

Publications of the Week

Characterization of a Two-Component Kinase That Initiates the Bacterial Catabolism of Hydroxyphenylethanones

First Author: Gara Dexter | Senior Author: Lindsay Ellis *(pictured)*
Journal of Biological Chemistry | UBC



The authors recently identified the hydroxyphenylethanone pathway, which enables *Rhodococcus rhodochrous* GD02 and other bacteria to catabolize 4-hydroxyacetophenone and acetovanillone, which are generated in the catalytic fractionation of lignin. This study reveals a subfamily of small molecule dikinases that comprise two components, some of which are involved in aromatic compound catabolism. [Abstract](#)

Investigation of Integrase Inhibitor Resistance Mutations in gp41 in Clinical Samples

First Author: Hanwei Sudderuddin | Senior Author: Chanson Brumme *(pictured)*
Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome | BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, UBC, and SFU



Mutations conferring resistance to HIV Integrase Strand Transfer Inhibitors (INSTI) can occur outside *integrase*, including in *env gp41*, *in vitro*, but it remains unclear whether these arise under INSTI selection *in vivo*. The authors sought to identify mutations in gp41 associated with INSTI exposure by comparing integrase and gp41 amino acid frequencies in INSTI-naïve versus INSTI-treated individuals.

[Abstract](#)

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Local News

Celebrating the Life and Distinguished Career of Dr. Marcel Dvorak

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Dr. Marcel Dvorak *(pictured)*. Dr. Dvorak was a visionary leader in the field of spine surgery who impacted many lives through his surgical expertise, groundbreaking research, and exceptional mentorship. He was a member of the International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries, a Professor of Orthopedics at UBC, and the Cordula & Günter Paetzold Chair of Clinical Spinal Cord Injury Research. [Read More](#)

Dr. Tokuriki's Path in Science: Exploring the Evolution of Antibiotic Resistance

Michael Smith Laboratories



Dr. Nobuhiko Tokuriki *(pictured)* is a scientist who isn't just studying evolution, but wants to watch it unfold at the molecular level in proteins. Dr. Tokuriki's work has evolved alongside this challenge, as he now looks to understand how bacteria adapt, mutate, and evolve in different ways to survive the ongoing antibiotic war.

[Read More](#)

AbCellera Receives Authorization from Health Canada to Initiate the Phase 1 Clinical Trial of ABCL635 for Vasomotor Symptoms Due to Menopause

AbCellera



AbCellera has announced it has received a No Objection Letter from Health Canada authorizing its Clinical Trial Application for ABCL635, an investigational antibody antagonist targeting neurokinin 3 receptor that is being developed for the non-hormonal treatment of moderate-to-severe vasomotor symptoms, commonly known as hot flashes, associated with menopause. [Read More](#)

Celebrating the Career and Retirement of Professor Pauline Johnson

UBC Microbiology and Immunology



The Department of Microbiology and Immunology and the greater UBC community celebrate the career and retirement of Dr. Pauline Johnson *(pictured)*. Reflecting on her time in the department, Dr. Johnson said she will most miss working so closely with enthusiastic and driven students. "When you retire, you tend to look back as well as forward, and I think what I've really enjoyed is students who share the same passions as you," she said. [Read More](#)

Discovery Offers New Insights to Understand and Treat Prostate Cancer

Terry Fox Research Institute



A pioneering approach is offering researchers new insights into why some prostate cancers are more aggressive and difficult to treat. In a new application to prostate cancer research, researchers led by Dr. Alex Wyatt *(pictured)* have used a sequencing technique called plasma cell-free chromatin immunoprecipitation sequencing on blood samples from patients with advanced disease, revealing biological factors that may drive disease progression. [Read More](#)

Cutting-Edge Genomic Technology to Help Improve Medication Safety for Children in New BC Children's Led Study

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



For the past 20 years, the Canadian Pharmacogenomics Network for Drug Safety (CPNDS) has been working to identify why patients have different responses to drug treatments. Dr. Bruce Carleton will be leading a new \$17 million project to uncover the genetic variations in patients that can lead to adverse drug reactions. This research could help explain these differing medication responses and improve disease outcomes. [Read More](#)

Decoding Kids' Health Through Cheek Swabs: What New Research Reveals

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute (BCCHR)



Dr. Sarah Merrill, a former postdoctoral fellow in the Kobor lab at BCCHR now leading the Epigenetics and Psychosocial Interventions Lab at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, and Dr. Chaini Konwar, a bioinformatician in the Kobor lab, co-led a study that explores how the cells collected from cheek swabs—specifically, buccal epithelial cells—change as children grow, and why that matters for understanding pediatric health. [Read More](#)

Next Steps in Driving Forward the Field of Nanomedicine: A Catch-up with the Leslie Lab

Michael Smith Laboratories



The lab of Dr. Sabrina Leslie *(pictured)* brings together researchers and approaches from physics and biology to drive forward the field of nanomedicine. Their work involves the use of their high-resolution convex lens-induced confinement imaging technology to look closely at lipid nanoparticles, which can act as delivery vehicles in therapeutics like the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines. [Read More](#)

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📅 Upcoming Events in Vancouver

May 26
3:30 pm

Company Showcase at VentureLabs

SFU VentureLabs

May 27 - 30
8:00 AM

UBC x Web Summit

UBC Robson Square

May 27
8:30 AM

Life Sciences Breakfast: How BC is Transforming Healthcare for Global Impact

UBC Robson Square

May 30
11:00 AM

Dr. Pinar Ayata: Neurodegenerative Functions of Microglia in Alzheimer's Disease

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health

June 2
8:00 AM

VCHRI Research Summit 2025: Shaping the Future of Health Care Through Research

Paetzold Auditorium

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📁 Science Jobs in Vancouver

Lab Technician

Natural Factors

Research Associate 2, Biology (In Vivo)

Xenon Pharmaceuticals

Medical Laboratory Technologist

Discovery Community College

Research Projects Coordinator, Regulatory Science Lab, Epidemiological

BC Cancer Research Centre

Molecular Biology Co-op

Cytiva

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