



Publications of the Week

Atypical Hippocampal Excitatory Neurons Express and Govern Object Memory

First Author: Adrienne Kinman (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Mark Cembrowski
Nature Communications | Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health and UBC



Recent work has illustrated distinct types of hippocampal excitatory neurons, suggesting that hippocampal representations and functions may be constrained and interpreted by these underlying cell-type identities. In mice, researchers reveal a non-pyramidal excitatory neuron type—the “ovoid” neuron—that is spatially adjacent to subiculum pyramidal cells but differs in gene expression, electrophysiology, morphology, and connectivity. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

Alzheimer’s Disease Modeling and Drug Screening Through hiPSC 3D Bioprinting

First Author: Stefano Sorrentino (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Haakon Nygaard
Alzheimer’s & Dementia | UBC



Our current understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying amyloidogenesis in Alzheimer’s Disease is limited by the lack of comprehensive models closely resembling human pathology. Here, researchers generated a 3D-bioprinted brain model suitable for long-lasting culturing of iPSCs-derived cortical neurons and astrocytes starting from neuronal precursor cells. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Dr. Wasan Named 2025 MD Anderson Distinguished Alumnus

Vancouver Prostate Centre



Dr. Kishor Wasan (*pictured*) has been named the 2025 MD Anderson Distinguished Alumnus! Dr Wasan is an Adjunct Professor in Urologic Sciences, a Co-Principal Investigator on a CIHR grant with Dr. Michael Cox, and a member of the Cox lab at the Vancouver Prostate Centre. This award is a testament to Dr. Wasan’s dedication, innovation, and excellence in the field of Urologic Sciences. [Read More](#)

Preparing for Future Threat of Avian Influenza

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Scientists with the UBC Faculty of Medicine have received new research funding to prepare and respond to the threat of avian influenza, commonly called ‘bird flu’. “We recognize the threat of avian influenza and with these research projects, we are putting ourselves in a place to respond and contain it quickly,” said Dr. Linda Hoang (*pictured*), Principal Investigator on one of the newly funded initiatives, called the H5N1 Unified Bioresponse. [Read More](#)

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Local News

How the Brain Heals Itself: UBC Researchers Identify Key Cells That Help With Stroke Recovery

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



A groundbreaking study led by UBC researchers sheds light on how the brain begins to heal itself after a stroke, offering new hope for improving recovery. In a new paper published in *Nature Neuroscience*, Dr. Brian MacVicar (*pictured*) and his team have identified specific brain cells that play critical roles in rebuilding blood vessels and repairing tissue. [Read More](#)

Celebrating Dr. Julia Levy (1934-2024)

UBC Microbiology and Immunology



The Department of Microbiology and Immunology and the greater UBC community honour the life of Dr. Julia Levy (*pictured*), who passed away on December 5, 2024. In 1959, Dr. Levy became the first woman to hold a tenure-track faculty position in the UBC Department of Microbiology and Immunology, setting her on a lifelong path of trailblazing through male-dominated spaces. [Read More](#)

Meet the Researcher: Dr. Sarah Hedtrich

UBC Centre for Blood Research (CBR)



Dr. Sarah Hedtrich’s (*pictured*) research centers around inflammatory and genetic diseases of human epithelia with a focus on skin and lungs and bioengineering of complex, human disease models. She leverages this to develop personalized next-generation therapies. Dr. Hedtrich and her lab joined the CBR in February 2025 and she shares more about her work and her experience in this Q&A. [Read More](#)

Precision Medicine Finds Lifesaving Treatment for Rare Inflammatory Disease

UBC Faculty of Medicine



In a new study, researchers from the UBC Faculty of Medicine used a precision medicine approach—combining artificial intelligence, multi-omics, and patient-centred strategies—to uncover a lifesaving treatment for a person with idiopathic multicentric Castleman’s disease. This rare inflammatory disease has an especially poor survival rate and few treatment options. The patient could be the first of many to have their life saved by the approach. [Read More](#)

Variational AI Announces \$7.8 Million Seed Extension Financing to Launch Foundation Model for Small Molecule Drug Discovery

T-Net



Variational AI is the company behind Enki, an advanced foundation model for small molecule drug discovery. Variational AI announced the completion of its oversubscribed \$7.8 million seed extension round. The company’s generative AI platform Enki enables biopharmaceutical chemistry teams to efficiently discover and optimize novel hits and leads, accelerating early stage drug discovery. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Genome BC Is Embarking on a New Initiative for Biodiversity Preservation

Genome BC



To apply genomics to BC’s biodiversity crisis, Genome BC is organising an Ideas Lab: a multi-day event where a diverse group separates from their daily activities and focuses on a problem. Through facilitator led activities focused on creative outputs, and expert mentors providing feedback, teams form and develop novel ideas outside of their usual academic trajectories. [Read More](#)

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 Upcoming Events in Vancouver

March 5 5:00 PM	IGNITE: STEM Networking Night SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts
March 11 10:00 AM	Communicating Science: Simplifying the Complex Online
March 14 12:00 PM	Lectureship Honouring Dr. Nelly Auersperg BC Cancer Research Centre
March 20 8:00 AM	BIG Research Day Life Sciences Institute
April 2 6:00 PM	Precision Oncology: Bridging Research and Community Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre

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 Science Jobs in Vancouver

Lab Technician Lux Bio
Communications Specialist Centre for Advancing Health Outcomes
Postdoctoral Research Fellow UBC
Education Engagement Coordinator Genome BC
Research Associate I, In Vitro Biology Zymeworks

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5 hilarious comedians
3 brilliant scientists
1 host to provide music along the way!



SCIENCE, STAND-UP, & SONG March 26, 2025
Chill x Studio (2270 Manitoba St)
Doors: 7PM Show: 7:30PM
<https://sciencestandupandsong.eventbrite.ca>



Hosted by
Dr. Marissa
Lithopoulos

Submit your articles and events by reaching out to us at info@scienceinvancouver.com.

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