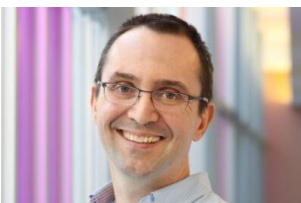


Publications of the Week

Human Germline Biallelic Loss-Of-Function *OSMR* Variants Cause Severe Allergic Disease

First Authors: Simran Samra and Mehul Sharma | Senior Authors: Jonathan Lyons and Stuart Turvey (*pictured*)
Journal of Human Immunity | BC Children's Hospital and UBC



Oncostatin M (OSM) receptor beta (OSMR β), encoded by *OSMR*, is a cytokine receptor subunit required for signaling by OSM and IL-31. Researchers identified ten affected individuals from seven unrelated families with germline biallelic loss-of-function variants in *OSMR* who shared a phenotype of early-onset, severe, widespread atopic dermatitis with peripheral eosinophilia and markedly elevated serum IgE. **Abstract**

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Awards

Dr. Marco Marra Receives 2025 Canadian Cancer Society Lifetime Contribution Prize

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories



Dr. Marco Marra (*pictured*) was selected for the Lifetime Contribution Prize thanks to his far-reaching contributions to cancer research in Canada. The prize is given to a researcher whose accomplishments extend beyond traditional research outputs – including building networks, creating resources, and training new cancer researchers. **Read More**

Dr. Zachary Pennington Receives Banting Discovery Award

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Dr. Zachary Pennington (*pictured*), an Assistant Professor in UBC's Department of Psychology, is the recipient of the 2026 William & Nona Heaslip–Banting Discovery Award. This award recognizes outstanding early-career scientists at Canadian universities and research institutes whose innovative health and biomedical research has the potential to improve lives. **Read More**

DMCBH members recognized with 2026 Faculty of Medicine Distinguished Achievement AwardsMembers Recognized With 2026 Faculty of Medicine Distinguished Achievement Awards

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



Each year, the Faculty of Medicine recognizes faculty members who have made exceptional contributions in education, research, or service—honouring those whose work is improving lives, advancing knowledge, and making a meaningful difference to communities here and around the world. Among the DMCBH members who received Faculty of Medicine Distinguished Achievement Awards for 2026 is Dr. Thiviya Selvanathan (*pictured*) **Read More**

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Local News

New Study Reveals How Cell Competition Helps Human Embryos Thrive and Inspires a Card Game for Future Scientists

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering



A new study published in Nature Communications has uncovered an unexpected principle of early human development: competition between cells may be essential for cooperation—and ultimately for embryonic success. The study, led by Dr. Nika Shakiba (*pictured, right*), combines evolutionary game theory with human stem cell-derived embryo models to investigate how cell competition contributes to embryo viability. **Read More**

Making It Faster and Easier to Assess Vitiligo

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI)



Vitiligo is a painless but often psychologically distressing autoimmune condition that causes the loss of skin pigmentation. Accurately assessing depigmented lesions is essential for tracking disease and treatment outcomes. A new advanced AI interface developed by VCHRI researcher Dr. Tim Lee (*pictured*) shows promise as a clinical enhancement tool. **Read More**

From Blueprint to Black Box: Dr. Troy McDiarmid Is Turning DNA Into a Record of Brain Health

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Dr. Troy McDiarmid (*pictured*) was recruited to UBC in part to help bridge two rapidly advancing fields: fundamental neuroscience and technology development in bioengineering. Dr. McDiarmid is developing cutting-edge tools to understand how the brain works at its most fundamental level, and how to fix it when things go wrong. **Read More**

Celebrating Excellence: Life Sciences BC Announces 2026 Award Winners

Life Sciences BC



Life Sciences BC has announced the recipients of the 28th Annual Life Sciences BC Awards, recognizing outstanding individuals and organizations advancing health innovation across British Columbia. These awards celebrate leadership, innovation and business success, scientific excellence, and the contributions shaping the province's dynamic life sciences ecosystem. **Read More**

People in Profile: Jason Fu

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Meet Jason — a biomedical engineering student focused on developing impactful technologies that support personalized care and improve outcomes for diverse patient populations. This year, he placed second overall in the 2026 UBC Three Minute Thesis competition. His research explores whether wearable technologies can be used to continuously and remotely monitor cardiovascular health in people living with spinal cord injury. **Read More**

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Interesting Articles

adMare Executive Institute Opens Applications for Ninth Cohort

adMare BioInnovations



adMare BioInnovations announced that applications for Cohort IX of the adMare Executive Institute are now open. Applications will be accepted until July 24, 2026. The Executive Institute is Canada's premier leadership development program designed specifically for experienced, mid-career executives and emerging C-suite leaders who want to enhance their impact on Canada's life sciences sector. **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

Cell Biology R&D Co-Op Cytiva
Director, CMC, Drug Product Xenon Pharmaceuticals
Faculty Coordinator Douglas College
Research Scientist UBC
Technical Research Scientist SFU

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STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

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Manufacturing Technologist, GMP STEMCELL Technologies

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