculty of Medicine's Drs. Morris Barer and Deborah Money *(pictured)* were recently appointed to the Order of Canada. Considered one of the country's highest honours, the Order of Canada recognizes individuals who have enriched the lives of others and made extraordinary contributions to Canadian society. The latest appointments were announced by the Governor General of Canada. [Read More](#)

Three FHS Research Teams Secure Michael Smith Awards

SFU Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS)



Michael Smith Health Research BC announced that three research teams led by Faculty of Health Sciences members have received awards from the organization's two team competitions: the Convening & Collaborating Awards and the REACH Awards. Among the award winners are Drs. Kiffer Card, Kristina Stelkia *(pictured)*, Meghan Winters, and Meredith Sones. [Read More](#)

Dr. Florian Kuchenbauer Receives Aldo Del Col Research Grant, Represented by Myeloma Canada

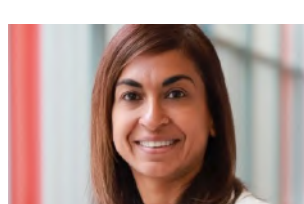
BC Cancer



Dr. Florian Kuchenbauer *(pictured)* has been honoured with the esteemed Aldo Del Col Research Grant by Myeloma Canada for his project titled, "Defining the origins and metabolic pathways of osteoclasts in multiple myeloma." Dr. Kuchenbauer's work is poised to make a significant impact on myeloma diagnosis and treatment, highlighting the synergy between scientific innovation and patient-centric care. [Read More](#)

Faculty of Medicine Researchers Turning Evidence into Impact with New Health Research BC Funding

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Sixteen projects led by Faculty of Medicine researchers have received new funding from Michael Smith Health Research BC through the 2023 Convening & Collaborating and Reach programs. Among this year's recipients is Dr. Shelina Babul *(pictured)* from BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and UBC's Department of Pediatrics. [Read More](#)

[View All Featured Awards](#) | [View All Monthly Award Summaries](#)

Local News

Zymeworks Gets \$50M Private Placement

Business In Vancouver



Zymeworks is getting a boost from an American biotech focused firm, EcoR1 Capital, in the form of a \$50 million private placement. Zymeworks is a Vancouver-based clinical stage biotech focused on protein therapeutics for treating cancer and autoimmune diseases. The private placement extends the company's cash runway according to Zymeworks CEO Kenneth Galbraith *(pictured)*. [Read More](#)

Exploring the Role of Disease-Modifying Therapies on the Gut Microbiome in the Treatment of Multiple Sclerosis

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



There has been growing interest in the potential effect of disease-modifying therapies (DMTs) used to treat multiple sclerosis (MS) on the gut microbiota composition and functionality. A UBC research group, including Wendy Tsai *(pictured)*, conducted a systematic review to examine the relationship between the DMTs used to treat MS and the gut microbiome. [Read More](#)

Sustainability and Molecular Biology: An Interview with Dr. Dustin King

Molecular Cell



Dr. Dustin King *(pictured)*, an Assistant Professor at Simon Fraser University in the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, shares the research direction of his new group at Simon Fraser University with *Molecular Cell*. Dr. King is passionate about applying his research toward developing sustainable biotechnologies that also combat the effects of climate change. [Read More](#)

BC Team Identifies Drivers of Aggressive Childhood Cancers and Develops Model to Explore New Treatments

The Terry Fox Research Institute



In a recent study funded by the Terry Fox Research Institute, a team of researchers verified two drivers of cancerous tumours caused by DICER1 syndrome and developed an animal model that will allow them to track DICER1 cancer growth and test novel therapies. This study was co-led by Drs. Yemin Wang *(pictured)* and David Huntsman. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

New Lab to Market NSERC Grants

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)



NSERC, in collaboration with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, has announced the launch of the Lab to Market grants. These grants are a new tri-agency initiative designed to foster the development of entrepreneurship skills and commercialization capacity within networks in the academic community. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

January 12 6:00 PM	Networking Night AMS Student Nest
January 16 - 17 9:00 AM	BioBasics 201: Targeted Biologics for the Non-Scientist Oceanic Plaxa
January 17 12:00 PM	Centre for Blood Research Seminar Series Online
January 25 12:30 PM	Science & Environment Co-op Info Session 8888 University Dr.
January 26 8:30 AM	Life Sciences BC's 5th Annual Career Connect Day 2024 Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown Hotel

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

- Senior Scientist, Data & Analytic Services**
BC Centre for Disease Control
- Academic Dean, Faculty of Science**
Langara College
- Research Associate 2, Biology *in vivo***
Xenon Pharmaceuticals
- Reagent Technician**
Cytiva
- Senior/Principal Scientist, Pharmaceutical Development**
AbCellera

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STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

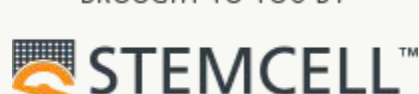
- Scientific Communications Associate**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Research Associate, Pulmonary**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Manager, Quality Control, Cell Core**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Lab Manager**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Senior Scientific Support Representative**
STEMCELL Technologies

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