



Publications of the Week

Targeted and Shallow Whole Genome Sequencing Identifies Therapeutic Opportunities in p53abn Endometrial Cancers

First Author: Amy Jamieson | Senior Author: Jessica McAlpine (pictured)
Clinical Cancer Research | UBC, BC Cancer, and Vancouver General Hospital



Shallow whole genome sequencing (sWGS) can detect copy number (CN) aberrations. In high-grade serous ovarian sWGS identified CN signatures such as homologous recombination deficiency to direct therapy. Researchers applied sWGS with targeted sequencing to p53abn endometrial cancers to identify additional prognostic stratification and therapeutic opportunities. [Abstract](#)

Investigation on Adaptability and Applicability of Polymer-Mediated Cell Surface Engineering by Ligation with Transglutaminase

First Author: Haiming Luo | Senior Author: Jayachandran Kizhakkedathu (pictured)
Applied Materials & Interfaces | Centre for Blood Research and UBC



Polymer-mediated cell surface engineering can be a powerful tool to modify the cell's biological behavior, but a simple ligation strategy must be identified. This manuscript assessed the use of transglutamination as a versatile and adaptable approach for cell surface engineering in various cellular models relevant to biomedical applications. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

March 2024 Award Winners

Science in Vancouver



UBC's Michael Smith Labs and the School of Biomedical Engineering Dr. Anna Blakney (pictured) has been named as one of the five new Canada Research Chairs from UBC. Her research centres on nucleic acid bioengineering. See which other Vancouver researchers received grants, awards, fellowships, and scholarships in March. [Read More](#)

Four MSL Postdoctoral Fellows Receive Pathway to Independence Award

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories (MSL)



The Michael Smith Laboratories Pathway to Independence Award aims to support the research and career development of outstanding MSL postdoctoral fellows. The four postdocs who were selected for this award in 2024 are Drs. Marissa Lithopoulos (pictured), Lars Kruse, Ross Jones, and Santanu Sasidharan. They began their projects this month and will share their results in the spring of 2025. [Read More](#)

Dr. Somasekharan's Students Awarded the CIHR Travel Award 2024

Vancouver Prostate Centre



Sarina Saffarian (pictured), Ziwei Cai, and Joslia Jose from Dr. Syam Somasekharan's laboratory were honored with the prestigious travel awards from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) through the Institute Community Support Program. This award is highly competitive and limited, making it rare for three students from the same lab to receive it. [Read More](#)

LSI Researchers Awarded over \$9.3 Million in CFI Infrastructure Funding

UBC Life Sciences Institute (LSI)



Three projects led by LSI researchers have been awarded funding in the latest round of The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Innovation Fund Grants. The projects are led by LSI researchers Drs. Leonard Foster, James Johnson, Elizabeth Rideout, and Natalie Strynadka (pictured) received a total of over \$9.3 million in funding. [Read More](#)

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Local News

A Celebration of Life for Dr. Connie Eaves to Be Held on May 5, 2024

Science in Vancouver



It is with deep sadness that we share news of the passing of Dr. Connie Eaves (pictured), Distinguished Scientist at BC Cancer's Terry Fox Laboratory and Professor in the Department of Medical Genetics and the School of Biomedical Engineering at UBC. The Eaves family will be holding a Celebration of Life for Connie starting at 1:30 pm on Sunday, May 5, 2024 at the Chan Centre at UBC. This Celebration of Life is open to all those who would like to attend. [Read More](#)

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute Brings Mini Science Night to Salmon Arm

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



BC Children's Hospital Research Institute is coming to Salmon Arm, BC, with Mini Science Night — a public lecture that explores the newest discoveries and innovations in health research. "By moving around BC, Mini Science Night hopes to give students and adults across the province the opportunity to develop their dreams regarding a career in research," says keynote speaker, Dr. Wyeth Wasserman (pictured). [Read More](#)

From Poop to Proof: GEMSTONE Project Aims to Flush Out Source of Marine Fecal Pollution

Genome BC



A two-year project led by researchers from the UBC and the BC Centre for Disease Control, funded through Genome BC's GeneSolve Program, is poised to improve how we monitor and identify fecal pollution sources in marine waters. By empowering communities with precision testing and early-warning systems, GEMSTONE seeks to safeguard public health and the viability of BC's shellfish industry against costly outbreaks. [Read More](#)

Fantastic Plastic

UBC Magazine



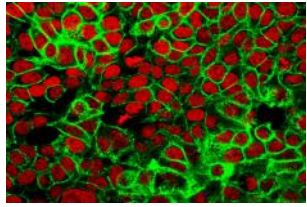
What if we could eliminate single-use plastic? It's a question at the heart of Bioform Technologies, the business Dr. Jordan MacKenzie (pictured) co-founded with UBC Professor Dr. Mark Martinez to create a 100 per cent bio-based alternative to single-use plastic. Their patented biomaterial is inspired by spider silk and transforms wood fibre and kelp into a new kind of tissue that behaves like a sustainable version of plastic. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

TFRI–MOHCCN Technology Development Awards

The Terry Fox Research Institute



The Terry Fox Research Institute (TFRI) and the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network (MOHCCN) has announced a new co-funding opportunity that aims to support the development of proof-of-principle or proof-of-feasibility data for additional profiling approaches to be used in future developments for the MOHCCN. These projects will support precision cancer research using the MOHCCN model. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

April 8 12:00 PM	The Economic Evaluation of Precision Medicine in Diabetes: Models and Approaches Vancouver General Hospital Research Pavilion
April 11 8:00 PM	Science of Cocktails Science World
April 18 7:00 AM	Norman Bethune Symposium UBC Robson Square
May 5 1:30 PM	A Celebration of Life for Dr. Connie Eaves Chan Centre
May 8 8:00 AM	Living Innovations: BC's Path to Biological Engineering Online

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

Associate Professor (Tenure) or Professor (Tenure) Sir Magdi Yacoub Professorship in Tissue Regeneration

UBC SBME

Experiential Learning Specialist

Science World

Research Associate

BC Children's Hospital and UBC

Medical Science Liaison, Rare Diseases

Takeda

Contract Faculty, Biology

Douglas College

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