

Publications of the Week

Self-Multimerization of mRNA LNP-Derived Antigen Improves Antibody Responses

First Author: Cody Despins | Senior Author: Robert Holt (*pictured*)
Vaccines | BC Cancer Research Institute, SFU, and UBC



Antigen multimerization is a well-established approach to enhance the antibody titers and protective efficacy of several protein subunit vaccines. However, this approach has been less explored for mRNA lipid nanoparticles vaccines. Here, researchers used mStrawberry as a model antigen to conduct a comprehensive, head-to-head comparison of the ability of multimerization domains to enhance immunogenicity in mice. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

ISSCR Honours Drs. Allen and Connie Eaves with Lifetime Achievement Award

BC Cancer Terry Fox Laboratory



The International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR) has named Dr. Allen Eaves (*pictured, right*) and the late Dr. Connie Eaves (*left*) as recipients of the 2026 ISSCR Lifetime Achievement Award. For more than five decades, Connie and Allen worked in extraordinary partnership to advance the scientific foundations of blood stem cell biology. [Read More](#)

Viruses: Quantum Probes of Life

UBC Microbiology and Immunology



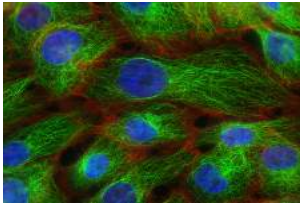
Connor Thompson (*pictured*), a PhD student in Professor François Jean's lab, has won joint first prize for the Foundational Questions Institute's "How Quantum Is Life?" essay competition. In this essay, Thompson describes how viruses exist at the boundary between living and non-living matter, making them ideal experimental probes for quantum biology. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Zymeworks and Royalty Pharma Enter into \$250 Million Royalty-Backed Note Financing

T-Net



Zymeworks and Royalty Pharma announced an agreement for \$250 million in funding from Royalty Pharma in the form of a non-recourse royalty-backed note with repayments due from 30% of worldwide tiered royalties on Ziibera owed to Zymeworks from Jazz Pharmaceuticals and BeOne Medicines. Ziibera is a therapy with the potential to meaningfully change the treatment landscape for patients with HER2-positive gastric and biliary tract cancers. [Read More](#)

New Book Examines How COVID-19 Crisis Entrenched Inequality for Women Around the World

SFU Faculty of Health Sciences



SFU Faculty of Health Sciences's Dr. Julia Smith (*pictured*) and her co-editor Dr. Clare Wenham have published a compendium of case studies from researchers around the world examining how the secondary impacts of COVID-19 have deepened systemic inequality for women. "To facilitate pandemic preparedness, we now must learn from the past," says Dr. Smith. [Read More](#)

Advancing Women's Health Through Genomics: Why Now Is the Time to Act

Genome BC



Despite decades of progress, persistent gaps in research design, data, and care delivery continue to disadvantage women. While women live longer than men on average, they spend 25% more of their lives in poor health, experiencing higher rates of chronic illness and disability. Next month, Genome BC will launch a \$1.8M funding opportunity focused on advancing women's health and wellbeing through genomics. [Read More](#)

International Women's Day

UBC Faculty of Medicine



In honour of the 115th International Women's Day, the UBC Faculty of Medicine highlights the outstanding women in their faculty and staff. "As we celebrate International Women's Day, please join me in recognizing the remarkable women across the Faculty of Medicine — both past and present — and their transformative impact here at home and around the world," says Dr. Sharmila Anandasabapathy (*pictured*). [Read More](#)

UBC Medicine Startups Propel Global Health Innovations Through Venture Founder

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Seven startup ventures founded by UBC Faculty of Medicine community members have joined the 51st cohort of UBC's Venture Founder program to help address global challenges in areas including cancer, diabetes treatment, and student mental health. They are among 28 new ventures from across UBC, half of which are co-led by women founders. [Read More](#)

Lipid-Free Binary Platform Boosts Vaccine and Nanomedicine Delivery

The Centre for Blood Research



In a ground breaking advancement poised to revolutionize the fields of vaccinology and nanomedicine, researchers have developed a novel binary self-amplifying expression platform capable of producing vaccines and nanomedicines without the need for lipid nanoparticles. This innovative technology was conducted by Dr. Wilfred Jefferies' (*pictured*) lab at UBC. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Applications Open for Cache Challenge #8: Finding Ligands Targeting GID4

Conscience



The CACHE Challenges, made possible by the Government of Canada's Strategic Innovation Fund, offer an open competition platform in which researchers from academia, industry, and nonprofits are invited to deploy their best computational methods to predict small molecules that will bind to a predefined target linked to a specific disease. The deadline to apply is April 16, 2026. [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 @ Mahony's 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

Associate II, Scientific Affairs
bioLytical Laboratories

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UBC

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Bureau Veritas

Laboratory Assistant
ALS

Research Assistant
Fraser Health

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STEMCELL Technologies

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