

Publications of the Week

The Parkinson's Drug Benztropine Possesses Histamine Receptor 1-Dependent Host-Directed Antimicrobial Activity Against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*

First Author: Henok Sahile | Senior Author: Yossef Av-Gay (*pictured*)
npj Antimicrobials and Resistance | UBC



Intracellular pathogens such as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*) evade host defence mechanisms to infect and survive within host cells. Host-directed therapy offers a promising alternative to antibiotics and may overcome antimicrobial resistance. Using high-content screening, researchers identified benzotropine, an approved Parkinson's disease drug, as a potent inhibitor of intracellular *Mtb*.

[Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

Three MSL Faculty Involved in Projects Funded Through Spring 2025 CIHR Grant Competition

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories (MSL)



Three of MSL faculty members are involved in projects recently funded through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Project Grant: Spring 2025 competition. These newly funded projects will advance health research in several disciplines, including cardiac health, cellular therapy development, and pandemic preparedness. The projects are headed by Drs. Jörg Gsponer (*pictured*), Peter Zandstra, and Nobuhiko Tokuriki. [Read More](#)

Congratulations CIHR Spring 2025 Project Grant Recipients

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and Women's Health Research Institute congratulates their investigators and teams who were awarded funding through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Spring 2025 Project Grant competition. Among the nine awardees is Dr. Susan Samuel (*pictured*) who will investigate immune biomarkers in children with idiopathic nephrotic syndrome.

[Read More](#)

Genome BC Funds Research into the Respiratory Fallout of Wildfires

Genome BC



British Columbians know the stark realities of climate change, as wildfires surge across the province. In response to this challenge, Genome BC is funding three research projects that will delve into the genetic-level impacts of wildfire smoke exposure. Dr. Graeme Koelwyn (*pictured*) from SFU leads one of the projects, which will focus on the genomic changes in innate immune cells. [Read More](#)

UBC Medical Student Rahnuma Sara Honoured with 2025 Canadian Medical Hall of Fame Award

UBC Faculty of Medicine



UBC Faculty of Medicine medical student Rahnuma Sara (*pictured*) has been awarded a 2025 Canadian Medical Hall of Fame Award for leadership and innovation. The awards recognize medical students across Canada who have demonstrated outstanding community leadership, superior communication skills, and a strong commitment to advancing medical knowledge. [Read More](#)

2025 DMCBH Trainee Award Winners Announced

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



DMCBH has announced winners of the 2025 Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health Trainee Awards. These awards recognize excellence in academics and research activities of our trainees. One of the sixteen awardees, Isabella DiBerardino (*pictured*) is working in the Wellington lab to establish age- and sex-specific reference intervals for blood-based Tau biomarkers. [Read More](#)

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Local News

New Mega RNA Virus May Hold the Key to Mass Oyster Die-Offs

UBC Science



Scientists have discovered a previously unknown virus in farmed Pacific oysters during a mass die-off in BC. The study was headed by Drs. Kevin Zhong (*pictured*) and Curtis Suttle. Their discovery highlights how little is known about viruses infecting invertebrates in general and oysters in particular. Similar to humans, disease and death is not caused by a single factor, but prevention is not possible until the causes are known. [Read More](#)

It All Started at UBC: How a Professor Ignited BC's Biotech Boom

UBC News



When Dr. Pieter Cullis (*pictured*) arrived at UBC as an undergraduate physics student in 1964, he had no idea he would one day help develop a scientific breakthrough that would protect billions of people worldwide — or that his work would help fuel British Columbia's booming biotech sector. Today, Dr. Cullis is known globally for his innovative work on lipid nanoparticles. [Read More](#)

BC Researchers Use Genomics to Tackle Drug Resistance, Brain Disorders, and More

Genome BC



Genomics is no longer just about mapping DNA. Today, it's powering new ways to fight infection, improve drug safety and deliver treatments straight to where they're needed — even inside the brain. Five new projects funded by Genome BC are taking these ideas further, turning scientific advances into tools that could change lives. [Read More](#)

Brain Wiring in Early Childhood Could Hold Key to Flagging Future ADHD Risk, SFU Study Says

SFU News



A new study by researchers at SFU is shedding light on how the brain's wiring in early childhood lays the foundation for attention skills — a key step toward characterizing healthy developmental patterns that could help identify young children at risk for attention-related challenges like ADHD. Dr. Randy McIntosh (*pictured*) and his lab published the study in *eNeuro*. [Read More](#)

SBME Launches Predictive Biology Cluster to Accelerate Therapeutic Innovation

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering



The School of Biomedical Engineering (SBME) at UBC has been selected by global biotechnology leader Amgen as its exclusive Canadian academic collaborator under the Mitacs Accelerate program. They will be launching a bold initiative designed to catalyze cutting-edge research at the interface of biomedical engineering and therapeutic discovery. [Read More](#)

Genetic Pathway Discovery to Stop or Reverse Aggressive Prostate Cancer

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



In a breakthrough study co-led by Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute researchers, Drs. Christopher Ong (*pictured*) and Yuzhuo Wang have identified for the first time a signalling cascade that can be targeted to switch off a form of late-stage prostate cancer. This finding comes on the heels of a sharp increase in treatment-resistant prostate cancer. [Read More](#)

Personalized Treatment Approaches Needed for Female Heart Disease Risk

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Heart disease risk may have more to do with genetic factors interacting with sex hormones than previously thought, according to the findings of a new study led by Dr. Tara Sedlak (*pictured*). Published in *Frontiers in Cardiovascular Medicine*, the study found evidence of under-explored genetic risk of cardiovascular disease connected to estrogen. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

August 21

5:00 PM

Beaty Nocturnal

Beaty Biodiversity Museum

September 3

6:30 PM

Nerd Nite Sea to Sky #12

Brackendale Art Gallery

September 22

3:30 PM

Crafting Visual Explanations of Complex Science: Philosophy and Practice

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health

September 26

8:00 AM

BC Cancer Research Day

UBC Medical Student & Alumni Centre

October 2

5:00 PM

27th Annual Life Sciences BC Awards

Vancouver Convention Centre West

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

Research Assistant/Technician 3

UBC

Senior Project Manager,Process Development, Reagents, Chemistry

Cytiva

Senior Biostatistician Manager, Vaccines

Emmes Group

Research Scientist, Protein Mass Spectrometry

AbCellera

Data Coordinator, Clinical Trials

BC Cancer

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