

Publications of the Week

The Embryo Game Uncovers Hidden Cell Behaviours

First Author: Maria Abou Chakra | Senior Author: Nika Shakiba (*pictured*)
Nature Communications | UBC



While cells are driven to preserve their own survival, they must cooperate to ensure embryo viability. To explore how cellular behaviours shape human development, researchers intersect evolutionary game theory and *in vitro* embryo modelling. They focus on cell competition, a conserved cell-cell killing thought to enable embryonic error correction, though few studies directly link it to embryo success.

[Abstract](#)

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Awards

DMCBH Researchers Receive VCHRI 2026 Innovation and Translational Research Awards

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



Three DMCBH members have received the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute's (VCHRI) 2026 Innovation and Translational Research Awards. This year's awardees are Drs. Mypinder Sekhon, Fidel Vila-Rodriguez, and Brian Kwon (*pictured*). This year's recipients are putting new knowledge into practice, implementing research in clinical settings and advancing innovations with the potential for commercialization. [Read More](#)

Ecaterina (Cathy) Cozma Awarded Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Doctoral Program

BC Cancer Research



Ecaterina (Cathy) Cozma (*pictured*) from the Stirling lab has received the Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Doctoral (CGRS D) program for her project, "Characterizing DNA repair deficient cancers benefiting from polymerase Z inhibition." The CGRS D program supports outstanding doctoral students across Canada by providing funding and advanced research training that fosters innovation, creativity, and research excellence. [Read More](#)

Innovation and Translational Research Awards 2026 Recipients

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



The Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute's (VCHRI) 2026 Innovation and Translational Research Awards have been announced. This year's awardees include Dr. Lori Brotto (*pictured*) and eight other Vancouver researchers. The recipients are putting new knowledge into practice, implementing research in clinical settings and advancing innovations with the potential for commercialization. [Read More](#)

2026 FHS Undergraduate Awards

SFU Faculty of Health Sciences



SFU's Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) Undergraduate Awards have been announced for outstanding service, extraordinary achievement, outstanding academic achievement, and more. They extend their congratulations to Tara Hashemi, Dean David Bangsberg, Alveena Babul, Vandad Hazrati, Gabriella Santorelli (*pictured, bottom row, left to right*), Kirstin Heath, Nick Tjandra, and Caitlin Chow (*top row, left to right*). [Read More](#)

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Local News

What Do Cute Critters Have to Do With Genomics?

Genome BC



Pikas can tell us a lot about the health of an environment. As temperatures change, they need to move, adapt, or survive. Their changing behaviours are early warning systems of ecosystem stress, making them a sentinel species. In a Genome BC funded project, Drs. Michael Russello (*pictured*) and Leigh Anne Isaac are using surveys, habitat modeling, and genome sequencing to understand where pika live now, as well as in future climates. [Read More](#)

UBC MOSAIC and LifeLabs Unlock New Ways to Manage and Predict Heart Health

LifeLabs



UBC's MOSAIC research team and LifeLabs have partnered on an initiative that transforms how we understand and manage cardiovascular health in Canada while reimagining the future of cardiac care. MOSAIC (Multi-Omics and Sonography to Advance Integrated Cardiac Care), led by Dr. Teresa Tsang (*pictured*), brings together advanced heart imaging, genomics, and AI to personalize care and identify earlier signs of heart disease for British Columbians. [Read More](#)

Deploy, Prototype, Bug: Interview with Dr. Xin Tang

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories



The Michael Smith Laboratories is a truly unique research unit, one that marries biology with many technological disciplines. This is well-demonstrated by Dr. Xin Tang's (*pictured*) transdisciplinary approach. In this interview, Dr. Tang reflects upon his early career success and provides some outlooks about the future in an exercise of Rose, Bud, Thorn — or more appropriately for his field, Deploy, Prototype, Bug. [Read More](#)

CTN+ at CAHR 2026: Overcoming Challenges

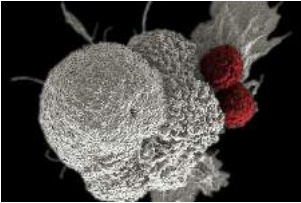
CIHR Pan-Canadian Network for HIV and STBBI Clinical Trials Research (CTN+)



Every year, scientists from across the country gather for the Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research (CAHR). Even if you were able to attend CAHR this year, in the flurry of talks, posters, and other presentations, it's easy to have missed a few things. This article takes the time to reflect on some of what CTN+ members shared. [Read More](#)

Jazz Pharmaceuticals and AbCellera Announce Collaboration to Discover Next-Generation T-Cell Engaging Multispecific Antibodies

Life Sciences British Columbia



Jazz Pharmaceuticals and AbCellera announced a preclinical research collaboration, option, and license agreement to discover and develop next-generation T-cell engaging multispecific antibodies. The collaboration will leverage AbCellera's antibody discovery engine to deliver optimized development candidates for multiple gastrointestinal cancers and other solid tumours. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

July 10 8:00 AM	Balance and Falls Research Center Inaugural Symposium Balance and Falls Research Center
July 24 8:00 AM	Frontiers in Biophysics 2026 SFU Vancouver
July 25 7:00 PM	Science Under the Stars! UBC Hebb Theatre
September 9 5:00 PM	28th Annual Life Sciences BC Awards Vancouver Convention Centre West
September 17 5:00 PM	An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the World Around Us The Old Auditorium

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

Assistant Instructor, Medical Laboratory Science BCIT
Research and Innovation Coordinator Genome BC
Research Associate UBC
Sample Technician Bureau Veritas
Laboratory Assistant ALS

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STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

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