

Publications of the Week

Sex-Specific Metabolic and Central Effects of GLP-1–Estradiol Conjugate in Middle-Aged Rats on a Standard or Western Diet

First Author: Jennifer Richard | Senior Author: Liisa Galea *(pictured)*
Brain, Behavior, and Immunity | UBC



Research on GLP-1’s cognitive and neuroprotective roles has largely been conducted in males. Here, researchers investigated the effects of GLP-1 conjugated to estradiol (GE2) on metabolism, cognition, cytokine levels, and neurogenesis in the dentate gyrus of middle-aged male and female rats. GE2 treatment led to weight loss, enhanced cued, and contextual fear memory, and reduced cytokine levels in the hippocampus in rats, regardless of sex. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

September 2025 Award Winners

UBC Science in Vancouver



This month’s achievements span early-career breakthroughs to established leadership in the field. Our spotlight for September showcases the work of Dr. Joel Finbloom *(pictured)* from UBC Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Finbloom has been recognized with a 2025 Gairdner Early Career Investigator Award and a 2025 Scholar Award from Michael Smith Health Research BC, honouring his innovative contributions to nanomedicine and microbial therapeutics. [Read More](#)

New Projects Co-Led by MSL Faculty Will Help Build a Smarter, Faster Health Response

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories (MSL)



Genome BC has announced funding for four new UBC research projects associated with Canada’s Immuno-Engineering and Biomanufacturing Hub (CIEBH), a UBC-led national initiative aimed at accelerating the development of lifesaving medicines for Canada. Two of these newly funded projects are co-led by MSL faculty members: Drs. Sabrina Leslie *(pictured)* and Peter Zandstra. [Read More](#)

UBC Medicine Researchers Building a Healthier Future Through 2025 Health Research BC Awards

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Nine UBC Faculty of Medicine researchers are among the 2025 cohort of Michael Smith Health Research BC scholars and health professional-investigators awarded new funding to advance transformational health research. One of these researchers is Dr. Sara Belga *(pictured)* who received the Health Professional-Investigator Award. [Read More](#)

Congratulations to the 2025 Outstanding Achievement Recipients

BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute



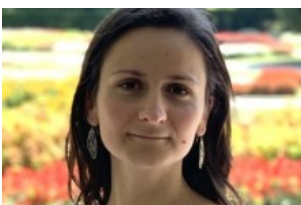
BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute (BCCHR) has congratulated the recipients of the 2025 Outstanding Achievement Awards. This program, generously funded by the BC Children’s Hospital Foundation, plays a pivotal role in acknowledging and nurturing excellence within our research community. Dr. Uthaya Kumaran Kanagaraj *(pictured)* is one of five awardees and was awarded with the Outstanding Achievement by a Sub-Specialty Resident or Fellow. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Time to Test: New Canadian-Led Review Supports Routine Lipoprotein(a) Testing

Centre for Heart Lung Innovation



Among the many numbers a lipid panel reports, one is often missing despite its strong ability to predict heart disease: Lipoprotein(a). A recent review paper published in the *European Journal of Preventive Cardiology*, led by physician-scientists at the Centre for Heart Lung Innovation, including Dr. Iulia Iatan *(pictured)*, argues that it is time to change how and when we test for this overlooked risk factor. [Read More](#)

DMCBH Labs Host Indigenous Students in 2025 seed2stem Program

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (DMCBH)



The seed2STEM Summer Research Program for Indigenous Youth seeks to improve representation of Indigenous students in STEM. Although STEM fields are critical in advancing health care and research, Indigenous representation in these skilled, well-paid positions remains disproportionately low. The seed2STEM program aims to increase participation and remove barriers by providing paid summer research studentships in fun lab environments. [Read More](#)

Canadian and U.S. Cancer Researchers Form Special Super Team to Improve Treatments and Outcomes for Patients with Osteosarcoma

BC Cancer Research



In a national first, a team of top Canadian cancer researchers, including BC Cancer distinguished scientist Dr. Poul Sorensen *(pictured)*, is joining forces with world-class U.S. scientists at leading cancer institutes south of the border to tackle together the challenges of osteosarcoma, or what is sometimes called the Terry Fox cancer. [Read More](#)

UBC Opens \$45M Beaty Biodiversity Centre Expansion

UBC News



UBC has opened a \$45 million expansion of the Beaty Biodiversity Centre, made possible by philanthropic support from the Ross and Trisha Beaty family and Gordon B. Shrum, matched by UBC. The Centre houses the Biodiversity Research Centre and the Beaty Biodiversity Museum. The extension enhances UBC’s ability to address biodiversity loss with new research and meeting spaces. [Read More](#)

A New Dawn for Childhood CNS Tumours: Q&A With Dr. Sylvia Cheng

BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute



Central nervous system (CNS) tumours are growths of abnormal cells residing in either the brain or spinal cord. Approximately 150 children per year are diagnosed with brain and spinal cord tumours in Canada. In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Sylvia Cheng *(pictured)* focuses on understanding the biology of childhood CNS tumours, as well as how best to manage the late effects of treatment. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

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|----------------------------|--|
| October 16
5:00 PM | Beaty Nocturnal
Beaty Biodiversity Museum |
| October 16
7:00 PM | Science, Stand-Up, & Song
Gordan B. Shrum Building |
| October 20
8:00 AM | Vancouver Gairdner National Symposium
BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute |
| October 28 - 29
6:30 AM | LSBC’s 10th Annual Invest in BC Presented by Lumira Ventures
Vancouver Convention Centre West |
| October 30
6:00 PM | After Dark: Bloody Science — Halloween Edition
Science World |

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

- Scientist, Product Development**
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- Cardiovascular Program Coordinator**
Vancouver Coastal Health
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BC Cancer
- Scientist, Preclinical**
NanoVation Therapeutics
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UBC

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