

Publications of the Week

PI3K/AKT Signaling Mediates Stress-Inducible Amyloid Formation Through C-Myc

First Author: Emma Lacroix (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Timothy Audas
Cell Reports | SFU



In response to environmental stress, eukaryotic cells reversibly form functional amyloid aggregates called amyloid bodies (A-bodies). While these solid-like biomolecular condensates share many biophysical characteristics with pathological amyloids, A-bodies are non-toxic, and they induce a protective state of cellular dormancy. Here, researchers use an image-based high-throughput screening approach to identify candidate pathways regulating A-body biogenesis. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

SFU CGS-M Recipients

SFU Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry



The Canada Graduate Scholarships — Master's program (CGS-M) is awarded to outstanding students who have demonstrated a high standard of academic achievement in their early graduate studies. From the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry at SFU, this year's recipients are Callum Brown, Jonathan Ho (*pictured*), and Janeel Naidu. [Read More](#)

Dr. Sofie Tolmeijer Receives 2024 PCF Young Investigator Award

Vancouver Prostate Centre



Dr. Sofie Tolmeijer (*pictured*), a researcher in the Wyatt Lab, has been awarded the 2024 CCPC – Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) Young Investigator Award. The award recognizes their work on serial blood-based epigenotyping of metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer. The PCF's Young Investigator Award supports early-career scientists and physicians conducting innovative research in prostate cancer. [Read More](#)

How Dr. Tillie Hackett Is Shaping Science and Mentorship

Centre for Heart Lung Innovation



Dr. Tillie-Louise Hackett (*pictured*), a Faculty of Medicine Professor and lung health researcher at UBC, has received the 2025 Killam Teaching Prize for her outstanding contributions to teaching, mentorship, and research leadership. The award is presented annually to faculty members who demonstrate exceptional dedication to teaching. Recipients are nominated by students, colleagues, and alumni across the UBC Vancouver campus, and selected within each Faculty. [Read More](#)

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Local News

From PhD Student to Scientist: Kelly Hrelja's Story

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



Since graduating last spring, Dr. Kelly Hrelja (*pictured*) has made meaningful progress in her role as a Scientist at Aspect Biosystems. During her PhD, she studied gambling, decision-making, and drug use in rats, along with the long-term effects of early-life immune challenges on neuroinflammation. One year later, DMCBH caught up with Dr. Hrelja to learn more about where her journey has taken her since. [Read More](#)

Certain Bacteria in Breast Tumour Environments May Fuel Cancer Spread

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Researchers from the UBC Faculty of Medicine and BC Cancer have discovered that certain bacteria found in breast tumours could be linked to the spread of cancer to other parts of the body. "The role of bacteria in cancer is something that is undergoing a rapid increase as a field of study," says first author Dr. Zachary Gerbec (*pictured*). [Read More](#)

VCHRI Research Impact Series

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI)



VCHRI has launched their Research Impact Series to celebrate the transformative power of health research. Through this video series, they highlight the innovative work of their researchers and their unwavering commitment to improving care, advancing innovation, and shaping the future of health. Learn more about VCHRI clinical trials and research studies from scientists like Dr. Brian Kwon (*pictured*). [Read More](#)

BC Cancer Rolls Out Most Advanced CT Scanner in Canada

BC Cancer



A new CT scanner, installed and operational at BC Cancer, uses leading-edge photon-counting technology to deliver more accurate imaging with less radiation exposure to patients. "BC is once again leading the nation in integrating transformative medical technology and tools, helping to achieve better health outcomes and save lives" said Josie Osborne, Minister of Health. [Read More](#)

From COVID to Cancer: Why Canada's RNA Vaccine Leadership Matters More Than Ever

The Conversation



While the swift development of COVID-19 RNA vaccines appeared to be a sudden scientific triumph, it was built on six decades of foundational work. Much of that work happened in Canada. mRNA are large, negatively charged molecules that are easily degraded and repelled by our cells. To coax our cells to internalize them, Dr. Pieter Cullis (*pictured*) and collaborators at UBC developed lipid nanoparticles. [Read More](#)

A Simple Test That Could Save Vulnerable Kids

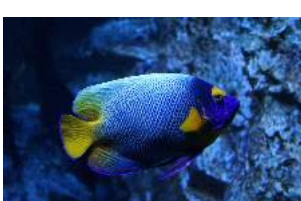
Research2Reality



Medulloblastoma, the most common malignant brain tumour in kids, is actually a collection of several different tumour types. And now researchers have found a simple, affordable way to identify one of the most dangerous subtypes — a discovery that could help doctors offer more personalized treatments and spare some children from unnecessary side effects. [Read More](#)

How Do You Know If a Salmon Has a Stomach-Ache?

Genome BC



One common concern in cultured environments for fish is gut enteritis, an inflammation of the intestines. By analyzing the microbial composition of a fish's feces, researchers aim to identify patterns indicative of gut dysbiosis — an early warning sign of potential enteritis. The presence of an imbalanced gut microbiome can act as a biomarker, signaling that something isn't quite right within the fish's digestive system. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Strengthening Biomanufacturing Talent Development in BC

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering



UBC's School of Biomedical Engineering (SBME) is partnering to launch a new hands-on training opportunity in biomanufacturing that will help students gain practical skills for careers in BC's rapidly growing biotechnology and life sciences sector. For the first time, students in SBME's Introduction to Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing training program will be offered a hands-on learning option at the new BC Biomanufacturing Training Facility. [Read More](#)

Mitacs and NSERC Renew Partnership that Advances Research and Development

Mitacs



Mitacs and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) have renewed their agreement to continue offering joint initiatives that strengthen research and development efforts of Canada's post-secondary institutions and their partners. Researchers who are interested in funding from both organizations have access to a streamlined application submission and review process for two initiatives: Mitacs-NSERC Alliance grants and Mitacs-College and Community Innovation grants. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

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
May 22 5:00 PM	BC Pharmacy Residency Research Night 2025 Science World
May 22 6:30 PM	Six Great Ideas That Changed Science and the World Museum of Vancouver
May 26 3:30 pm	Company Showcase at VentureLabs SFU VentureLabs

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

Clinical Laboratory Geneticist, Division of Genome Diagnostics, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine BC Children's Hospital & BC Women's Hospital
Associate II, Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Biology Aspect Biosystems
Molecular Biology Co-Op Cytiva
Research Projects Coordinator, Regulatory Science Lab, Epidemiological BC Cancer Research Centre
Associate Scientist, Predictive Biology Amgen

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