

Publications of the Week

Bespoke Plant Glycoconjugates for Gut Microbiota-Mediated Drug Targeting

First Authors: Wei Jen Ma and Changqing Wang | Senior Authors: Laura Sly and Harry Brumer (*pictured*)
Science | BC Children's Hospital and UBC



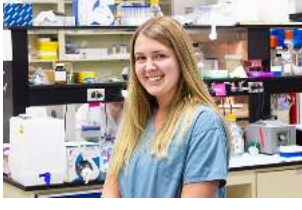
The gut microbiota of mammals possess unique metabolic pathways with untapped therapeutic potential. Using molecular insights into dietary fibre metabolism by the human gut microbiota, researchers designed a targeted drug delivery system based on bespoke glycoconjugates of a complex plant oligosaccharide called GlycoCaging. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

Investigator Awards 2025 Recipients

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI)



VCHRI's Investigator Awards provide salary support to leading health research investigators to help reduce their clinical commitments and expand their capacity for innovation-driven research that creates new health care knowledge. The 2025 awardees are Drs. Richard Bennett, Connor Forbes, and Jenna-Lynn Senger (*pictured*). [Read More](#)

Professor Steven Jones Elected Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales

BC Cancer Research Institute



The Genome Sciences Centre's (GSC) Co-Director and Head of Bioinformatics, Dr. Steven Jones (*pictured*) has been elected as a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales—a prestigious recognition of excellence and leadership in academic research. This honor acknowledges Dr. Jones's contributions to the fields of genomics and bioinformatics, particularly his foundational role in establishing the GSC as a global leader in cancer genomics. [Read More](#)

UBC Medicine Members Receive 2025 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Two UBC Medicine community members, Drs. Jana-Lea Davidson (*pictured, left*) and Cheryl Ho (*right*), have been honoured as recipients of the 2025 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards in recognition of their extraordinary contribution to the well-being of families and communities. Dr. Davidson was awarded under the category of Health and Wellness while Dr. Ho was awarded under the category of Research, the Sciences and Technology. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Zucara Therapeutics Announces Second and Final Closing of US \$25 Million Series-B Financing (With Additional Us \$5 Million)

T-Net



Zacara Therapeutics, a Vancouver diabetes life science company developing the first once-daily therapeutic to prevent hypoglycemia in people with diabetes, announced that it has completed the second and final closing of its Series B Financing. This round secured \$25 million USD in funding and other new investors also invested an additional \$5 million USD to complete the financing. [Read More](#)

The Future of Blood Transfusion and Organ Transplantation: A Universal Blood Story

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories



During blood transfusion, incompatibility within the ABO blood group system can trigger severe immune reactions, leading to rejection or other life-threatening complications. To address this critical issue, Drs. Stephen Withers (*pictured*) and Jayachandran Kizhakkedathu have co-developed a transformative technology. Their enzyme-based platform can convert A antigens in the blood and organs into the universal H (O-type) antigen. [Read More](#)

Jade Biosciences Closes Merger with Aerovate Therapeutics

Business in Vancouver



Biotech firm Jade Biosciences has completed its merger with Aerovate Therapeutics in a move that will put the former on the Nasdaq. Jade's Vancouver-based CEO, Tom Frohlich, previously helped shepherd BC-based Chinoook Therapeutics to a US\$3.2-billion exit. Jade develops therapies for autoimmune diseases, while Aerovate is a Massachusetts-based biopharmaceutical company that develops drugs for cardiopulmonary disease. [Read More](#)

Researcher Leads Sustainability Efforts in Biobanking and Beyond

The Daily Scan



Researchers across Providence Research, its research centres, and clinical academic research groups are finding innovative ways to implement sustainable practices. Among them, Dr. Gurpreet Singhera, Research Associate with the Centre for Heart Lung Innovation and Operations Lead of the Bruce McManus Cardiovascular Biobank, is taking action to advance environmentally friendly practices within lab research and biobanking. [Read More](#)

The Connection Between Climate Change and the Pacific Oyster Microbiome and Mortality

UBC Microbiology and Immunology



Pacific oysters have recently undergone a series of mass mortality events. Dr. Curtis Suttle (*pictured*) at UBC wondered if shifting environmental parameters may affect the Pacific oyster via its microbiome. As the microorganisms in the microbiome have evolved to perform important biological functions under specific conditions, increasing water temperature and acidity could disrupt the oyster's microbiome and impact its health. [Read More](#)

UBC Pharm Sci Hosts Catalyze: Innovating Nanomedicines to Spotlight Breakthrough Research and Foster New Collaborations

UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences



On Tuesday, April 29, 2025, the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at UBC welcomed industry leaders, donors, and research partners to *Catalyze: Innovating Nanomedicines*, a dynamic evening that celebrated the Faculty's cutting-edge work in nanomedicines. The event highlighted how researchers at the Faculty are pushing the boundaries of drug delivery, diagnostics, and personalized medicine using nanoscale technologies. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

PhD Collab Pilot Opens for Second Year of Funding

UBC Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies



The Office of the Dean and Vice-Provost of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies invites faculty members and PhD student teams to submit a proposal for the PhD Collab Pilot program. Now in its second year of funding, the Collab pilot provides guidance and awards up to \$100,000 to support inter/transdisciplinary teams of UBC PhD students, faculty members, and others as appropriate. [Read More](#)

2025 Science Exposed Finalists

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)



Science Exposed is a contest organized by NSERC and devoted exclusively to images of scientific research, in all fields of study. The contest endeavours to showcase images of Canadian research and foster interest in science and scientific curiosity in all audiences. The finalists for 2025 have been announced. Among the finalists are Vancouver-based scientists Cormac Toler-Scott and Brian Duarte. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

May 12 - 13 8:00 AM	BC Resuscitation Sciences Series: Organ Donation & Transplantation Symposium Vancouver General Hospital
May 12- 13 12:00 PM	The Pacific Tuberculosis Pathogenesis and Host-Response Research Retreat 2025 Life Sciences Centre
May 14 12:00 PM	Introduction to Indigenous Health Research: Core Principles and Practical Pathways Online
May 21 12:30 PM	Science, Environment & Health Sciences Co-Op Info Session SFU & Online
May 22 11:00 AM	SBME Research Seminar: The RNA Folding Problem Remains Open UBC

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

Postdoctoral Research Fellow BC Children's Hospital	Associate Scientist II, Translational Biology Alpha-9 Oncology
Formulation Development Co-Op Cytiva	Lecturer and Clinic Coordinator, DHDP UBC
Associate Director, Clinical Operations Xenon Pharmaceuticals	

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