



Publications of the Week

Design and Evaluation of ZD06519, a Novel Camptothecin Payload for Antibody Drug Conjugates

First Author: Mark Petersen | Senior Author: Raffaele Colombo (*pictured*)
Molecular Cancer Therapeutics | Zymeworks



In recent years, the field of antibody drug conjugates (ADCs) has seen a resurgence, largely driven by the clinical benefit observed in patients treated with ADCs incorporating camptothecin-based topoisomerase I inhibitor payloads. Here, researchers present the development of a novel camptothecin ZD06519, which has been specifically designed for its application as an ADC payload. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Congratulations 2022–23 CBR Travel Award Recipients!

The Centre for Blood Research



Over the years, with the support of Travel Awards provided by the Centre for Blood Research (CBR), numerous Postdoctoral Fellows, Research Associates and graduate trainees have had the opportunity to attend scientific conferences and further their professional development. The 2022-2023 Travel Award recipients have been announced and include Dr. Melina Messing (*pictured*). [Read More](#)

LSI Researchers Awarded Funding Through the Fall 2023 CIHR Project Grant Competition

UBC Life Sciences Institute (LSI)



Five LSI researchers were awarded funds in the CIHR Fall 2023 Project Grant competition. In total, the researchers were awarded more than \$4.5 million from this competition. Among the awardees is Dr. Sheila Teves (*pictured*). Dr. Teves aims to use molecular biology, advanced DNA sequencing, and live-cell microscopy to uncover more details regarding how RNA polymerases transcribe genes. [Read More](#)

VCHRI Researchers Awarded CIHR Project Grants to Support Health Research

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI)



The CIHR Fall 2023 competition has approved 374 research grants and six bridge grants, for a total investment of \$325 million. The VCHRI congratulates their researchers who were awarded project grants and priority announcement grants. Among the awardees is Dr. Kamyar Keramatian (*pictured*) who is part of a team investigating a new therapeutic approach for depression in bipolar II disorder. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Celebrating Canada's Outstanding Immigrant Women in STEMM

Immigrant Women in STEM



To commemorate ten years of TechGirls Canada advancing a STEMM economy where women thrive, The Journey Awards have been launched to recognize and honour the journeys of immigrant women in STEMM who exemplify leadership, innovation, and community service. This year's award will celebrate recipients in British Columbia, Quebec, and Ontario. [Read More](#)

Symposium Sparks New Ideas to Enhance Clinical Trial Accessibility in British Columbia

Michael Smith Health Research BC



Accessibility to clinical trials catalyzes change for a stronger health research system. They generate robust evidence for lifesaving interventions such as vaccines, drugs, and devices. British Columbia's vision for clinical trials was the force that recently brought the clinical trials community together for the Approaches for Accessible Clinical Trials Symposium. [Read More](#)

Health Research BC-Mitacs Industry-Based Program

Michael Smith Health Research BC



The Michael Smith Health Research BC-Mitacs industry-based program supports graduate students and postdoctoral fellows across BC to gain experience working within the life sciences sector. The Accelerate and Elevate programs are now open for applications. These programs enable trainees to contribute to a research project with a life sciences company in need of high-level expertise. [Read More](#)

Design and Construction Team Chosen for Clinical Support and Research Centre at New St. Paul's Hospital

The Daily Scan



People in BC are a step closer to benefiting from world-class research and integrated health care as the delivery team has been selected for the design and construction of the Clinical Support and Research Centre at the new St. Paul's Hospital on the Jim Pattison Medical Campus in Vancouver. The facility will house key research centres, programs, and disciplines. [Read More](#)

Can Your Breath Be Used to Detect Lung Cancer?

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Lung cancer is the deadliest form of cancer globally. What if the world's deadliest cancer could be quickly and easily detected using something as simple, and painless as a breath test? In the first laboratory of its kind in North America, UBC's Dr. Renelle Myers (*pictured*) is harnessing the power of breath in the hopes of saving more lives, sooner. [Read More](#)

Celebrating Women and Girls in Science: PhD Candidate Marie Johns Reflects on Her Journey in Stem

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories (MSL)



February 11, 2024 celebrates the ninth annual International Day of Women and Girls in Science. This date of recognition looks to close the gender gap in STEM fields by promoting "full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls." In recognition of this significant day, MSL spoke with Marie Johns (*pictured*) who has recently been recognized for her outstanding work studying Alzheimer's Disease. [Read More](#)

The Fatally Urgent Need for Genetically Diverse Biobanks

Genome BC



A biobank is like an "organic bank account" that collects and stores biological samples, such as tissue and blood, as well as health data, lifestyle information, and medication details — creating a genomic database. Biobanks have emerged as invaluable drivers of medical breakthroughs and advancements in personalized healthcare. Concerted efforts are needed to ensure the information collected in biobanks accurately reflects the diversity of our population. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- February 28 8:00 AM **Access to Innovation 2024**
Vancouver Convention Centre
- February 28 7:00 PM **Nerd Nite v52: Pufferfish, Phages, and the Psychology of Learning**
Fox Cabaret
- February 29 7:00 PM **Café Scientifique**
Musqueam Cultural Centre
- March 5 8:00 AM **Blakes Breakfast: Navigating Life Sciences M&A: Thought Leader Insights**
Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP
- March 6 6:30 PM **Nobel Prize Lectures**
Science World

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

- UBC President's Excellence Chair in Precision Oncology**
UBC
- Medical Technologist III, Clinical Cell Therapy Lab Stem Cell, Cryogenic Laboratory**
Provincial Laboratory Medicine Services
- Scientist, Translational Biology**
Alpha-9 Oncology
- Associate Scientist, Downstream Process Development**
AbCellera
- Implementation Science Lead, Legacy Airway Health**
Vancouver Coastal Health

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