

Publications of the Week

SIRT1/DNMT3B-Mediated Epigenetic Gene Silencing in Response to Phytoestrogens in Mammary Epithelial Cells

First Author: Yuexi Ma | Senior Author: Barbara Stefanska *(pictured)*
Epigenetics | UBC



Researchers performed an integrated analysis of genome-wide DNA methylation and expression datasets in normal cells and healthy animals exposed to polyphenols with estrogenic activity. They identified that phytoestrogens target genes linked to disrupted cellular homeostasis, for example genes limiting DNA break repair or promoting ribosomal biogenesis. [Abstract](#)

Biodegradable Polymers with Tertiary Amines Enhance mRNA Delivery of Lipid Nanoparticles via Improved Endosomal Escape

First Author: Feng Zhao | Senior Author: Shyh-Dar Li *(pictured)*
Biomaterials | UBC, GeneStar Bioscience, and NanoStar Pharmaceuticals



The endosomal release efficiency of standard lipid nanoparticles (LNPs) has been shown to be poor, limiting the transfection efficiency. Here, researchers explored incorporating a biodegradable polymer which only contains tertiary amines as a pH-sensitive functional group into LNPs, aiming to introduce the proton sponge effect to facilitate the endosomal release. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

UBC's Robert Petrella Elected to the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences

UBC Faculty of Medicine



UBC's Dr. Robert Petrella *(pictured)* has been elected as a 2025 Fellow to the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS). The CAHS Fellowship recognizes members of the Canadian health sciences community who are elected on the basis of their demonstrated leadership, creativity, distinctive competencies, commitment to advancing health sciences, and evidence of contributions to advance inclusivity, diversity, equity, and accessibility in Canada. [Read More](#)

Dr. Zabrina Brumme Elected to Canadian Academy of Health Sciences

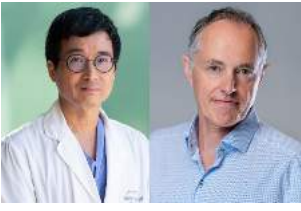
The BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS



The BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (BC-CfE) is pleased to congratulate BC-CfE Laboratory Director Dr. Zabrina Brumme *(pictured)* on her appointment as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS). The CAHS revealed the 47 new Fellows who represent the pinnacle of their respective fields, including Dr. Brumme for her extensive work in HIV. [Read More](#)

BC Cancer Researchers Receive UBC Faculty of Medicine Distinguished Achievement Awards

BC Cancer



Each year, the UBC Faculty of Medicine recognizes faculty members who have made exceptional contributions in the areas of education, research, and/or service, and who are dedicated to advancing both the Faculty's values and vision of transforming health for everyone. This year, Drs. Stephen Yip *(pictured, left)* and Poul Sorensen *(right)* were recognized. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Past, Present, and Future: Academic Life from the Lens of Dr. Phil Hieter

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories (MSL)



This is the second article in MSL's Past, Present, and Future series, where they explore the journeys of inspiring faculty whose work is shaping the future of research. In this instalment, they feature Dr. Phil Hieter *(pictured)*. Dr. Hieter is a Professor at the MSL and the Department of Medical Genetics at UBC. His research focuses on how changes in genome structure and sequence contribute to tumorigenesis. [Read More](#)

Microbiology and Immunology Hosts Learning and Laboratory Session for CEDAR Campers

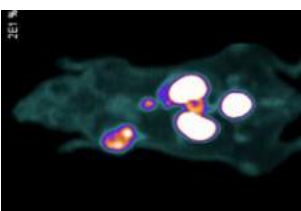
UBC Microbiology and Immunology



The Department of Microbiology and Immunology hosted a microbiology learning and laboratory session for children participating in UBC's CEDAR Camp. Through the CEDAR STEM Outreach and Mentorship Program, approximately 30 campers—local Indigenous youth ages 8 through 12—visited UBC to participate in STEM education activities designed to help spark an interest and sense of inclusion in science. [Read More](#)

New Tracer Could Enable Surgeons to See and Hear Prostate Cancer

UBC Science



A preclinical evaluation in mouse models of a new 'dual-mode' tracer agent shows promise in not only helping surgeons image and plan prostate cancer procedures, but also provide them with much more consistent and targeted guidance during surgery. The agent uses a single tracer molecule labeled with Fluorine-18—a common isotope used in Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scans—for diagnostic imaging. [Read More](#)

Beyond AlphaFold: How AI Is Decoding the Grammar of the Genome

Nature



UBC's Dr. Carl de Boer's *(pictured)* work was highlighted in a *Nature Technology Feature* on how scientists are seeking to decipher the role of non-coding DNA in the human genome, helped by a suite of artificial-intelligence tools. Dr. de Boer's work looked beyond natural genomes to fully artificial DNAs to help broaden AI knowledge bases. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Call for Nominations Open: Mitacs Innovation Awards 2025

Mitacs



Mitacs is opening calls for nominations today for its prestigious national award celebrating Canadian research and innovation, The Mitacs Innovation Awards. Each year, Mitacs recognizes extraordinary talent from across the country whose groundbreaking discoveries drive innovation and propel economic prosperity in sectors such as health and life sciences, agritech, and energy. [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 18 5:00 PM	Beaty Nocturnal Beaty Biodiversity Museum
September 18 6:00 PM	After Dark: Actually, It Is Rocket Science — Space Edition Science World
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

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

Research Associate, Personalized OncoGenomics Program

Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre

Research Assistant 1, Research Epidemiological

BC Cancer

Lecturer

UBC

Oncology, Therapeutic Specialist Solid Tumors

Abbvie

Undergraduate Research Coordinator

SFU

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STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

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Customer Support Associate

STEMCELL Technologies

Scientist, Contract Assay Services

STEMCELL Technologies

Manufacturing Technologist, GMP

STEMCELL Technologies

Customer Support Associate

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