



Publications of the Week

Cdk8/CDK19 Promotes Mitochondrial Fission Through Drp1 Phosphorylation and Can Phenotypically Suppress *pink1* Deficiency in *Drosophila*

First Author: Jenny Zhe Liao | Senior Author: Hugo Bellen and Esther Verheyen (*pictured*)
Nature Communications | Simon Fraser University



Cdk8 in *Drosophila* is the orthologue of vertebrate *CDK8* and *CDK19*. These proteins have been shown to modulate transcriptional control by RNA polymerase II. Researchers found that neuronal loss of *Cdk8* severely reduces fly lifespan and causes bang sensitivity. Remarkably, these defects can be rescued by expression of human CDK19, found in the cytoplasm of neurons, suggesting a non-nuclear function of CDK19/Cdk8. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

MBIM Students Win Prestigious Awards During Spring Term

UBC Microbiology and Immunology (MBIM)



As the academic term comes to an end, MBIM looks back on all the awards and achievements from three students in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. Among the awardees is Loujain Bilal, Nicholas Viegas, and Abishek Wadhwa (*pictured*). Abishek Wadhwa is the recipient of the NanoMedicines Innovation Network Graduate Award. [Read More](#)

UBC Evolutionary Biologist Dr. Dolph Schluter Named AAAS Fellow

UBC Science



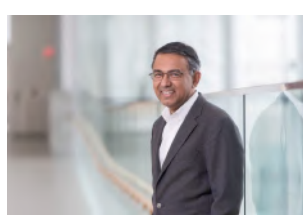
Internationally renowned evolutionary biologist Dr. Dolph Schluter (*pictured*) has been elected to the newest class of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) fellows, among the most distinct honours within the global scientific community. Dr. Schluter is recognized for his "outstanding contributions to the field of evolutionary biology, including distinguished work in the study of ecological speciation and adaptive radiation." [Read More](#)

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Local News

Fueling a BC Biotech Boom

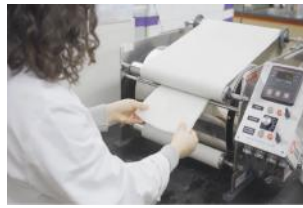
UBC Faculty of Medicine



Every day, UBC researchers like Dr. Sriram Subramaniam (*pictured*) are working at an accelerated pace to turn scientific discoveries into lifesaving innovations. Their work is transforming how we treat everything from cancer to diabetes and has firmly established British Columbia as one of the biotech world's top places to watch. [Read More](#)

Suzano Ventures Invests Up to US\$5 Million into Bioform Technologies to Further Develop Bio-Based Plastic Alternatives

Bioform Technologies



Suzano Ventures, the corporate venture capital arm of Suzano, the world's largest market pulp producer, has made a strategic investment into the Canadian materials science startup, Bioform Technologies. The investment provides up to US\$5 million towards the company's seed round, enabling it to accelerate the development of its novel bio-based plastic alternatives. [Read More](#)

Policy Foresight: A Valuable Tool in an Era of Rapid Technological Change

Genome BC



Facilitating the development of new tools, and the uptake of existing ones, often requires a variety of policies. It can be a cumbersome and complicated process fraught with risks and uncertainty. The field of genomics, the study of the complete set of DNA in an organism, is a prime example of a sector that has evolved through massive change. [Read More](#)

2024 CBR Magazine Published

The Centre for Blood Research (CBR)



The CBR magazine is published annually by the Centre for Blood Research, with many articles written and edited by the CBR Knowledge Translation Committee, a group of undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research associates, and technicians who are interested in science writing, blogging, and mixed media communications. It is distributed free of charge to CBR and UBC alumni, friends, and the scientific community. [Read More](#)

From the Brain to Fingertips: Unlocking Stem Cell Potential for Tissue Regeneration

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories



The regeneration of human tissues might sound like an idea borrowed from science fiction. Yet, research from Dr. Freda Miller's lab is revealing that some form of tissue regeneration may be possible. Understanding the mechanisms of regeneration could have a positive impact on human health by helping to repair damage caused by injury or disease. [Read More](#)

Where Are They Now – Past Neuroscience Graduates

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Alumni of the UBC Graduate Program in Neuroscience (GPN) embark on diverse career paths, spanning academia, clinical practice, industry, and beyond. GPN connected with two Neuroscience program graduates, Dr. Kaiyun Yang and Ariana Cahn (*pictured*), to learn about their current career destinations and how their experiences in the program paved the way for their success. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- May 8
8:00 AM

Living Innovations: BC's Path to Biological Engineering
Online
- May 16
8:00 AM

SynBio6.0
AMS Student Nest
- May 24
9:00 AM

StemCellTalks Vancouver – Building Blocks of Life: Applications of Stem Cells
Pharmaceutical Sciences Building
- May 29
8:00 AM

ISCT 2024
Vancouver Convention Centre
- June 4
9:30 AM

SBME Symposium 2024
AMS Student Nest

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

- Laboratory Instructor, Brewing and Brewery Operations**
Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Associate Scientist, Downstream Process Development (CMC)**
AbCellera
- Research Coordinator**
UBC
- Research Associate II, Protein Engineering**
Zymeworks
- Senior Bioinformatics Scientist, Oncology Research**
Cytiva

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