

Publications of the Week

Formulation and Administration Timing of Lipid Derivatized JAK-Inhibitor and Corticosteroid Modulate saRNA-LNP Inflammation and Expression

First Author: Nuthan Vikas Bathula (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Anna Blakney
Journal of Controlled Release | UBC and Integrated Nanotherapeutics



Self-amplifying RNA (saRNA)-lipid nanoparticle (LNP) broader clinical translation is hindered by pronounced innate immune activation elicited by saRNA replication intermediates and LNP components. To address this challenge, researchers investigated lipid-derivatized prodrugs of peficitinib and dexamethasone for their ability to modulate saRNA-LNP induced inflammation. **Abstract**

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Awards

February 2026 Monthly Award Summary

Science in Vancouver



This February, over 65 life science researchers from our community won Fall 2025 Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Grants to help bring their research proposals to the lab bench. We've highlighted Dr. Ali Bashashati (*pictured, right*) and his collaborators Drs. Brad Nelson (*left*) and Gillian Hanley (*middle*) at UBC and BC Cancer, whose collaborative work is breaking new ground in ovarian cancer research. **Read More**

BC Cancer Researchers Receive CIHR Cancer Prevention Team Grants

Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre



The Government of Canada and partners are investing over \$41 million in groundbreaking cancer prevention research. This funding will support teams that will work over the next five years to develop and share new approaches for cancer prevention. Drs. Gina Ogilvie, David Huntsman, Rachel Murphy, and Isabella Tai (*pictured*) were awarded funding for their projects. **Read More**

Terry Fox Research Institute Invests \$10M in National Cancer Prevention Initiative

Terry Fox Research Institute



With a total investment of nearly \$10 million, the Terry Fox Research Institute is funding six research teams who will spend the next five years advancing prevention strategies for cervical, gastric, blood, colorectal, prostate, and obesity-related cancers. Drs. Isabella Tai, Gina Ogilvie, Inna Sekirov, and Citlali Marquez were among the team leads granted funding. **Read More**

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Local News

People in Profile: Alvin Kimbowa

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Meet Alvin, a biomedical engineering student who is using artificial intelligence to expand access to quality medical imaging in communities with limited resources. His passion for AI in medical imaging began during his undergraduate studies in Uganda, where he learned about the significant shortage of radiologists. At the time, there were only 48 radiologists in the country, which is roughly one radiologist for every million people. **Read More**

Prescribing Ice Cream and Countering Misinformation: Q&A with Dr. Alastair McAlpine

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute (BCCHR)



Dr. Alastair McAlpine (*pictured*), a researcher with the Vaccine Evaluation Center (VEC), is passionate about pediatric palliative care and infectious diseases. The VEC is aimed at creating a high-quality digital hub of information that addresses the fears and anxieties of children and youth. This is an ambitious project that hopefully will make a difference to convince youth that vaccines are beneficial. **Read More**

Vancouver-Based Eupraxia Announces Closing of \$86.3 Million Public Share Offering

T-Net



Eupraxia Pharmaceuticals, a clinical-stage biotechnology company leveraging Diffusphere technology to optimize local, controlled drug delivery for applications with significant unmet need, announced the successful closing of its public share offering for gross proceeds of approximately \$86.3 million. The public offering consisted of over seven million common shares of the company. **Read More**

VCHRI Phase I Clinical Trials Research Unit at UBC Hospital

Life Sciences BC



The Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI) is launching the Phase I Clinical Trials Research Unit (P1-CTRU), a purpose-built facility that integrates early-phase clinical research directly into patient care. Located at UBC Hospital and connected to Canada's Immuno-Engineering and Biomanufacturing Hub, the P1-CTRU accelerates the safe evaluation of novel therapies across neurological diseases. **Read More**

Asthma Doesn't Start When Symptoms Appear; It Starts Much Earlier

Genome BC



For most families, asthma feels like it comes out of nowhere. Research supported by Genome BC and Genome Canada has reshaped our understanding of when asthma truly begins. Dr. Stuart Turvey (*pictured*) and his team at UBC analyzed infant stool samples and found early differences in gut bacteria that were associated with a higher risk of developing asthma years later. **Read More**

Samuel Leung Discusses Advancing Heart Disease Treatment Through Drug Repurposing

Centre for Heart Lung Innovation (HLI)



Cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death worldwide, yet developing new treatments is often slow and costly. Samuel Leung (*pictured*), a PhD student at HLI, gave a talk that shed light on a promising solution: repurposing existing drugs. This approach focuses on finding new uses for drugs that have already been approved and proven to be safe, significantly reducing the time and costs involved in clinical trials. **Read More**

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

March 25 6:30 PM	Science in the Keg Brewing August
March 26 4:00 PM	BioConnect BC (D.R.I.N.K.S. Vancouver) BAESIDE @ Mahonys False Creek
April 26 8:00 AM	2026 PHC Health Ethics Conference SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue
May 11 8:30 AM	2026 BCRegMed 9th Annual Symposium AMS Student Nest
July 10 8:00 AM	Balance and Falls Research Center Inaugural Symposium Balance and Falls Research Center

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

Laboratory Analyst, Spectroscopy ICP-MS ALS
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Associate, Clinical Research bioLYtical Laboratories
Manager, Research Engagement Michael Smith Health Research BC
Knowledge Translation Lead UBC

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7 PM

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