

Publications of the Week

### Biochemical and Structural Characterization of Rab3GAP Reveals Insights into Rab18 Nucleotide Exchange Activity

First Authors: Gage Fairlie and Kha Nguyen (pictured) | Senior Author: Calvin Yip  
Nature Communications | UBC



The heterodimeric Rab3GAP complex is a guanine nucleotide exchange factor for the Rab18 GTPase that regulates lipid droplet metabolism, ER-to-Golgi trafficking, secretion, and autophagy. Here, researchers show that human Rab3GAP is conformationally flexible and potentially autoinhibited by the C-terminal domain of its Rab3GAP2 subunit. [Abstract](#)

Awards

### Professor Marco Marra Appointed a University Killam Professor

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories (MSL)



UBC MSL congratulates Professor Marco Marra (pictured), who has been newly appointed as a University Killam Professor. The University Killam Professorship—the highest honour UBC can confer on a faculty member—recognizes exceptional teachers and researchers who are leaders in their fields, and who have received international recognition for their achievements. [Read More](#)

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Local News

### Connecting Minds, Advancing Science: Recapping the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Earl W. Davie Symposium

The Centre for Blood Research



On November 13, 2024, the Centre for Blood Research (CBR) held their 18<sup>th</sup> annual Earl W. Davie Symposium, a research event that brings together scientists, medical doctors, healthcare professionals, and trainees in the field of blood research and beyond. The CBR recaps the annual symposium, including keynote speakers, the poster session, and the reception. [Read More](#)

### Vancouver Biotech Firm Aspect Biosystems Raises US\$115M

Business Intelligence for BC



Aspect Biosystems has raised US\$115 million in a Series B financing. The most recent funding follows on \$73 million the company secured from the Canadian and BC governments last year, in partnership with collaboration with Novo Nordisk, to help fund a \$200 million expansion plan. That plan includes developing clinical biomufacturing capabilities and a pipeline of therapeutics based on printed tissue. [Read More](#)

### Cancer-Like Mutations in Healthy Cells Point to Origins of Breast Cancer

UBC Faculty of Medicine



In a new study from UBC and BC Cancer, researchers analyzed the genomes of more than 48,000 individual breast cells from women without cancer, using novel techniques for decoding the genes of single cells. "It's striking to see cancer-like mutations happening silently and at low levels in the cells of perfectly healthy women," said lead senior author Dr. Samuel Aparicio (pictured). [Read More](#)

### Vancouver-Based Genevant Sciences and Epiteopea Announce \$123.5 Million Collaboration Agreement

T-Net



Vancouver-based Genevant Sciences and Epiteopea, a transatlantic cancer immunotherapeutics company developing accessible off-the-shelf RNA-based immunotherapies, announced that they have entered into a collaboration and nonexclusive license agreement. The agreement is to develop novel mRNA-lipid nanoparticles immunotherapies targeting Epiteopea's proprietary aberrantly-expressed tumour specific antigens for an undisclosed oncology indication. [Read More](#)

### Behind the Lab Doors: Machine Augmented Care at the Robotics and Control Laboratory

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



The Robotics and Control Laboratory is a leading research facility in advanced machine-assisted medical applications. Headed by Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute researchers Drs. Tim Salcudean, Purang Abolmaesumi, and Robert Rohling, lab research focuses on medical robotics, telerobotics, ultrasound, and image analysis. It is also a leading centre for image-guided diagnosis and interventions, with a goal to enhance precision medical procedures. [Read More](#)

### BC Children's Hospital Researchers Bring Mini Med School to the Yukon for the First Time

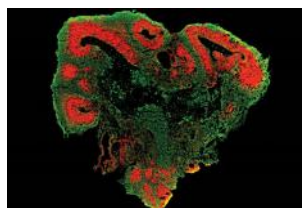
BC Children's Hospital Research Institute (BCCHR)



For the first time, world-class researchers from BC Children's Hospital Research Institute like Dr. Garth Meckler (pictured) will travel to the Yukon to present a day of discovery with Mini Med School. This health science youth outreach and public education program is designed for high school students to explore the world of health sciences, career opportunities in science and medicine, and connections with leading researchers and health experts. [Read More](#)

### Unravelling the Mystery Behind Alzheimer's Resilience

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Why do some people exhibit the same brain pathology as patients with Alzheimer's disease, but experience no symptoms? "If we can get to the bottom of why a person with no symptoms of cognitive decline has the same brain pathology as someone with Alzheimer's, then we could look to mimic or harness that resiliency and find new therapeutics," said UBC's Dr. Haakon Nygaard. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

### Undergraduate Summer Research Program

The Centre for Blood Research



Are you an undergraduate or medical student looking for summer research experience? The Centre for Blood Research Summer Studentship Program provides students with an opportunity to get hands-on research experience during the summer months and to present their research at Research Day. The program will be accepting applications until Sunday, March 16, 2025. [Read More](#)

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### Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- January 22 12:00 PM **Propels: Strategic Thinking and Visionary Leadership: Guiding Scientific Innovation** UBC
- January 23 6:00 PM **Biotechnology Networking Night 2025** AMS Student Nest
- January 23 12:30 PM **Science, Environment, & Health Sciences Co-Op Info Session** SFU
- January 24 9:00 AM **Life Sciences BC Career Connect Day** Vancouver Convention Centre East
- January 30 12:00 PM **Chat with Us: Rendez-Vous with a Senior Scientific Editor** Online

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### Science Jobs in Vancouver

- Scientist I, Pharmaceutical Development** AbCellera
- Postdoctoral Fellowship, Next-Generation RNA Therapeutics** UBC
- Postdoctoral Fellow, Tai Lab** BC Cancer
- Research Assistant /Technician 2** BC Children's Hospital
- Medical Device Reprocessing Technician, Sterilization** BC Children's and Women's Hospital & Health Centre

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