

Publications of the Week

Prospective Multicenter Study of ctDNA Versus Tumor Tissue Guiding FGFR-Targeted Therapy in Metastatic Urothelial Cancer

First Authors: David Müller (pictured, second from right) and Andrew Murtha (left) | Senior Authors: Gillian Vandekerkhove (third from right), Alexander Wyatt (second from left), and Bernhard Eigl (third from left)
Nature Communications | Vancouver Prostate Centre, BC Cancer, and UBC



Fibroblast growth factor receptor (FGFR) alterations are targetable in metastatic urothelial carcinoma. Identifying FGFR alterations currently requires tissue testing, which is limited by sample availability and cancer heterogeneity. Here, in a prospective, multicentre study, researchers show that ctDNA testing has high concordance with tissue FGFR testing and identifies additional actionable FGFR alterations. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

BC Researchers Receive \$8 Million in Federal Funding to Fast-Track Genomic Solutions

Genome BC



Eight research teams in BC will receive a combined \$8 million in federal funding towards academia-industry collaborations on research solutions that are implementation and market ready. The BC collaborations include projects in pathogen detection, disease diagnosis, and improved care for populations with cancer, type 1 diabetes, and endometriosis. Dr. Amee Manges (pictured) is among the project leads. [Read More](#)

UBC Medicine Researchers Receive Federal Funding to Accelerate Genomic Solutions Through Industry Collaborations

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Seven teams led by UBC Faculty of Medicine researchers have been awarded new federal funding to accelerate genomics-based health innovations in collaboration with industry partners. Dr. Paul Yong (pictured) is one of the awardees and his project, in collaboration with AbCellera, will identify novel ways to develop antibody-based therapeutics for endometriosis. [Read More](#)

DMCBH Researchers Receive Major Infrastructure Investments From CFI

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



The Government of Canada has invested more than \$552 million in research infrastructure through the Canada Foundation for Innovation's (CFI) Innovation Fund. DMCBH researchers, Drs. Cornelia Laule, Piotr Kozlowski, and Teresa Liu-Ambrose (pictured), are leading two projects to help scientists and clinicians better understand brain diseases and mobility challenges. [Read More](#)

UBC Medicine Researchers Awarded More Than \$21M for Research Infrastructure to Accelerate Discovery and Impact

UBC Faculty of Medicine



UBC Faculty of Medicine researchers have been awarded more than \$21 million from the Government of Canada through the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) for cutting-edge research infrastructure that will accelerate scientific discovery and economic impact. Dr. Govind Kaigala (pictured) is among the awardees and his CFI grant will support the BioDevice Foundry. [Read More](#)

Seven Emerging Researchers Receive Terry Fox Funding to Advance Next Generation Cancer Research

Terry Fox Research Institute



Seven early career scientists across Canada are launching new cancer research programs thanks to \$3.5 million in funding through the Terry Fox New Investigator Awards. This year's funding represents the largest investment in a New Investigator Awards competition to date. Drs. Katey Enfield, Samantha Pollard, and Miffy Hok Yan Cheng (pictured) are all Vancouver-based awardees. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Unlocking the Secrets of a Healthy Brain – SFU Team Begins New Study

SFU News



With dementia rates on the rise globally, the need for more informed insights into brain health has never been greater. SFU scientists led by Dr. Brianne Kent (pictured) are embarking upon a new ten-year study, called the Brain Resilience Study, to discover what makes some people more resilient to brain conditions such as dementia. [Read More](#)

Using Bioengineering to Turn Genes From a Flower Into a Promising Treatment for Type 2 Diabetes

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories



A potential new avenue for diabetes treatment is the metabolite Montbretin A (MbA), which inhibits a key human starch digestive enzyme and slows down the digestion of sugars. Samuel Oguntimehin (pictured, left), Dr. Lars Kruse (right) and Dr. Jörg Bohlmann's (centre) lab have successfully engineered a plant, *Nicotiana benthamiana*, to produce MbA. [Read More](#)

Comparing Medications for Opioid Use Disorder in B.C.

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI)



VCHRI researchers Drs. M. Eugenia Socías (pictured) and Nadia Fairbairn contributed to the newly released first study providing clinical evidence on the comparative effectiveness of slow-release oral morphine and methadone for the treatment of opioid use disorder. The study's goal was to determine the difference in treatment outcomes between the two medications. [Read More](#)

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Your Voice

Celebrating One Year of Advancing Germ-Free Research

Natalia Carranza, Tahereh Bozorgmehr, Lisa Osborne, and Carolina Tropini



In March 2025, the Gnotobiotic Core formally launched at UBC to make germ-free and gnotobiotic mice accessible for researchers at UBC and beyond. Since its establishment one year ago, the facility has seen a substantial growth in clientele and has been able to support studies from a diverse array of labs across the life sciences. Now, they reflect on the incredible research they've facilitated and share their vision for the future of microbial and *in vivo* studies. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Lab Coats & Life Podcast: “Growing Talent: Creating Careers in the Life Sciences” Featuring Rob Henderson

Lab Coats & Life Podcast



In the premiere of season three of the Lab Coats & Life Podcast, co-hosts Drs. Nicole Quinn and Jason Goldsmith chat with Rob Henderson (pictured), President and CEO of BioTalent Canada. Henderson shares insights on workforce trends in the life sciences and explains why the biggest skills gaps in biotech aren't technical, but in so-called “success skills” like communication, project management, and critical thinking. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

April 24 8:00 AM	2026 PHC Health Ethics Conference SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue
April 30 4:00 PM	BioConnect BC (D.R.I.N.K.S. Vancouver) BAESIDE @ Mahony's False Creek
April 30 - May 2 4:00 PM	28th Annual Canadian Society of Echocardiography Hybrid Echo Weekend The Westin Bayshore
May 6 7:30 AM	Genome BC's 2026 Annual Genomics Forum: Resilience By Design UBC Robson Square
May 11 8:30 AM	2026 BCRegMed 9th Annual Symposium AMS Student Nest

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