

Publications of the Week

CSF1R+ Macrophage and Osteoclast Depletion Impairs Neural Crest Proliferation and Craniofacial Morphogenesis

First Author: Felix Ma | Senior Author: Jessica Rosin (*pictured*)
Development | UBC



Despite a wealth of knowledge on the mechanisms underlying craniofacial morphogenesis during gestation, the roles of fetal macrophages and osteoclasts during this process remain less well characterized. Here, researchers used the pharmacological inhibitor PLX5622 to disrupt colony stimulating factor-1 receptor (CSF1R) signaling, which is essential for macrophage and osteoclast proliferation, differentiation, and survival. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

FHS University Lecturer Wins 2025 SFU Excellence in Teaching Award

SFU Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS)



Dr. Nienke van Houten (*pictured*) is being recognized with an Excellence in Teaching Award for 2025. The award committee highlighted several laudable aspects of her teaching, including: reflective pedagogy, strong engagement in the scholarship of teaching, and sustained commitment to continued professional learning. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Strand Seq: A New Way to Understand Our DNA

BC Cancer



Strand-seq, developed in Dr. Peter Lansdorp's laboratory (*pictured*), is a short-read DNA-sequencing technique that uses single cells to bring unique directional DNA sequence information to multi-technology genomic analyses. It allows researchers to study DNA one chromosome at a time, showing how genetic information from both parents is arranged across the entire genome. [Read More](#)

Aspect Biosystems Lands \$79M Investment From Canadian Government to Advance Development of Bioengineered Cellular Medicines

T-Net



Aspect Biosystems, a biotechnology company pioneering a novel category of regenerative medicine, announced that it has received a \$79 million investment from the Government of Canada. The investment will support a \$280 million, multi-year project to accelerate the advancements of Aspect's pipeline of bioengineered cellular medicines for serious metabolic and endocrine diseases. [Read More](#)

UBC Appoints Dr. Peter Zandstra as Vice-President, Research and Innovation

UBC Today



Dr. Peter Zandstra (*pictured*) has been appointed as UBC's new Vice-President, Research and Innovation, for a five-year term effective June 1, 2026. Dr. Zandstra has been serving as Director of the School of Biomedical Engineering (SBME) since its establishment in 2017, and he is a Professor in both SBME and Michael Smith Laboratories. [Read More](#)

Genetic Tools Aren't Just for Future Patients, but Cold Cases Too

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute (BCHRI)



The world of genomic sequencing has changed dramatically in the last few decades. One of the advantages of this leap in sequencing power is its ability to massively increase the capacity to determine the genetic basis of disease — even years after an initial diagnosis. Dr. William Gibson (*pictured*) is an investigator at BCHRI whose research and clinical work uses this technology to identify the cause of rare genetic diseases in families. [Read More](#)

Dr. Julia Levy: The Woman Who Helped Build B.C.'s Life Sciences Industry

Business in Vancouver



Dr. Julia Levy (*pictured*) held many titles—scientist, entrepreneur, educator, wife, and mother. For many, she was known as the woman who helped shape the modern life sciences industry in B.C. From an immigrant from Singapore to the first female microbiology professor at UBC, Levy founded one of first major life sciences companies on the West Coast and mentored hundreds, if not thousands, of industry professionals. [Read More](#)

Meet Dr. Milan Valyear, a New Researcher Who Is Exploring the Science of Behaviour

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Growing up in a small town, Dr. Milan Valyear (*pictured*) always enjoyed tinkering and building things. Today, as a new Assistant Professor in UBC's Department of Psychology and a researcher at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, that same curiosity continues to shape his approach to neuroscience. His lab studies the brain processes that drive both the urge to act and the ability to stop. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

CDL-Vancouver Applications Are Now Open

Creative Destruction Lab-Vancouver (CDL-Vancouver)



If you're a founder developing a science- or technology-based venture with the potential for massive scale, CDL-Vancouver has your opportunity to work with world-class mentors, serial entrepreneurs, investors, scientists, and operators who've built and backed industry-defining companies. Applications for the 2026/27 program year are now open. [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 @ Mahonys 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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Science Jobs in Vancouver

Laboratory Assistant ALS
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Single Cell Genomics / Molecular Biologist UBC
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