

Publications of the Week

Reproducible Detection of Antigen-Specific T Cells and T_{regs} via Standardized and Automated Activation-Induced Marker Assay Workflows

First Authors: Torin Halvorson (*pictured*) and Gabrielle Boucher | Senior Authors: Sabine Ivson and Megan Levings
Cell Reports Methods | BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, BC Cancer, and UBC



Reliable detection of antigen-specific T cells is critical to understand immune responses to infection and vaccination, with translational potential to monitor T cell responses across diverse clinical settings. Here, researchers comprehensively characterized activation-induced marker assay variability within and between operators and across multiple research centers. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

SBME Faculty Recognized by Stem Cell Network's 25 for 25 Silver Anniversary Awards

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering (SBME)



The Stem Cell Network has recognized three SBME researchers with its 25 for 25 Silver Anniversary Awards. The national awards recognize outstanding individuals and organizations whose contributions have helped shape Canada's regenerative medicine ecosystem through scientific leadership, mentorship, innovation, and community impact. Among this year's awardees are Drs. Fabio Rossi, Peter Zandstra, and Nika Shakiba (*pictured, left to right*). [Read More](#)

Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. Elizabeth Nethery Among 42 Selected to Advance Evidence-Informed Health System Improvements

UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences



Dr. Elizabeth Nethery (*pictured*) has been awarded a 2026 Health System Impact Fellowship from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research—making her the first postdoctoral fellow from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at UBC to receive this significant award. Dr. Nethery joins a cohort of 42 new fellows selected in 2026, including 24 postdoctoral researchers and 18 PhD trainees. [Read More](#)

UBC Researchers Awarded \$2.9 Million in Brain Canada Platform Support Grants to Advance Neuroscience Research

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Two UBC Faculty of Medicine researchers have been awarded Brain Canada 2025 Platform Support Grants to support powerful new brain research platforms that promise to change how neurological conditions are studied, diagnosed, and treated by making research faster, more inclusive, and more directly connected to patients. This year's awardees are Drs. Cheryl Wellington (*pictured, left*) and Michael Hayden (*right*). [Read More](#)

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Local News

Thinking, Making, and Asking Better Questions: A Conversation with Dr. James C. Zimring

UBC Centre for Blood Research



The Centre for Blood Research recently spoke with Dr. James C. Zimring (*pictured*), the new Chief Science Officer at Canadian Blood Services and new Principal Investigator at the Centre for Blood Research. Known for his curiosity-driven approach to science, Dr. Zimring's work spans fundamental immunology, transfusion biology, and the complex questions that sit at the interface between basic discovery and patient care. [Read More](#)

BC Children's Study Finds That Breastfeeding Benefits Last Into Childhood, with Potential to Reduce Inequalities for Low-Income Families

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



New research from BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, published in *Cell Reports Medicine*, finds that breastfeeding can benefit children's health well into childhood, especially for families of lower socioeconomic status. "Socioeconomic status isn't biological, but its effects on the body certainly are," says Dr. Stuart Turvey (*pictured*), co-senior study author. [Read More](#)

New Brain Stimulation Therapy Shows Promise for Bipolar Depression

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Dr. Fidel Vila-Rodriguez (*pictured*), his team at the UBC Faculty of Medicine, and collaborating institutions across Canada have shown that a new form of brain stimulation therapy may offer a safer alternative to electroconvulsive therapy (ETC). The therapy, known as magnetic seizure therapy, uses highly targeted magnetic pulses to stimulate the brain more precisely than ETC. [Read More](#)

Dr. M-J Milloy Extended as Interim Director of Research, BC Centre for Substance Use

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Dr. M-J Milloy (*pictured*) has been extended as the interim Director of Research at the British Columbia Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU), effective to December 31, 2026. Dr. Milloy is an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine and a research scientist at the BCCSU. He also serves as UBC's inaugural Canopy Growth Professor of Cannabis Science. [Read More](#)

How Clinical Trials Shape Health Care

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



Clinical trials are the cornerstone of health care as we know it today. Nearly every treatment, drug, or therapy that is incorporated in clinical settings first had to undergo a clinical trial involving human participants to determine safety and efficacy. Researchers like Dr. Quynh Doan (*pictured*) at BC Children's Hospital Research Institute are dedicated to enabling more trials that specifically benefit children. [Read More](#)

From Personal Experience to Generational Impact

Michael Smith Health Research BC



Research with impact often starts at home. For Dr. Theodore Cosco (*pictured*), it began with his grandmother's journey with dementia. This personal connection fueled his focus on aging and mental health. His work sits at the intersection of health and technology, seeking positive and practical ways for us to stay healthier and happier for longer. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

NSERC Invests More Than \$10 Million in Science Promotion Across Canada

Government of Canada



The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) has announced new investments and recognitions that support science promotion and outreach nationwide. Through the PromoScience Program and the NSERC Awards for Science Promotion, NSERC is funding and recognizing organizations and individuals that inspire young people and the broader public to engage with STEM. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

June 4 5:00 PM	Summer Social Zymeworks
June 6 1:00 PM	SFU Faculty of Applied Sciences Homecoming SFU Applied Science Building
June 10 9:30 AM	Patents and Trademarks 101 – For Scientists and Management Van Dusen Gardens, Floral Hall
June 10 6:00 PM	After Dark: Science Scores – Welcoming the World Edition Science World
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

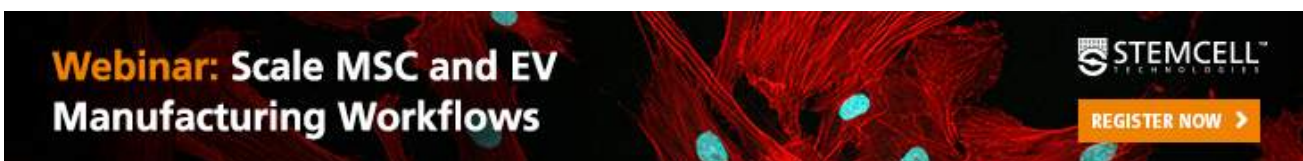
Director, Research Programs Canadian Cancer Society
Research and Clinical Trial Coordinator UBC
Lab Practice Education Coordinator Douglas College
Clinical Trial Associate 1 Xenon Pharmaceuticals
Therapeutic Specialist, Hepatology GSK

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