

Publications of the Week

Amyloidogenic Regions in Beta-Strands II and III Modulate the Aggregation and Toxicity of SOD1 in Living Cells

First Author: Luke McAlary | Senior Author: Neil Cashman (pictured)
Open Biology | Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health and UBC



Mutations in the protein superoxide dismutase-1 (SOD1) promote its misfolding and aggregation, ultimately causing familial forms of the debilitating neurodegenerative disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Using *in silico* tools, researchers predicted amyloidogenic regions in the ALS-associated SOD1-G85R mutant, finding seven regions throughout the structure. [Abstract](#)

The Catabolism of Ethylene Glycol by *Rhodococcus jostii* RHA1 and Its Dependence on Mycofactocin

First Author: Raphael Roccor | Senior Author: Lindsay Eltis (pictured)
Applied and Environmental Microbiology | UBC



Ethylene glycol (EG) is a widely used industrial chemical with manifold applications and also generated in the degradation of plastics such as polyethylene terephthalate. *Rhodococcus jostii* RHA1, a potential biocatalytic chassis, grows on EG. This study provides insights into the bacterial catabolism of small alcohols and aldehydes and facilitates the engineering of *Rhodococcus* for the upgrading of plastic waste streams. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Lupus Research Alliance Grants Lupus Innovation Awards to Nine International Researchers Pushing the Boundaries of Lupus Research

Lupus Research Alliance



The Lupus Research Alliance has announced that nine international researchers are the recipients of this year's Lupus Innovation Award. Among the nine recipients is Dr. Maria Tokuyama (pictured) from UBC. Dr. Tokuyama will develop a new type of chimeric autoantibody receptor T-cell that specifically eliminates endogenous retroviruses-targeting B cells, leaving healthy B cells intact. [Read More](#)

Career Research Award

Canadian Paediatric Society



Established in 2009, the Career Research Award is a biennial award that recognizes the career of an outstanding and accomplished researcher working on an aspect of pediatric research in Canada. Among the 2024 awardees is Dr. Stuart Turvey (pictured) from B.C. Children's Hospital and UBC. He studies childhood immune deficiency diseases and disorders of immune dysfunction. [Read More](#)

Innovation and Translational Research Awards 2024 Recipients

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute supports investigators and their groundbreaking health research with the Innovation and Translational Research Awards. This year's recipients are putting new knowledge into practice, implementing research outcomes, and turning discoveries into commercial opportunities. Among the cohort is Dr. Karen Sherwood (pictured). [Read More](#)

SFU-Led Research Project Awarded \$14.6 Million Funding to Prepare for Future Pandemics

SFU News



A new research group based at SFU has received a major funding grant totalling \$14.6 million to help support public confidence in and access to vaccines, in preparation for future pandemics. The Social Sciences and Humanities Consortium will be led by Dr. Kelley Lee (pictured, left) alongside co-director Dr. Ève Dubé (pictured, right). [Read More](#)

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Local News

Precision Matching for Kidney Transplants: BC Project Targets Reduced Rejections and Elimination of Need for Lifelong Medication

Genome BC



British Columbia has been selected as the test bed for a potentially game-changing genomics project to improve kidney transplant outcomes across Canada in partnership with Canadian Blood Services. This project is led by Dr. Paul Keown (pictured) and seeks to significantly reduce organ rejection rates, improve patient outcomes, and save millions of dollars in healthcare costs. [Read More](#)

Igniting Curiosity: The 16th Annual Vancouver Brain Bee

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



UBC hosted the 16th Annual Vancouver Brain Bee where 42 local high schoolers participated in the regional competition at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health. The Brain Bee is a spelling bee styled neuroscience competition testing high school students from grades 9 through 12 on their knowledge of the brain and nervous system, prompting investigation and friendly competition. [Read More](#)

Federal Government Invests in Pandemic Rapid Response Lab at UBC

Business in Vancouver



Should there ever be another pandemic like COVID-19, Canada is hoping to be better prepared with a rapid response team in BC that will be tasked with developing drugs and vaccines within 100 days. The federal government announced \$140 million in funding for Canada's Immuno-Engineering and Biomanufacturing Hub out of UBC. It will support four multi-disciplinary research projects. [Read More](#)

Arming Patients with Well-Being and Independence

Research2Reality



ARCEX Therapy is a cutting-edge device engineered to deliver synchronized electrical stimulation to the spinal cord. It is currently under investigation for its potential to enhance arm and hand functions after chronic cervical spinal cord injury. A recent study led by UBC's Dr. Andrei Krassioukov (pictured) and his collaborators has provided promising results. [Read More](#)

The Story of PedsPOG: Advocates, Collaboration, and Team Science to Help Kids with Cancer

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories



We have come a long way in the treatment of children with cancer, with cure rates of over 80%. For the other 20%, we need to think outside of the box and identify novel targeted therapies. Pediatric Personalized Oncogenomics ("PedsPOG") utilizes whole genome and transcriptome sequencing in order to refine diagnosis, uncover genetic predisposition to cancer, and to identify novel therapeutic recommendations for hard-to-cure pediatric cancers. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

UBC's School of Biomedical Engineering Launches New Micro-Certificate in Innovation Leadership: Medical & Bio-Innovations

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering



UBC's School of Biomedical Engineering is proud to announce the launch of a new educational offering, the Micro-Certificate in Innovation Leadership: Medical & Bio-Innovations. This program is designed to empower professionals in the life sciences and biotech sectors with the strategic skills needed to lead innovation and bring groundbreaking healthcare solutions to market. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

June 13 11:00 AM	Effective Science Illustrations Michael Smith Laboratories
June 19 6:00 PM	Interconnected: Exploring Indigenous Perspectives on Earth Matters Science World
June 20 5:00 PM	Life Sciences BC Summer Social Zymeworks
June 25 10:00 AM	Girls and STEAM Summer Livestream Online
July 12 8:30 AM	Frontiers in Biophysics 2024 SFU Harbour Centre

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

- Postdoctoral Fellow, Evgin Lab**
Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre at BC Cancer
- Project Manager, Research and Innovation**
Genome BC
- Research Assistant**
UBC
- Research Assistant**
UBC
- Medical Science Liaison, Hematology/Oncology**
GSK

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