

Publications of the Week

Artificial Cellulose Derivatives Are Metabolized by Select Human Gut Bacteroidota upon Priming with Common Plant β-Glucans

First Author: Deepesh Panwar | Senior Author: Harry Brumer *(pictured)*
Journal of Bacteriology | UBC



Synthetic ethers of cellulose are widely used in the food and pharmaceutical industry. Consequently, humans ingest significant amounts of artificial cellulose derivatives. In the present study, researchers examined the potential of mixed-linkage β-glucan and xyloglucan polysaccharide utilization loci of autochthonous human gut Bacteroidota to enable metabolism of artificial cellulose derivatives, based on the commonality of their backbone linkages. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

UBC Medicine Faculty Honoured with 2025 Order of British Columbia

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Three UBC Faculty of Medicine community members—Drs. Ruth Grunau *(pictured)*, Robin Love and John Yee—have been appointed to the Order of British Columbia, the province's highest form of recognition. They are among fifteen exceptional people receiving the Order in 2025. The honour is bestowed annually in recognition of outstanding provincial, national, or international impact.

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Yingying Liu Receives the International Society for Experimental Hematology Travel Grant Award

BC Cancer Terry Fox Laboratory Research



Yingying Liu *(pictured)*, a PhD student in the Collings Stevens Chronic Leukemia Research Laboratory, has been awarded a prestigious International Society for Experimental Hematology Travel Grant Award. Liu's study summarizes important research on chronic myelogenous leukemia supported by the Collings & Stevens Fund through the BC Cancer Foundation. [Read More](#)

BC Researchers Pioneering New Strategies to Break Barriers in Hereditary Cancer Testing

Genome BC



Genome BC recently funded two Society Issues Competition (SOC) projects to investigate improvements for genetic testing for hereditary cancers. Dr. Lesa Dawson *(pictured)* from UBC will lead one of the projects, while the other will be headed by Dr. Intan Schrader from UBC and Dr. Samantha Pollard from SFU and BC Children's Hospital Research Institute. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Honouring a Pioneer in ALS Research: Dr. Andrew Eisen's Enduring Legacy

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Dr. Andrew Eisen's *(pictured)* name is synonymous with progress in the field of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). As one of Canada's most distinguished neurologists, Dr. Eisen has made a profound and lasting impact on ALS research, clinical care and advocacy, changing not only how we understand the disease, but how we care for those living with it. [Read More](#)

How Chronic Heartburn Can Drive Esophageal Cancer

UBC Faculty of Medicine



A new UBC Faculty of Medicine study led by Drs. Shane Duggan *(pictured, left)* and Dermot Kelleher *(right)* has revealed how long-term, chronic heartburn can drive the earliest steps toward an aggressive form of esophageal cancer. The study suggests new ways to detect the cancer sooner and potentially even prevent it from developing in the first place. [Read More](#)

Multiplex Imaging: A Closer Look at Human Atherosclerosis

Centre for Heart Lung Innovation



While scientists have long relied on animal- and cell-based models to study atherosclerosis, these models don't always reflect what actually happens in the human body. To address this knowledge gap, Dr. Ying Wang *(pictured)* and her research team have adopted a novel technique called multiplex imaging to validate previous findings in human tissues. [Read More](#)

New SFU Study Unveils AI That Designs Drugs—and Tells You How to Synthesize Them

SFU School of Computing Science



In a breakthrough for healthcare, researchers from SFU have unveiled a powerful AI framework poised to transform drug development. Dr. Martin Ester's *(pictured)* lab introduces an innovative method, called CGFlow, that tackles one of the pharmaceutical industry's most persistent challenges: designing effective, synthesizable drug molecules by integrating cutting-edge 3D modeling with practical chemical synthesis. [Read More](#)

BCCHR Laboratories Hosting Indigenous Students for seed2STEM Program

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute (BCCHR)



seed2STEM is a research summer program that aims to increase participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) among Indigenous youth. The program, developed at UBC by the International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries, introduces students to careers in STEM through paid placements in research labs across Metro Vancouver and Kelowna. [Read More](#)

Celebrating the Life and Distinguished Career of Dr. Neil Reiner

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI)



It is with great sadness that the VCHRI shared the passing of Dr. Neil Reiner *(pictured)* on August 7, 2025. Dr. Neil Reiner was an exceptional leader in the field of infectious diseases. He served as director of VCHRI's Immunity and Infection Research Centre and previously was head of the Division of Infectious Diseases at UBC. [Read More](#)

Dr. Mieke Koehoorn Appointed Dean Pro Tem, Faculty of Medicine, and Interim Vice-President, Health

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Dr. Mieke Koehoorn *(pictured)* has been appointed as Dean *pro tem*, Faculty of Medicine, and interim Vice-President, Health, effective September 1, 2025, to October 31, 2025. A professor in the School of Population and Public Health, Dr. Koehoorn holds a PhD in epidemiology and is a senior scientist with Partnership for Work, Health and Safety—an innovative research collaboration between UBC and WorkSafeBC. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

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 18 5:00 PM	Beaty Nocturnal Beaty Biodiversity Museum
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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