

Publications of the Week

Cortical Effects of Dopamine Replacement Account for Clinical Response Variability in Parkinson's Disease

First Author: Alex Wiesman (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Daniel Lundqvist  
Movement Disorders | SFU



Individual variability in clinical response to dopamine replacement therapy (DRT) is a key barrier to efficacious treatment for patients with Parkinson's disease (PD). One potential source of this variability is an unintended secondary activation of extra-nigrostriatal dopamine systems by DRT, particularly in the neocortex. This study's goal was to determine the clinical effects of cortical dopamine system activation by DRT in patients with PD. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

June 2025 Award Winners

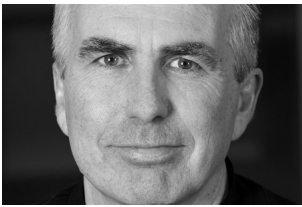
Science in Vancouver



This month's spotlight features Dr. Tiam Heydari (*pictured*), a postdoctoral researcher in Dr. Peter Zandstra's lab at UBC. Dr. Heydari was the recipient of the Michael Smith Laboratories Pathway to Independence Award as well as a Co-Investigator for a Stem Cell Network Impact Award. Check out the June 2025 Monthly Award Summary to see all 35 awardees. [Read More](#)

LSI Researchers Receive National Recognition for Stem Cell Innovation

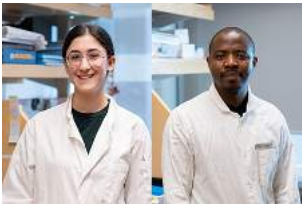
UBC Life Sciences Institute



Two UBC Life Sciences Institute researchers, Drs. Timothy Kieffer and Calvin Roskelley (*pictured*), have been recognized in a recent national funding announcement by the Stem Cell Network. This year, the Stem Cell Network awarded over \$33.5 million to support innovative research in stem cell and regenerative medicine across Canada. [Read More](#)

2024–2025 William and Dorothy Gilbert Scholarship Recipients

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories



Congratulations to PhD candidates Credo Casmil (*pictured, right*) and Ayşe Erdoğan (*left*) for receiving the 2024-2025 William and Dorothy Gilbert Scholarship in Biomedical Sciences. This award, established in 1995 by Professor Terrance Snutch in honour of William and Dorothy Gilbert, celebrates the accomplishments of outstanding doctoral students at the Michael Smith Laboratories. [Read More](#)

2025 FHS Undergraduate Awards

SFU Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS)



SFU has awarded the FHS Undergraduate awards for 2025 to recognize outstanding students for their exemplary service and academic achievement. SFU has highlighted Susie Toe (*pictured, top left*), Ida Niksirat (*top right*), Chloe Goodison (*bottom left*), Rachelle Payendeh (*bottom centre*), and Jaden Gornall (*bottom right*). [Read More](#)

Faculty of Medicine Distinguished Achievement Award Recipients 2025

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Each year, the Faculty of Medicine recognizes faculty members who have made exceptional contributions in the areas of education, research, or service, and who are dedicated to advancing both the Faculty's values and vision of transforming health for everyone. Among this year's sixteen awardees is Dr. Brittany Bingham (*pictured*), who was awarded with the Overall Excellence — Early Career Award. [Read More](#)

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Local News

How Does a High Sugar Diet Affect the Developing Brain?

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



The health risks of a high-sugar diet are well known: obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and more. But new research from Dr. Kiran Soma's (*pictured*) lab at UBC suggests the effects may start even earlier. The research team found that a high sucrose diet triggered hormonal changes in the fetus that could influence brain function and behaviour later in life. [Read More](#)

Variational AI and Oncocross to Collaborate on AI-Driven Drug Discovery Program

T-Net



Variational AI, developer of the Enki generative AI platform for drug discovery, announced a co-development agreement with Oncocross, a clinical-stage biotechnology company based in Seoul, South Korea, to co-develop a novel small molecule inhibitor for chronic skin inflammation with a focus on atopic dermatitis. Variational AI is a Vancouver-based biotech that was launched in 2019. [Read More](#)

STEMCELL Technologies Introduces STEMprep™ Tissue Dissociator System to Accelerate Research Discoveries

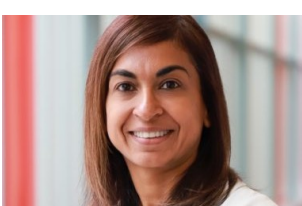
STEMCELL Technologies



To help scientists accelerate their workflows, STEMCELL Technologies has commercially launched the STEMprep™ Tissue Dissociator System—a new benchtop instrument that automates, standardizes, and streamlines tissue dissociation, the process of breaking down tissue samples into single-cell suspensions for research purposes. [Read More](#)

Dr. Shelina Babul on Concussions, Brain Injury Research, and Public Awareness

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



Our brains are responsible for everything from our thoughts and memories to planning and movement. As such, its delicately wired connections warrant an immense amount of care. June is Brain Injury Awareness Month in Canada. To learn more and spread awareness about brain injury, DMCBH spoke to Dr. Shelina Babul (*pictured*), one of Canada's foremost concussion experts. [Read More](#)

Dr. Huawei Li Joins the SBME to Lead the Conconi Family Biodevice Foundry

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering (SBME)



The Conconi Family Foundation's belief in community investment and the need to accelerate the innovation and delivery of better care led them to support the establishment of the world-class Conconi Family Biodevice Foundry at the SBME. Dr. Huawei Li (*pictured*) has moved to the SBME from the University of Toronto to help build the Biodevice Foundry from the ground up. [Read More](#)

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📅 Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- |                       |                                                                                           |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 17<br>5:00 PM    | <b>The Life Sciences Data Association Vancouver</b><br>Vancouver Prostate Centre          |
| July 17<br>5:00 PM    | <b>Beaty Nocturnal</b><br>Beaty Biodiversity Museum                                       |
| August 14<br>12:00 PM | <b>CBR – LSI Research Day 2025</b><br>UBC Life Sciences Centre                            |
| August 14<br>6:00 PM  | <b>After Dark: Sparks and Rec — Summer Party Edition</b><br>Science World                 |
| October 2<br>5:00 PM  | <b>27<sup>th</sup> Annual Life Sciences BC Awards</b><br>Vancouver Convention Centre West |

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