

Publications of the Week

### An Alternative Broad-Specificity Pathway for Glycan Breakdown in Bacteria

First Author: Seyed Amirhossein Nasserri (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Stephen Withers  
Nature | UBC



The vast majority of glycosidases characterized to date follow one of the variations of the 'Koshland' mechanisms to hydrolyse glycosidic bonds through substitution reactions. Here, researchers describe a large-scale screen of a human gut microbiome metagenomic library using an assay that selectively identifies non-Koshland glycosidase activities. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

### Federal Funding Boosts 25 Faculty of Medicine Research Projects

UBC Faculty of Medicine



A total of 157 new programs and projects led by UBC researchers were awarded more than \$36.2 million through the 2024 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Discovery Research Program competition. Among the 25 awardees are Drs. LeAnn Howe (*pictured*), Jayachandran Kizhakkedathu, and Elizabeth Rideout. [Read More](#)

### Georgia Langdon Receives Genome Science and Technology Summer Student Scholarship

BC Cancer Research Institute



Georgia Langdon from the Terry Fox Lab at BC Cancer has received the Genome Science and Technology summer student scholarship for her project entitled, "Translesion synthesis polymerases as a synthetic lethal cancer target." Langdon is currently a fourth year BSc student in UBC's Microbiology and Immunology program. [Read More](#)

### BC Cancer 2024 Summer Research Studentship Awards Announced

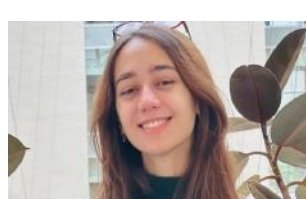
BC Cancer Research Institute



BC Cancer 2024 Summer Research Studentships address any discipline of cancer research including clinical, translational, basic, behavioural and population research areas. The 2024 awardees are Vianne Chang, Connor Frey, Athena Wan Qin Li, Isabella Martin (*pictured*), Van Do, Brennan Katsube, Samantha Li, Namya Sharma, Brooke Wheeldon, and Sangwook Michael Woo. [Read More](#)

### Stem Cell Network Announces Awardees of the 2024 Summer Studentships

Stem Cell Network



The Stem Cell Network has announced the recipients of the 2024 Summer Studentships. Twenty senior undergraduate students from across Canada will spend the summer months undertaking research at Canadian academic institutions under the supervision of world-class regenerative medicine researchers. Among the twenty is Natalia Nayyar (*pictured*) from UBC. [Read More](#)

### Dr. Zhenwei Ma Receives Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship

BC Cancer



Dr. Zhenwei Ma (*pictured*) has received a Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship. The award is tied to the project titled, "Hydrogel adhesive artificial mucosa: a paradigm-shifting platform for esophageal cancer treatment and management." The Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships program provides funding to applicants who will positively contribute to the country's economic, social, and research-based growth. [Read More](#)

### Three UBC Medicine Researchers Awarded Funding Through New Frontiers in Research Fund

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Three UBC Medicine researchers are leading projects recently awarded funding through the Government of Canada's New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF). Dr. Nadia Fairbairn, Dr. Joerg Gsponer (*pictured*), and Dr. Calvin Kuo are among eleven UBC principal investigators receiving a combined total of \$2.8 million through the NFRF's Exploration stream. [Read More](#)

### UBC Researchers Receive \$3.4M to Improve Brain Injury Diagnosis and Care for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



"Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a public health crisis, affecting 44% of women in Canada," says project lead Dr. Cheryl Wellington (*pictured*). "With our research, we hope to increase awareness of the prevalence and severity of brain injury in survivors of IPV, and to improve diagnosis and care overall." Their project has been awarded \$3.4 million to further investigate this issue. [Read More](#)

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Local News

### A Decade of Work Advances Care for Children with Cancer

BC Cancer Research Institute



Four out of five children diagnosed with cancer survive over the long term after treatment, but for 20% of them, standard treatment is not enough. To improve outcomes for these kids, researchers at BC Children's Hospital Research Institute have been working for over a decade on the BC Pediatric Personalized OncoGenomics study, using genomics to identify treatments specific to an individual child's cancer. [Read More](#)

### UBC Researchers Lead World-First Organ Matching Project

UBC Faculty of Medicine



BC will become the first jurisdiction in the world to test an innovative method of matching donor organs to recipients, thanks to a new project being led by researchers at the UBC Faculty of Medicine. By better matching donors and recipients, the project aims to prevent organ rejection and reduce the need for patients to take harmful immune-suppressing drugs, leading to better health outcomes and quality of life. [Read More](#)

### Burnaby-Based MedTech Company Kardium Closes \$142.3 Million in New Financing for Innovative Atrial Fibrillation Treatment

T-Net



Burnaby-based Kardium has raised \$142.3 million in a new financing round, just days after announcing positive results of one-year outcomes of its first-in-human PULSE-EU trial. The new financing will allow Kardium to complete its PULSAR clinical study. Previously, Kardium has developed the Globe Mapping and Ablation System for the treatment of atrial fibrillation. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

### New Data Shows the Innovative Pharmaceutical Industry Contributes Significantly to Canada's R&D and Economy

Innovative Medicines Canada



Statistics Canada published new data that demonstrates the important impact the innovative pharmaceutical industry has on Canada's economy and research and development (R&D) funding. In 2021, the sector invested close to \$3 billion in R&D, supported over 102,000 high-value full-time jobs, and generated \$16 billion in total economic activity in Canada. [Read More](#)

### Leading Terry Fox-Funded Scientists Forge a New Era in Cancer Research

The Terry Fox Research Institute (TFRI)



TFRI held its 10<sup>th</sup> Scientific Meeting, bringing together researchers, clinicians, trainees, program managers, and patient advocates from across the country. Coinciding with the three-day conference, over 100 of the country's leading voices in cancer research and care signed an open letter calling on Canadians to recognize the urgent need to fund collaborative cancer research in our country. [Read More](#)

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### Upcoming Events in Vancouver

June 25 10:00 AM	<b>Girls and STEAM Summer Livestream</b> Online
June 25 11:00 AM	<b>SBME Seminar: Long Non-Coding RNAs in Pluripotency, Development, and Disease</b> Online
June 26 4:00 PM	<b>Nucleate Canada: Vancouver – Fireside Chat with Lana Janes and Ali Tehrani</b> Fasken Vancouver Office
June 26 11:30 AM	<b>Pathways in Science: Exploring Majors and Careers</b> Online
June 25 12:00 PM	<b>UBC Micro-Certificate in Innovation Leadership: Medical and Bio-Innovations Information Session</b> Online

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### Science Jobs in Vancouver

- Principal Scientist, Oncology**  
AbCellera
- Associate Scientist, Tumour Immunology**  
Zymeworks
- Lead Data Coordinator, Clinical Trials**  
BC Cancer
- Technical Coordinator, Anatomic Pathology**  
Provincial Laboratory Medicine Services
- Research Coordinator**  
UBC

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