

Publications of the Week

Noncanonical Functions of UGT2B17 Promote Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer Progression

First Authors: Tingting Feng and Ning Xie | Senior Author: Xuesen Dong *(pictured)*
The Journal of Clinical Investigation | The Vancouver Prostate Centre, Vancouver General Hospital, and UBC



Androgen deprivation therapy is the primary treatment for advanced prostate tumours. While initially effective, tumour progression to the therapy-resistant stage is inevitable. Paradoxically, UDP glucuronosyltransferase family 2 member B17 (UGT2B17) is upregulated in therapy-resistant tumours. Here, researchers demonstrate that UGT2B17 possesses multiple oncogenic functions independent of androgen catabolism. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

Distinct Biological Subtypes of Chronic GVHD After Pediatric Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation

First Author: Bernard Ng | Senior Author: Kirk Schultz *(pictured)*
Blood | BC Children's Hospital and UBC



Chronic graft-versus-host-disease (cGVHD) is the primary nonrelapse limitation to a successful hematopoietic cell transplantation and is largely treated as a single biological entity. Using the Applied Biomarkers of Late Effects of Childhood Cancer (ABLE) network database, researchers applied clustering analysis to subtype patients with cGVHD from the ABLE1.0 and 2.0 studies. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

January 2026 Award Winners

Science in Vancouver



We're starting 2026 off right with awards, accolades, grants, and scholarships to propel the Vancouver community into the new year. This month, we're highlighting two PhD students at UBC's Michael Smith Laboratories: Marie Johns *(pictured, front left)* and Abishek Wadhwa *(front right)*, recipients of the 2025-26 Zymeworks Fellowships in Advanced Protein Therapeutics. See all award winners for January 2026 in our monthly award summary. [Read More](#)

Dr. Ann Marie Craig Receives 2025 CLEAR Foundation Operating Grant

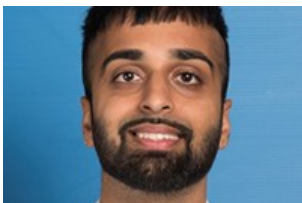
Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Dr. Ann Marie Craig *(pictured)*, Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at UBC, received the CLEAR Foundation's 2025 Operating Grant. This important award will support her project, *Targeting Synapses in Alzheimer's Dementia and Lewy Body Dementia*, advancing critical work to better understand the earliest brain changes that drive memory loss and cognitive decline. [Read More](#)

UBC Faculty of Medicine Members Recognized With 2026 CAME Awards

UBC Faculty of Medicine



A number of UBC Faculty of Medicine community members have been honoured by the Canadian Association for Medical Education (CAME) with 2026 Certificate of Merit Awards and Rising Star — Certificate of Excellence Awards. Among this year's awardees are Drs. Christopher Morrow, Trudy Nasmith, Vincent Wong, Danielle Lynch, Lucas Streith, and Akash Manes *(pictured)*. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Novo Nordisk Makes Additional Equity Investment in Aspect Biosystems and Expands Multi-Billion Dollar Partnership

T-Net



Aspect Biosystems and big pharma giant Novo Nordisk announced they are entering a new phase of their partnership to develop advanced cellular medicines for diabetes. Since 2023, Aspect and Novo Nordisk have collaborated to develop cellular medicines designated to replace, repair, or supplement biological functions to deliver truly disease-modifying therapies. This new phase of the partnership builds on the momentum achieved in the existing collaboration. [Read More](#)

People in Profile: Adam Sunavsky

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Meet Adam Sunavsky *(pictured, centre)*: a neuroscience student who is fascinated by the brain and fueled by a love of sports and the outdoors. As an MD/PhD student at the Non-Invasive Neurostimulation Therapies laboratory, he aims to bridge the gap between medical challenges and scientific discovery, focusing on research that moves seamlessly from the lab to the clinic. [Read More](#)

Exploring Consciousness: How Dr. Stefanie Blain-Moraes's Innovative Research Bridges Engineering, Neuroscience, and Rehab

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



For Dr. Stefanie Blain-Moraes, joining DMCBH is the next step in a career devoted to bridging engineering, neuroscience, and rehabilitation in pursuit of one profound question: What does it mean to be conscious? Her research aims to develop tools to understand and communicate with people who are minimally communicative after brain injury or illness. [Read More](#)

UBC-Led Partnership Tackles Cattle Methane with Cost-Saving Tools for Farmers

UBC News



When Dr. Leluo Guan *(pictured)* peers inside a cow's stomach, she sees more than microbes—she sees an opportunity to cut methane emissions from cattle and improve profits for Canadian beef and dairy farmers. Dr. Guan is leading a \$7.9-million, federally-funded initiative to develop affordable, practical tools to reduce methane emissions and boost feed efficiency in cattle using innovative biotech solutions. [Read More](#)

Celebrating the Career and Retirement of Dr. Mike Gold

UBC Microbiology and Immunology



The Department of Microbiology and Immunology and the greater UBC community celebrate the career and retirement of Dr. Michael (Mike) Gold *(pictured)*. Learning alongside the molecular biology revolution, Mike found himself fascinated by the ways that immune cells manipulate their genetic material in order to recognize potential pathogens. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Request for Applications: BC Cancer 2026 Summer Research Studentship Competition

BC Cancer Research



The BC Cancer 2026 Summer Research Studentship competition is open for applications. Summer research studentships will be available to support senior undergraduate university students and/or junior medical or dental students seeking hands-on training in cancer research in BC. Summer research studentships may address any discipline of cancer research including: clinical, translational, basic, behavioural, and population. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| February 7
10:30 AM | Nature Club: Fish
Beaty Biodiversity Museum |
| February 12
6:00 PM | After Dark: The Science of Love and Sex
Science World |
| February 13
12:00 PM | Peter W. Hochachka Memorial Lecture with Dr. Charles Darveau
Michael Smith Laboratories |
| February 25
8:00 AM | 11th Annual Access to Innovation
Vancouver Convention Centre West |
| February 26
4:00 PM | BioConnect BC (D.R.I.N.K.S. Vancouver)
BAESIDE @ Mahonys False Creek |

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

- Research Assistant, Biospecimen Core**
Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre
- Post Doctoral/Research Fellowship**
BC Cancer
- Research Scientist 2, CMC, Analytical Chemistry**
Xenon Pharmaceuticals
- Clinical Scientist II, Genetics**
BC Cancer
- Research Scientist, Protein Mass Spectrometry**
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