

Publications of the Week

Human Milk IgA Promotes Normal Immune Development by Limiting Th17-Inducing *Erysipelatoclostridium ramosum* in the Infant Gut

First Author: Katherine Donald (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Brett Finlay
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences | BC Children's Hospital and UBC



Secretory IgA (SIgA), the most abundant antibody in human milk, is a key modulator of gut microbiota composition. Researchers have shown previously that mouse milk SIgA protects against asthma by limiting segmented filamentous bacteria in mice. The present study uncovers a similar mechanism in humans. They identified *Erysipelatoclostridium ramosum* as a key player in immune development, which is controlled by milk SIgA. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

August 2025 Award Winners

Science in Vancouver



This August, two Vancouver researchers were appointed as Fellows of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, one of the highest honours for individuals in the Canadian health sciences community. Drs. Zabrina Brumme (*pictured, right*) and Robert Petrella (*left*) are among the many life scientists to be recognized with accolades in the Vancouver community. See the full list for all forty names. [Read More](#)

Dr. Kayla King Awarded Royal Society's Francis Crick Medal

UBC Science



Evolutionary biologist Dr. Kayla King (*pictured*) has been awarded the 2025 Francis Crick Medal and Lecture by the Royal Society of London for contributions to the fields of evolutionary biology and genetics of infectious disease. The prize is awarded to scientists who have received their PhD in the biological sciences within the past fifteen years. [Read More](#)

Dr. Brad Nelson Named as First Immunotherapy Research Chair

BC Cancer Research



Dr. Brad Nelson (*pictured*) has been named as the Lynda and Murray Farmer Immunotherapy Research Chair. The world-renowned immunotherapy expert from BC Cancer is the inaugural chairholder. As Chair, Dr. Nelson will continue leading BC Cancer's groundbreaking immunotherapy research program, which includes the Canadian-Led Immunotherapies in Cancer series of clinical trials. [Read More](#)

Pathogens Are Evolving, but Research Is, Too

UBC Microbiology and Immunology



Drs. Kayla King (*pictured, left*) and Selena Sagan (*right*) have teamed up to help the scientific community sneak ahead in the race against looming pandemic threats. In the summer of 2023, the pair was recruited to UBC to co-direct Prepare for Pandemics through Advanced Research in Evolution (PrePARE). PrePARE focuses on leveraging new insight into pathogen evolution to tackle current and emerging infectious diseases. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Legacy of Life – The Enduring Potential of a Donated Lung

Centre for Heart Lung Innovation



Since 1977, the James Hogg Lung Biobank has been collecting a growing inventory of donor lung tissue and associated clinical data. This collection has made a significant contribution to science and the diagnosis of lung disease contributing to over 700 research publications to date with a current average of ten papers per year. [Read More](#)

Dr. Aaron Beedle Appointed as New Associate Dean, Academic

UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences



The UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences has announced the appointment of Dr. Aaron Beedle (*pictured*) as Associate Dean, Academic, effective August 15, 2025. Dr. Beedle brings an impressive combination of scientific expertise, educational leadership, and administrative experience to the Faculty. Her research program investigates muscle regeneration and signaling processes in muscular dystrophies. [Read More](#)

B.C. Healthy Longevity Company Molecular You Raises \$5M to Expand Biomarker Testing

GeekWire



Molecular You, a Vancouver, B.C., healthy longevity company, announced that it has raised \$5 million from investors. The company offers testing for a slate of 250 biomarkers that can provide insights into an individual's potential risk for ailments including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, dementia, irritable bowel syndrome, and others. [Read More](#)

Building an Inclusive TA Training Program in the Life Sciences

UBC Life Sciences Institute (LSI)



A growing number of Canadian universities are implementing teaching assistant (TA) training programs designed to support graduate student teaching. At UBC, the LSI hosts one of several provost-funded, discipline-specific TA training programs on campus. LSI TA Training Program has published a new paper outlining their flagship TA training "boot camp". [Read More](#)

From COVID to Cancer: Why Canada's RNA Vaccine Leadership Matters More than Ever

UBC Magazine



A new vaccine revolution is being powered by RNA technology—and Canada is uniquely positioned to lead it. Learn about how UBC researchers have contributed to this rising research movement. Dr. Anna Blakney's (*pictured*) lab is focused on developing vaccines and therapies using self-amplifying RNA (saRNA). Meanwhile, the Cullis lab is focused on encapsulating mRNA using lipid nanoparticles. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

New Funding Opportunity to Advance Research on Avian Influenza in Canada

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)



NSERC has announced the launch of the Team Grants: Supporting Interdisciplinary Research on Avian Influenza funding opportunity. With recent outbreaks of the H5N1 subtype detected in wild birds, domestic poultry, mammals, and sporadic human cases, the initiative will support multi-year, interdisciplinary research to generate timely evidence and mobilize knowledge across human, animal, and environmental sectors. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

September 9 9:30 AM	Artificial Intelligence for Drug Discovery and Development Van Dusen Gardens, Floral Hall
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

Laboratory Technician, Biology Douglas College
Research Education Coordinator Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute
Research Programmer, Genome Sciences Centre BC Cancer
Undergraduate Co-Op Student, R&D Biologics Discovery Amgen
Co-Op Student, Protein Production Zymeworks

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STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

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Customer Support Associate STEMCELL Technologies
Research Associate (Part-Time Weekend) STEMCELL Technologies

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