

Publications of the Week

A Direct Role for a Mitochondrial Targeting Sequence in Signalling Stress

First Author: Zixuan Yuan (*pictured, left*) | Senior Author: Hilla Weidberg (*right*)
Nature | UBC



Mitochondrial protein import is required for maintaining organellar function. Perturbations in this process are associated with various physiological and disease conditions. Several stress responses combat damage caused by mitochondrial protein import defects. Here, researchers reveal that the conserved mitochondrial Hsp70 co-chaperone, Mge1, acts as a stress messenger in budding yeast.

[Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

December 2025 Award Winners

Science in Vancouver



As we wrap up 2025, many Vancouver researchers are racking up the achievements and producing incredible research proposals and papers. In December, Polytechnique Montréal awarded 14 scholarships for the Order of the White Rose, an initiative to pay tribute to the 14 women killed on December 6, 1989. Three of the awardees are students from UBC: Ruth Yu, Angela Wang, and Catherine Ko (*pictured, left to right*). [Read More](#)

Marie Johns and Abishek Wadhwa Receive the 2025-26 Zymeworks Fellowships in Advanced Protein Therapeutics

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories



Marie Johns (*pictured, front left*) and Abishek Wadhwa (*front right*) have been awarded the 2025-26 Zymeworks Fellowships in Advanced Protein Therapeutics. The award, created in part in recognition of the Nobel laureate Dr. Michael Smith, is a partnership between Zymeworks and UBC. Each year, two students are provided a one-year fellowship of \$20,000 to support health science research that aligns with Zymeworks's focus on immune-based treatments for disease. [Read More](#)

Drs. Florian Kuchenbauer and Peter Stirling Receive 2025 Cancer Research Society 2025 Operating Grants

BC Cancer



Two BC Cancer researchers are recipients of 2025 Operating Grants from the Cancer Research Society. Dr. Florian Kuchenbauer (*pictured, left*) received a grant for the project, "Targeting APOBEC3B-induced replication stress in multiple myeloma with TP53 abnormalities." Dr. Peter Stirling (*right*) received a grant for the project, "Inhibiting DNA2 nuclease for selective killing of ALT positive cancers."

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Local News

B.C. Confirms \$33M to Support UBC-Led Life Sciences Research

Business Intelligence for B.C.



For UBC life sciences researchers like Dr. Sriram Subramaniam (*pictured*), new facilities and equipment to help them create cancer vaccines and antibody treatments cannot come soon enough. Workers have recently broken ground on an 80,000-square-foot, six-storey building called the Edge, which is set for completion in 2028. New funding totalling \$33 million will support the completion of this new space. [Read More](#)

When Knowing the Answer is Everything: Genomics and Rare Disease

Genome BC



Landmark initiatives, such as CAUSES, TIDEX, RapidOMICS and Silent Genomes, have helped position BC as a leader in rare disease genomics. Diagnostic rates have risen from under 10% to more than 50% and in some projects, over 60%. New infrastructure now allows cutting-edge sequencing to be performed in BC by researchers like Dr. Anna Lehman (*pictured*), improving turnaround times and reinforcing data stewardship. [Read More](#)

Breathing Easier: What the Microbiome Reveals About Asthma Risk

Genome BC



When a child struggles to breathe, the fear is immediate and for families living with asthma, it can become all too familiar. For years, asthma was something families learned to manage but couldn't hope to prevent. Now, research led by Dr. Stuart Turvey (*pictured*) at BC Children's Hospital and UBC is changing that narrative. His team has uncovered a critical window in early life when the right microbes in a baby's gut can help protect against asthma. [Read More](#)

Whole Genome Sequencing Launches to Advance Precision Medicine in British Columbia

Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre (GSC)



The GSC introduced clinical whole genome sequencing for hereditary cancer testing in 2025. This marked a major milestone for precision medicine in B.C., becoming the second Canadian province to adopt this latest technology. The introduction of whole-genome sequencing enhances our ability to support healthier outcomes for patients and families across the province by improving how cancer can be diagnosed and treated." said Dr. Federica Di Palma (*pictured*). [Read More](#)

How to Hack Your Microbiome for Lifelong Health

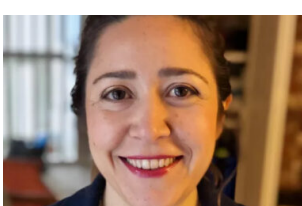
UBC Faculty of Medicine



Scientists have come to appreciate that the trillions of microbes that live in your gut, on your skin, and beyond have a huge impact on the body as a whole. "This has been a major shift in our thinking. We've known that microbes can cause infectious diseases for centuries, but even a decade ago, we didn't have a clue about all of the roles that the microbiome plays in both health and disease," said Dr. Brett Finlay (*pictured*). [Read More](#)

Specialized AI Could Elevate Diabetes-Related Blindness Risk Prevention

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Sex differences could play a key role in diagnosing diabetic retinopathy, according to the results of a groundbreaking study led by Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute researcher Dr. Ipek Oruc (*pictured*). A condition that puts patients at risk of blindness, diabetic retinopathy may be more likely to progress along a given pathway depending on whether a patient was born male or female. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Medical Research & Practices Funding Opportunities

Lotte & John Hecht Memorial Foundation



The Hecht Foundation prioritizes basic and applied medical research that is novel, innovative, and disruptive, challenging conventional wisdom about the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of serious diseases, particularly cancer. The Foundation welcomes applications in the following funding streams: basic research and clinical trials. Letters of intent are due January 31, 2026. [Read More](#)

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📅 Upcoming Events in Vancouver

January 14 7:00 PM	Nerd Nite v. 60 Coyotes, Wine, and Therapeutic Chatbots Fox Cabaret
January 23 9:00 AM	Life Sciences BC's 7th Annual Career Connect Day 2026 Vancouver Convention Centre East
January 28 8:00 PM	Kiuryaq Chan Centre
February 7 10:30 AM	Nature Club: Fish Beaty Biodiversity Museum
February 13 12:00 PM	Peter W. Hochachka Memorial Lecture with Dr. Charles Darveau Michael Smith Laboratories

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📁 Science Jobs in Vancouver

- Undergraduate Co-Op Student, R&D Immunoengineering**
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UBC
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Lux Bio
- Research Assistant Clinical Trials Phase 1 Unit**
Providence Research

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Advanced Intestinal and Hepatic Organoids
Webinar by Riya Sharma

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