

Publications of the Week

Functional Segregation in Parkinson's Disease

First Authors: Dongning Su and Jordan Hanania | Senior Author: Jon Stoessl (*pictured*)
Science Advances | Vancouver Coastal Health, TRIUMF, and UBC



The basal ganglia are characterized by somatotopic representation and are organized in parallel, functionally segregated corticostriatal circuits, but the impact of Parkinson's disease (PD) on this architecture is unknown. Researchers mapped task-evoked dopamine release using [¹¹C]raclopride positron emission tomography/magnetic resonance in 13 early PD and 15 healthy control subjects during the performance of motor, cognitive, and reward tasks. **Abstract**

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Awards

VCHRI Researchers Awarded CIHR Project Grants to Support Health Research

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI)



The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) has announced the results of its Spring 2026 project grant competition. Twenty-four projects led by VCHRI researchers were awarded project grants and priority announcement grants. Among the awardees is Dr. Shannon Kolind (*pictured*) who will use her funding to investigate new ways to monitor disease activity and progression in multiple sclerosis. **Read More**

DMCBH Members Awarded Spring 2026 CIHR Project Grants to Support Health Research

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) has announced the results of its Spring 2026 project grant competition. Nine projects led by Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health members were awarded grants, receiving over \$8 million in funding. Dr. Kiran Soma (*pictured*) is among the project leads and will study the effects of maternal sucrose consumption on offspring hormones, neural circuits, and behaviour in rats. **Read More**

Congratulations to Shani Leyva Camacho for Being Selected to Receive the Michael Stevenson Graduate Scholarship.

SFU Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry



Shani Leyva Camacho (*pictured*) at SFU has been selected as the recipient of the Michael Stevenson Graduate Scholarship. Michael Stevenson Graduate Scholarship is intended for a student entering a doctoral program who has demonstrated research excellence at the postgraduate level with particular emphasis on intellectual ability, originality, and ability in research. **Read More**

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Local News

Researchers Discover the Eye's Hidden Cleanup System

UBC News



Many of the world's leading causes of irreversible blindness, including glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration, share a common problem: the buildup of fluid, waste and inflammatory debris in the back of the eye. New research from Dr. Neeru Gupta (*pictured*) at UBC has identified a previously unknown waste drainage system at the back of the eye. **Read More**

Geography Influences Early Programming of the Immune System

UBC Microbiology and Immunology



An international team of researchers led by Dr. Bob Hancock (*pictured*) has found that programming of the immune system in the first seven days of life occurs uniquely in separate geographic cohorts of newborns. The study, published in *Nature Communications*, reveals that a core immune development trajectory in humans is overlaid with population-specific differences. **Read More**

SFU Chemists Supercharge Antiviral Drug Discovery

SFU News



As the world faces new and often untreatable viral threats, SFU researchers have found a way to cut years off the time it takes to discover antiviral drugs. The research, led by Dr. Robert Britton (*pictured*), enables scientists to quickly create large libraries of nucleoside analogs, compounds that mimic the building blocks of DNA and RNA and are widely used to treat cancer and viral infections such as HIV and hepatitis. **Read More**

CFNBI Conference 2026: Exploring the Field of Fluid Biomarkers in Neurological Disorders

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



On May 27–28, 2026, the UBC Core Facility for Neurology Biomarker Innovation (CFNBI) hosted its inaugural annual meeting. This interdisciplinary conference, themed "Fluid Biomarkers as Transformative Diagnosis, Prognosis, Management, and Monitoring Tools for Neurological Disorders," brought researchers together to explore the rapidly evolving field of fluid biomarkers in neurological disorders. **Read More**

“Does Bipolar Disorder Age You Faster?” Featuring Dr. Paula Villela Nunes

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



How does bipolar disorder actually accelerate aging? And what can you start doing today to slow the aging process down? Psychiatrist and researcher Dr. Paula Villela Nunes (*pictured*) explores the rarely discussed science behind bipolar disorder and accelerated aging, including the role of stress, inflammation, lifestyle, cardiovascular health, telomeres, and increased risk for dementia. **Read More**

Insect ‘Submariners’ Don’t Implode at Depth, Leaving Oceanic Mystery Unsolved

UBC Science



Lake fly larvae can withstand pressures equivalent to twice the depths they usually dive, demonstrating insects can indeed survive in the oceanic deeps. The findings, led by Dr. Philip Matthews (*pictured*), bring into question a long-standing theory that the ocean is devoid of insect life due to their respiratory systems being unable to withstand the pressure. **Read More**

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

August 20 7:00 PM	Science, Stand-Up, & Song Fox Cabaret
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

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

Clinical Program Manager Sonus Microsystems
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