



Publications of the Week

Exploring B7-H4’s Role in Prostate Cancer Dormancy After Androgen Deprivation Therapy: Extracellular Matrix Interactions and Therapeutic Opportunities

First Author: Ning Kang | Senior Author: Yuzhuo Wang (pictured)
Molecular Cancer Research | Vancouver Prostate Centre, BC Cancer, and UBC



Prostate cancer is mainly managed with androgen deprivation therapy, but this often leads to a dormant state and subsequent relapse as lethal castration-resistant prostate cancer. Using their unique prostate cancer patient-derived xenograft dormancy models, researchers investigated this critical dormant phase and discovered a selective increase in B7-H4 expression during the dormancy period following mouse host castration. [Abstract](#)

Antithrombotic Coating With Sheltered Positive Charges Prevents Contact Activation by Controlling Factor XII–Biointerface Binding

First Author: Haifeng Ji | Senior Authors: Weifeng Zhao and Jayachandran Kizhakkedathu (pictured)
Nature Materials | UBC



Antithrombotic surfaces that prevent coagulation activation without interfering with hemostasis are required for blood-contacting devices. Here, by optimizing the interactions with coagulation factor XII rather than preventing its surface adsorption, researchers developed a substrate-independent antithrombotic polymeric coating with sheltered positive charges. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Grant Recipients for Translational Research & Best Practice Implementation Open Funding Competitions

Praxis Spinal Cord Institute



The Praxis Spinal Cord Institute has announced the grant recipients from its Translational Research and Best Practice Implementation open funding competitions. These open competitions were designed to address critical gaps in spinal cord injury care. Among the awardees is Dr. Mike Berger (pictured) from the International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries at UBC. [Read More](#)

Dr. Mark Cembrowski Wins 2025 CAN New Investigator Award for His Pioneering Memory Research

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Dr. Mark Cembrowski (pictured) is the recipient of the 2025 Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN) New Investigator Award. This prestigious national honour recognizes Dr. Cembrowski as an outstanding scientist, collaborator, and mentor, conducting leading-edge research on the cellular and molecular underpinnings of cognition and brain disorders, particularly in memory. [Read More](#)

UBC Engineering Faculty and Grad Students Recognized With Killam Teaching Awards

UBC Engineering



The 2024/25 Killam Teaching Prize and Killam Graduate Teaching Assistant Award recipients have been announced. The recipients of the Killam Teaching Prize are nominated by students, colleagues, and alumni in recognition of their excellence in teaching. Among the awardees is Drs. Naoko Ellis (pictured), Ahmad Mohammadpanah, and Jenna Usprech. [Read More](#)

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Local News

The Last of Us Season 2: A Q&A With Dr. Jim Kronstad About Fungal Infections and Climate Change

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories



Like the “zombie fungus” in *The Last of Us*, many fungal diseases that infect humans, such as *Cryptococcus neoformans*, which causes meningitis in humans, are spread by inhaling spores. In a recent *Nature* paper, Dr. Jim Kronstad (pictured) and co-authors highlight a warming climate as a potential contributor to the spread of harmful fungi. [Read More](#)

BCCHRI Researchers Develop New Way to Match Young Cancer Patients With the Right Drugs

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute (BCCHRI)



A pan-Canadian team has developed a new way to quickly find personalized treatments for young cancer patients, by growing their tumours in chicken eggs and analyzing their proteins. The team, led by Dr. James Lim (pictured) from BCCHRI and UBC, is the first in Canada to combine these two techniques to identify and test a drug for a young patient's tumour in time for their treatment. [Read More](#)

Enhancing Long-Read Sequencing: Introducing the Agilent Femto Pulse System at the GSC

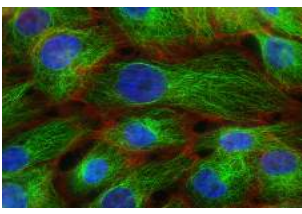
BC Cancer Research Institute



The BC Cancer Research Institute is excited to announce the arrival of the Agilent Femto Pulse System at the Genome Sciences Centre. This high-sensitivity automated pulsed-field capillary electrophoresis instrument will be a game changer for nucleic acid quality control — detecting nucleic acids down to 50 fg/μL of DNA or RNA per sample and resolving fragments from 100 base pairs to over 165 kilobases in about 1.5 hours. [Read More](#)

Acuitas Therapeutics Named One of Canada’s Top Small & Medium Employers

Acuitas Therapeutics



Acuitas Therapeutics, Inc. was named one of Canada’s Top Small & Medium Employers for 2025. The Vancouver-based, privately held biotechnology firm is the global leader in the development of delivery systems for nucleic acid therapeutics based on lipid nanoparticles. “It is an honour – once again – to be named one of Canada’s Top Small & Medium Employers,” said Chief Operating Officer Abi Coman-Walker. [Read More](#)

Visionary: Celebrating the Legacy of a BC Biotech Pioneer

UBC Science



During her tenure at UBC, Dr. Julia Levy (pictured) co-founded one of UBC’s most successful spinouts in partnership with UBC chemist Dr. David Dolphin. As well as cancer treatments, their work saved the vision of hundreds of thousands of patients diagnosed with macular degeneration, an age-related eye disease. The renowned immunologist passed away in December. [Read More](#)

Genomics Research Will Advance Treatment for BC Patients

Genome BC



In medicine, genomics is used to develop personalized treatments based on a person’s genetic makeup. The Province is accelerating the future of patient care and advancing testing for cancer, heart disease, transplants, and infections with eight new genomics research projects, in partnership with Genome BC and Genome Alberta. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

April 24
6:00 PM

Cosmic Nights: Space Sustainability

H.R. MacMillan Space Centre

April 29
5:00 PM

SFU Cafe Scientifique: Brain Mapping, Brain Function, and Evolution

Online

May 12 - 13
8:00 AM

BC Resuscitation Sciences Series: Organ Donation & Transplantation Symposium

Vancouver General Hospital

May 15
8:00 AM

Women in STEM Career Fair

Online

May 22
5:00 PM

BC Pharmacy Residency Research Night 2025

Science World

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

Research Associate, Clinical

Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre

Scientist, Analytical Development and Services

STEMCELL Technologies

Research Technician 3, Research Core Facility Biobank

UBC

Senior Director, Quality Assurance

AbCellera

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

BC Children's Hospital

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