

Publications of the Week

Population-Specific Heterogeneity in Ontogeny of the Broadly-Conserved Blood Transcriptional Program During the First Week of Life

First Authors: Bhavjinder Dhillon and Travis Blimkie | Senior Author: Robert Hancock (pictured)
Nature Communications | BC Cancer, UBC, and SFU



Previous research has shown that immune development during the first week of life is progressive, consistent, and robust, involving large numbers of differentially expressed genes at each sampled time point. To obtain more granular detail about conserved and population-specific ontogeny, the influence of day of life on blood gene expression and cell type composition was examined in two distinct neonatal populations. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

July 2026 Award Winners

Science in Vancouver

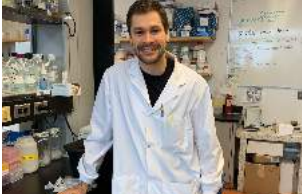


July brought major federal funding announcements from both the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). We have highlighted Drs. Naomi Maldonado-Rodriguez (pictured, left) and Amanda Rowlands (right) from the SFU Faculty of Health Sciences, who each received a prestigious CIHR Postdoctoral Fellowship Award.

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Announcing the 2026 Gairdner Early Career Investigators

The Gairdner Foundation



The 2026 Canada Gairdner Award laureates have selected six investigators who will present their research alongside them during Gairdner Science Week 2026 events from October 19-23. Dr. Dustin King (pictured) from SFU has been named among the 2026 Gairdner Early Career Investigators. His research develops chemoproteomic methods to discover CO₂-mediated protein modifications.

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Five Leading Cancer Research Teams Receive \$33M to Drive Transformative Discoveries

Terry Fox Research Institute (TFRI)



Five Canadian cancer research teams have launched bold and innovative projects supported by \$33 million in funding through the Terry Fox New Frontiers Program Project Grants. This marks the largest investment ever made through a single funding competition in TFRI's history. Dr. Jessica McAlpine (pictured) from UBC is the principal investigator for one of the grants. [Read More](#)

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Local News

People in Profile: Marion Santos

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Marion Santos (pictured) is a clinical trial coordinator at the Interstitial Lung Disease Clinic at Vancouver General Hospital, where she support the delivery of clinical trials and help connect patients with emerging therapies. Her role involves preparing and calibrating study equipment as well as conducting protocol-driven assessments with patients. [Read More](#)

Could a Blood Test Detect Cancer Recurrence in Patients Who Have Undergone Orchiectomy?

M.H. Mohseni Institute of Urologic Sciences



Initial findings from a clinical trial on the use of biomarkers for cancer detection in patients with early-stage germ cell tumors were presented by Dr. Lucia Nappi (pictured) from the Vancouver Prostate Centre at the 2026 American Society of Clinical Oncology Conference. The results demonstrate that a simple blood test could help clinicians identify patients at higher risk of relapse more accurately and earlier than current monitoring methods. [Read More](#)

First Students Begin Studies at SFU Stephens Family School of Medicine

SFU News



The inaugural class of the SFU Stephens Family School of Medicine have begun a new chapter in medical education in British Columbia. The school's first 48 students start their orientation on SFU's Surrey campus to become future physicians for the province's health-care system. "Every first day of school is exciting, but this one especially so, as we welcome our inaugural class of medical students to Simon Fraser University," says SFU President Joy Johnson. [Read More](#)

Vaginal Organoids May Unlock New Insight Into Sexually Transmitted Infections in Women

UBC Microbiology and Immunology



A team of UBC researchers has created new vaginal models grown from mouse or human cells and demonstrated that they are capable of being infected with herpes simplex virus type 2 and Zika virus and responding to antiviral drugs. "Discoveries that were being made about other organ systems decades ago are just now being initiated in a lot of areas of women's health," said Ananya Saraph (pictured), first author of the study. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

NSERC Launches the Geoffrey Hinton Prizes

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada



NSERC has announced the launch of the Geoffrey Hinton Prizes, recognizing Discovery Grant applicants whose creative application of AI in the natural sciences and engineering (NSE) has generated or is poised to generate significant impact. Named in honour of Nobel laureate Dr. Geoffrey Hinton, the prizes aim to accelerate discovery and innovation across the NSE by recognizing and supporting early-stage researchers. [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

Research Assistant/Technician 3 UBC
Community Engagement Coordinator SFU
Sample Preparation Technicians ALS
Sr. Project Manager, Quality Assurance Evonik
Sr. Biostatistician Emmes Group

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