

Publications of the Week

A Binary Self-Amplifying Expression Platform Enabling Lipid Nanoparticle-Free Vaccines and Nanomedicines

First Author: Wilfred Jefferies (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Cheryl Pfeifer
Nature Communications | The Vancouver Prostate Centre, Vancouver General Hospital, and UBC



Conventional mRNA vaccines played a crucial role in mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic but remain hampered by numerous challenges. This study describes the Gemini platform, an expression system with a bifunctional eukaryotic-prokaryotic promoter that can be deployed as either a self-amplifying RNA or as a self-amplifying DNA replicon, enabling robust amplification and expression of genetic cargo. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

2025-26 William and Dorothy Gilbert Scholarship Recipients

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories



Maor Arad (*pictured, left*) and Sara Vujakovic (*right*) are the recipients of the 2025-2026 William and Dorothy Gilbert Scholarship in Biomedical Sciences. This award celebrates the accomplishments of outstanding doctoral students at the Michael Smith Laboratories. While focused on different targets, this year's recipients are both using new technologies to analyze samples, producing results that could help inform future healthcare approaches. [Read More](#)

UBC-Developed Placental Monitoring Technology Receives ARPA-H Funding

UBC Engineering



A placental monitoring technology developed at UBC Applied Science has received funding from the U.S. Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) to support expanded clinical studies, including at BC Women's Hospital. The technology was co-invented by Dr. Farah Deeba (*pictured, left*) during her PhD research at UBC and by Dr. Robert Rohling (*right*), a UBC Professor. [Read More](#)

FHS Students Awarded CIHR Canada Graduate Research Scholarships

SFU Faculty of Health Sciences



Four students at the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) have each received funding for their graduate research studies through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Canada Graduate Research Scholarship program. This year's award recipients are Taelor Lay, Tahani Shraida, Taylor Atwater, and Amanda Yonkman (*pictured*). [Read More](#)

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Local News

Meet Dr. Ashley Dalrymple, Who Is Engineering New Possibilities for Recovery After Nervous System Injuries

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Inspired by the goal of helping people regain movement and sensation after a nervous system injury, Dr. Ashley Dalrymple (*pictured*) brings a unique perspective that combines engineering, neuroscience, and rehabilitation science to address some of the most complex challenges in neurological recovery. Dr. Dalrymple recently joined UBC as an Assistant Professor and Canada Research Chair in Spinal Cord Neuromodulation. [Read More](#)

Behind the Lab Doors: Driving Cancer Diagnostics at the Artificial Intelligence in Medicine Lab

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



When you step into the Artificial Intelligence in Medicine Lab (AIM Lab), the energy is hard to miss. Located at UBC, AIM Lab stands apart from traditional laboratories. Led by Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute investigator Dr. Ali Bashashati, AIM Lab pushes the boundaries of patient care by applying AI to cancer diagnostics and treatment planning. [Read More](#)

How UBC's New Express License Is Fast-Tracking Spin-Offs

Innovation UBC



Turning promising university research into real-world products requires strong partnerships between researchers, startups, investors, and universities. One important part of that process is establishing a license agreement that gives a new company the rights it needs to commercialize university technology. Innovation UBC's Express License was created to simplify the process by offering a standardized framework for spin-off companies. [Read More](#)

Beaker Banter Podcast: Nanoparticles to the Rescue!

Innovation UBC



On the first episode of Beaker Banter, Dr. Marissa Lithopoulos (*pictured*) sits down with Dr. Anna Blakney, an Associate Professor at UBC and TikTok superstar. They discuss Dr. Blakney's path to becoming a bioengineer, her exciting research into next-generation self-amplifying RNA vaccines, and why she has a love-hate relationship with social media. [Read More](#)

STEMCELL Technologies and CCRM Partner to Expand Access to Matched GMP and RUO iPSC Lines for Cell Therapy Development

STEMCELL Technologies



STEMCELL Technologies and the Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine (CCRM) are partnering to expand access to high-quality human induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) starting materials. STEMCELL will manufacture and distribute research-use-only (RUO) iPSC lines derived directly from LineaBio's Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) iPSC lines, and will offer the matched GMP lines to developers worldwide. [Read More](#)

New Study Reveals How the Brain Reorganizes Itself in Early Parkinson's Disease

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



A new study by Drs. Jon Stoessl, Jeremy Seamans, and Vesna Sossi (*pictured*) found that the brain reorganizes its dopamine signaling in the earliest stages of Parkinson's disease. The findings provide new insight into how the brain compensates for the loss of dopamine-producing neurons and why those adaptations may eventually contribute to movement and cognitive difficulties. [Read More](#)

Dean's Spotlight: Excelling in the Development and Application of Emerging Technologies

UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences



Healthcare is being transformed by emerging technologies. Dr. Lalitha Raman-Wilms (*pictured*) discusses how artificial intelligence, machine learning, precision medicine, and advanced computational modeling are reshaping how we discover therapies, diagnose disease, optimize treatments, and deliver patient care in the latest issue of the *Dean's Spotlight*. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

September 2 6:00 PM	After Dark: Science of Sleight – Magic Edition Science World
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
October 30 6:00 PM	After Dark: Sinister Science – Halloween Edition Science World
November 3 - 4 7:30 AM	LSBC's 11th Annual Invest in BC presented by Lumira Ventures Vancouver Convention Centre West

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

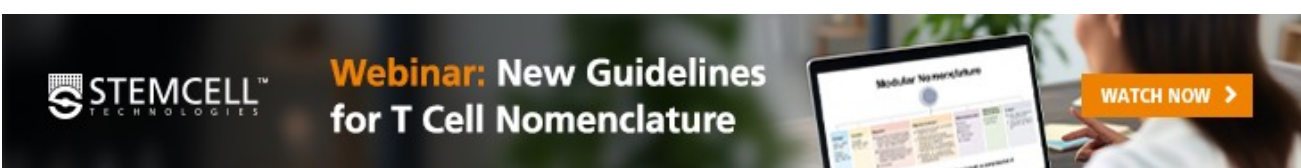
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Laboratory Assistant ALS
Sample Preparation Technician, General Labourer SGS
Senior Program Manager, Clinical Zymeworks
Animal Care Technician UBC

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STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

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Senior Quality Assurance Associate, Systems STEMCELL Technologies
Quality Assurance Associate, Document Management and Training STEMCELL Technologies
Equipment Technician STEMCELL Technologies
Senior Facilities Services Coordinator STEMCELL Technologies

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