

Publications of the Week

Drug Tolerance and Persistence to EGFR Inhibitor Treatment Are Mediated by an ILK-SFK-YAP Signaling Axis in Lung Adenocarcinoma

First Author: Rocky Shi (*pictured, second from left*) | Senior Author: William Lockwood (*right*)
Oncogene | BC Cancer Research Institute and UBC



Epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) in tumour cells is an established non-genetic resistance mechanism to epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKI) that is also associated with worse outcomes in patients. The authors demonstrate that integrin-linked kinase is an important driver of EMT-mediated TKI resistance in lung adenocarcinoma by promoting a drug-tolerant persister cell phenotype. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Revealing Function-Altering MECP2 Mutations in Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder Using Yeast and *Drosophila*

First Author: Eric Chen | Senior Author: Christopher Loewen (*pictured*)
Genetics | UBC



Pathogenic variants in MECP2 commonly lead to Rett syndrome, where MECP2's function as a DNA cytosine methylation reader is believed critical. MECP2 variants are also cataloged in individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), including nine missense variants which had no known clinical significance at the start of this study. The authors assessed these nine variants as risk alleles for ASD. [Abstract](#)

ERBB2/HER2 Alterations in ctDNA and Metachronous Tissues of Patients with Metastatic Urothelial Cancer

First Author: Gillian Vandekerkhove | Senior Author: Alexander Wyatt (*pictured*)
Clinical Cancer Research | Vancouver Prostate Centre, BC Cancer, and UBC



HER2 targeting is increasingly relevant in metastatic urothelial cancer (mUC) because of emerging antibody–drug conjugates, in which assessment of tumour HER2/ERBB2 status could aid interpretation of ongoing trials. The authors evaluated whether precise ERBB2 genotype can be determined from mUC ctDNA and the relationship with tissue status. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Dr. Kiran Soma Elected as 2025 Royal Society of Canada Fellow

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Dr. Kiran Soma (*pictured*), a Professor in UBC's Department of Psychology, has been named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC)—one of the country's highest honours for distinguished scholars, artists, and scientists. Dr. Soma is one of six UBC faculty members who have been elected as new RSC Fellows for their outstanding scholarly achievements and the significant impact they have made in their fields. [Read More](#)

Dr. Steven Hallam Named 2025 UBC Wall Research Award Recipient

UBC Life Sciences Institute (LSI)



LSI researcher Dr. Steven Hallam (*pictured*) has been recognized with a Wall Research Award, one of this year's Wall Legacy Awards. These prestigious awards provide approximately \$4 million to push forward innovative faculty and student research tackling major sustainability challenges in B.C. and around the world. The Wall Legacy Awards are made possible by a generous gift from Dr. Peter Wall, now exceeding \$100 million. [Read More](#)

UBC Medicine Honours Outstanding Canadian Researchers in Brain Health, Heart Disorders, and Cancer

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Three exceptional Canadian scientists have been recognized by UBC's Faculty of Medicine for their groundbreaking contributions to research in brain health, heart disorders, and cancer. Dr. Sheena Josselyn, Dr. Louise Pilote, and Dr. Poul Sorensen (*pictured*) are the 2025 recipients of the Faculty's National Research Prizes, which celebrate individuals who exemplify excellence in scientific research and ongoing impact in their respective fields. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Past, Present, and Future: Academic Life From the Lens of Dr. James Piret

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories (MSL)



This is the fourth and final article in the Past, Present and Future series, where the MSL explores the journeys of inspiring faculty whose work is shaping the future of research. In this instalment, they feature Dr. James Piret (*pictured*), whose research focuses on mammalian cell biomanufacturing, developing innovative methods, devices, and data analytic technologies to improve access to therapies for diseases such as cancer and diabetes. [Read More](#)

SBME Synergy 2025 Undergraduate Summer Research Highlights

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



This past summer, the UBC School for Biomedical Engineering (SBME) Synergy Undergraduate Summer Research Program provided research opportunities for students interested in a career in biomedical engineering. In this article, DMCBH caught up with six students who worked in DMCBH members' labs to learn more about their experience in the program. [Read More](#)

Meet the CBR Graduate Award Program (GAP) Cohort 2025-2026

The Centre for Blood Research (CBR)



The CBR is excited to welcome the incoming Graduate Award Program (GAP) cohort for 2025-2026! Over the next year, these students will take part in exciting professional development activities alongside their research. The cohort includes Alessia Palumbo, Hayle Kincross, Michelle Lin (*pictured*), Paniz Ghavimi, Taehyun Kim, and Sandra Tsai. [Read More](#)

New Clinical Trials Unit Aims to Keep Biotech Innovation in B.C.

Business Intelligence for B.C.



A new clinical trials unit (CTU) at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital will allow B.C. life sciences companies to test early-stage drugs locally. "The new [CTU] will advance early-stage drug development, while allowing more local life sciences companies to conduct clinical research and grow here in B.C., instead of going elsewhere," said Ravi Kahlon, B.C.'s Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

September 22
3:30 p.m.

Crafting Visual Explanations of Complex Science: Philosophy and Practice

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health

September 26
8:00 a.m.

BC Cancer Research Day

UBC Medical Student & Alumni Centre

October 2
12:00 p.m.

STEMCELL Technologies Workshop

Diamond Lecture Theatre

October 2
5:00 p.m.

27th Annual Life Sciences BC Awards

Vancouver Convention Centre West

October 6
4:00 p.m.

Space Genetics: Epigenetic Evolution in Cancer and a 500-Year Plan for Synthetic Biology

Vancouver Convention Centre West

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Scientist, Target Discovery & Validation, Induced Proximity Platform

Amgen

Research Assistant, Cho Lab

UBC

Research Scientist, Protein Engineering & Library-Based Screening (12-month Contract)

AbCellera

Medical Laboratory Technologist, Virology

Provincial Health Services Authority

Associate Scientist, Clinical Bioanalysis

Zyneworks

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