

Publications of the Week

IL1RAP Antibody-Drug Conjugates Potently Target Primary and Metastatic Disease in Multiple Oncofusion-Driven Cancers

First Author: Hai-Feng Zhang | Senior Author: Poul Sorensen *(pictured)*
Cancer Discovery | BC Cancer



Gene fusions generated by chromosomal rearrangements function as oncogenic drivers in human cancers. The authors previously showed that EWSR1-ETS oncofusions of Ewing sarcoma (EwS) directly induce surface expression of IL1 receptor accessory protein (IL1RAP). They therefore engineered antibody-drug conjugates with different cytotoxic payloads to target IL1RAP. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

Investigator Awards 2026 Recipients

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI)



VCHRI supports clinician-scientists in advancing discoveries that improve the health and well-being of patients across the lifespans. Congratulations to this year's recipients of the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute Investigator Awards, including Dr. Marie-Pier St-Laurent *(pictured)*, whose NeoBLAST trial will test whether patients with no visible or molecular evidence of cancer after presurgical systemic therapy can be safely managed with active surveillance.

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Two Federally Funded Training Programs to Build Canada's Biomedical Research and Innovation Capacity

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Dr. Stefan Taubert *(pictured, right)* and Sarah Hedtrich *(left)* are leading two new federally funded training initiatives aimed at strengthening Canada's biomedical research and innovation capacity in key areas like drug development and aging. The programs were awarded a combined \$3.3 million over six years through the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's Collaborative Research and Training Experience program.

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FHS Professor Kelley Lee Receives SFU Research Excellence – Legacy Award

SFU Faculty of Health Sciences



SFU's Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation has recognized the outstanding research accomplishments of Faculty of Health Sciences Professor Dr. Kelley Lee *(pictured)* with an SFU Legacy Award. The Legacy Award recognizes exceptional investigators and leaders who have set a standard of excellence and inspired change – beyond their specific work or domain – in how research is created, conducted, and/or conveyed.

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Local News

New Study Reveals a Better Way to Get the Heart Back on Beat

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Atrial fibrillation is a common and serious heart rhythm disorder that affects more than 50 million people worldwide. A minimally invasive heart procedure may be a better first-line treatment than medication for people living with advanced forms of atrial fibrillation, according to a major international clinical trial led by researchers at the UBC Faculty of Medicine, including Dr. Jason Andrade *(pictured)*.

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A SARS-CoV-2 Enzyme Activates One Antiviral Defense While Disabling Another

UBC Life Sciences Institute



A recent study from the lab of Dr. Chris Overall *(pictured)* in *Cell Reports* shows that effective antiviral defense relies on the coordinated activity of interferon-stimulated genes, which are turned on by interferon, a key immune signal. This appears to be one of the first antiviral host defenses shown to be activated by a viral protease, which usually serves to disable host immunity.

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SBME Researchers Launch CONNECT: Collaborative Organ-on-Chip Network for Next-Generation Engineering and Cellular Technology

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering



A new interdisciplinary initiative co-led by Dr. Govind Kaigala, Dr. Sarah Hedtrich, and Dr. Megan Levings *(pictured)* is set to transform how researchers model human disease and develop therapies. CONNECT (Collaborative Organ-on-Chip Network for Next-Generation Engineering and Cellular Technology) has been launched to advance New Approach Methodologies, with the aim to reduce reliance on animal testing while improving the precision and relevance of human health research.

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In Pursuit of COPD Discovery: Coming to HLI From Japan

Centre for Heart Lung Innovation (HLI)



Dr. Erica Nishimura *(pictured)*, a Japanese thoracic surgeon, joined HLI as a postdoctoral researcher to help develop a non-invasive treatment for emphysema, motivated by years of treating COPD patients who often experienced severe post-surgical complications. Working with animal models, she is learning advanced techniques to evaluate lung function and tissue structure while collaborating with experts from diverse backgrounds.

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2026 Vancouver Brain Bee Draws Record Turnout, Inspiring the Next Generation of Neuroscientists

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



On Saturday, March 28th, 97 high school students gathered at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health for the 18th annual Vancouver Brain Bee—marking the largest turnout in the event's history. The event brought together students from across the Lower Mainland for a full day of curiosity, competition, and discovery in neuroscience.

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

May 12 2:00 p.m.	The Power of Citizen Science to Help BC Native Bees VPL Dunbar Branch
May 13 4:00 p.m.	2026 UBC Science Research Mixer Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre
May 21 4:30 p.m.	McCarthy Spotlight Speaking Series McCarthy Tetrault LLP
May 26 8:30 a.m.	Bio Essentials: Foundational Science BCIT Downtown Campus
May 27 9:30 a.m.	Deciphering and Re-Engineering the Immune Response to Cancer Van Dusen Gardens

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

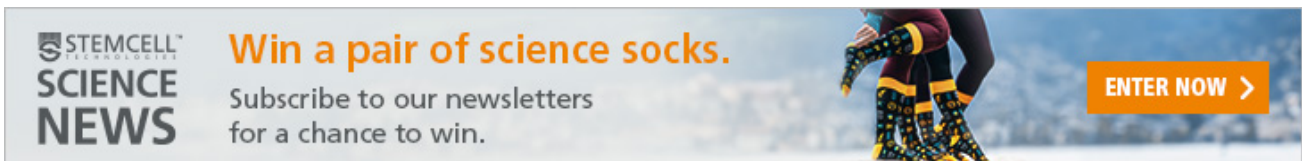
R&D Scientist, Novel Ingredients Marine Biologics
Associate, Clinical Research bioLytical Laboratories
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