

Publications of the Week

Lipid Nanoparticles and siRNA Targeting Plasminogen Provide Lasting Inhibition of Fibrinolysis in Mouse and Dog Models of Hemophilia A

First Author: Amy Strlichuk | Senior Author: Christian Kastrup (pictured)
Science Translational Medicine | UBC



Antifibrinolytic drugs are used extensively for on-demand treatment of severe acute bleeding. Here, researchers developed a long-lasting antifibrinolytic using small interfering RNA (siRNA) targeting plasminogen packaged in clinically used lipid nanoparticles and tested it to determine whether reducing plasmin activity in animal models of hemophilia A could decrease bleeding frequency and severity. [Abstract](#)

A Tumour-Restricted Glycoform of Podocalyxin Is a Highly Selective Marker of Immunologically Cold High-Grade Serous Ovarian Carcinoma

First Author: Julyanne Brassard | Senior Author: Kelly McNagny (pictured)
Frontiers in Oncology | UBC and BC Cancer



Targeted immunotherapies aim to improve cancer treatment by directly targeting cancer cells while sparing healthy tissues. Researchers found that an antibody, named PODO447, that selectively targets a tumour-associated glycoform of podocalyxin is an excellent biomarker of immune "cold" tumours and a candidate for the development of targeted therapies. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

Phosphorylation of RyR2 Simultaneously Expands the Dyad and Rearranges the Tetramers

First Author: Parisa Asghari | Senior Author: Edwin Moore (pictured)
Journal of General Physiology | UBC



It has been previously demonstrated that type II ryanodine receptor (RyR2) tetramers can be rapidly rearranged in response to a phosphorylation cocktail. Here, researchers used the β -agonist isoproterenol and mice homozygous for clinically relevant mutations to determine whether phosphorylation of RyR2 was an essential element of the response. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Faculty of Medicine Researchers Leading 32 Projects Awarded CIHR Fall 2023 Grants

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Faculty of Medicine researchers are among the UBC awardees of funding through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). A total of 46 projects led by UBC researchers were awarded \$31.3 million in combined funding. The projects address key health challenges including cancer, respiratory health, osteoarthritis, and more. Among the list of researchers is Dr. Carolina Tropini (pictured).

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Seven Outstanding Early-Career Researchers Named 2024 Terry Fox New Investigators

Terry Fox Research Institute



Seven talented, early-career scientists in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia will each receive up to \$450,000 over the next three years to support impactful cancer research through the 2024 Terry Fox New Investigator Awards program. Dr. Laura Evgin (pictured) from BC Cancer has won an award for her work in the optimization of CAR T-cell therapy. [Read More](#)

Congratulations CIHR Fall 2023 Project Grant Recipients

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute (BCCHR)



BCCHR congratulates the investigators and their teams who were awarded funding through the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) Fall 2023 Project Grant competition. The BCCHR and Women's Health Research Institute research community received around \$11 million in new research grants. Among the 17 awardees is Dr. Liisa Galea (pictured). [Read More](#)

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Local News

SBME Innovates

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering (SBME)



The SBME has announced a call for applications for the SBME Innovates 2024 intake. SBME Innovates is a Life Sciences Incubator designed to accelerate biotech translation from bench to societal impact. Located in UBC's Biomedical Research Centre, it's a fully equipped wet lab space for early stage companies with big ideas. Applications close on the morning of April 2, 2024. [Read More](#)

CentileBrain: Breakthrough Innovation in Brain Imaging

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



CentileBrain is a groundbreaking initiative, published in *Lancet Digital Health*, that addresses a critical gap in sample size and diversity in neuroimaging databases, marking a significant advancement in brain imaging. Dr. Sophia Frangou (pictured) spearheads the initiative, which includes researchers from UBC, the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and the ENIGMA Lifespan Working Group. [Read More](#)

The Fatally Urgent Need for Genetically Diverse Biobanks

Genome BC



Biobanks have emerged as invaluable repositories of data and samples and are being leveraged to drive medical breakthroughs and advancements in personalized healthcare. To reflect BC's diversity, it is crucial to include data in biobanks from under-represented populations. One such research initiative is the Indigenous-led Northern Biobank Initiative, which is funded by Genome BC. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Funding Opportunity for Life Sciences Research via the Human Frontier Science Program

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada



The Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) is unique in supporting international collaboration to undertake innovative, risky, basic research at the frontier of the life sciences. HFSP Research Grant applications are open. They support innovative basic research into fundamental biological problems with emphasis placed on novel and interdisciplinary approaches. [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 11:00 AM **Genome BC's Genomics and Society Symposium 2024**
Sngqu House

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

- Research Technician**
UBC
- Director**
Vancouver Prostate Centre
- Associate Scientist, Downstream Process Development**
AbCellera
- Contract Faculty, Health Sciences**
Douglas College
- Associate Director, Fundamental Research and Preclinical Models**
Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute

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