

Publications of the Week

Positive Allosteric Modulation of M1 mAChRs with VU0486846 Reverses Cognitive Deficits in Male APPswe/PSEN1ΔE9 Alzheimer's Mice

First Author: Karim Ibrahim | Senior Author: Khaled Abd-Elrahman (pictured)
Neuropharmacology | UBC



The M1 muscarinic acetylcholine receptor (mAChR) is integral to synaptic plasticity and memory processes and has emerged as a critical target for ameliorating Alzheimer's disease-associated cognitive deficits. These findings demonstrate that VU0486846, an M1 mAChR positive allosteric modulator devoid of cholinergic toxicity, exhibits therapeutic benefits in a female APPswe/PSEN1ΔE9 Alzheimer's disease mouse model. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Dr. Nika Shakiba Recognized as a Gairdner Early Career Investigator

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering



Dr. Nika Shakiba (pictured) has been selected as one of five recipients of the Gairdner Early Career Investigators award by the Gairdner Foundation, an organization dedicated to recognizing international excellence in fundamental research that advances human health. Dr. Shakiba's lab uses systems and synthetic biology to understand the genetic rules that encode cooperative and competitive interactions between stem cells. [Read More](#)

Michael John Page Postdoctoral Fellow Award Ceremony 2025: Dr. MD Mohosin Rana

UBC Centre for Blood Research



The Michael John Page Postdoctoral Fellow Award recognizes a postdoctoral fellow who reflects Dr. Page's academic excellence and his passion for life. This year's Michael John Page Award recipient is Dr. MD Mohosin Rana (pictured), a Postdoctoral Fellow in Dr. Jayachandran Kizhakkedathu's lab. Mohosin is a bioengineer whose work bridges biomaterials science and biomedical engineering. [Read More](#)

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Local News

\$8M Partnership Connects Researchers and Industry to Advance BC's Life Sciences Sector

Mitacs



B.C.'s life sciences sector will benefit from an \$8 million partnership between Mitacs, Michael Smith Health Research B.C., and B.C.-based life sciences companies. The partnership co-funds internships that directly integrate emerging researchers into B.C.'s life sciences companies, providing critical real-world experience while helping industry access the skills it needs to thrive. [Read More](#)

White Mold Fungi Split Their Genome Across Several Nuclei, with Implications for Future Gene Editing

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories



Until recently, it has always been assumed that each nucleus contains at least a complete set of chromosomes, and thus the "one nucleus, one full genome" rule. However, new research from UBC has revealed that in two species of fungi, their genomes can be split across multiple nuclei, with each nucleus receiving only part of the total chromosomes. [Read More](#)

New Clinical Trials Unit to Bring Innovative Treatments to Patients, Strengthen Health Research

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Better access to lifesaving medical research is coming with the opening of an eight-bed clinical trials unit (CTU) at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital in Vancouver. "This expansion of clinical trial capacity, through the new CTU and UBC professorship, will be transformative for B.C. patients and for Canada's economy," said Dr. Wyeth Wasserman (pictured), Vice-Dean, Research, UBC Faculty of Medicine. [Read More](#)

How MRI Innovation Is Helping Researchers Understand Brain Health in Preterm Babies

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



Each year in Canada, thousands of babies are born very prematurely and many require respiratory support in their first days and weeks of life. A recent study led by Drs. Alexander Weber (pictured) and Ruth Grunau explores an innovative way to measure how preterm infants' brains use oxygen, using advanced MRI technology that is both safe and noninvasive. [Read More](#)

Advanced Surgical Tissue Flap Monitoring for Early Intervention

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI)



A new implantable tissue monitoring technology could be a gamechanger for complex head and neck reconstructive surgery, as well as other surgeries. Developed by VCHRI researchers Drs. Babak Shadgan (pictured) and Donald Anderson, the microvascular free tissue transfer near-infrared spectroscopy sensor system could reduce the number of revision surgeries needed for invasive skin flap transplants. [Read More](#)

UBC Enzyme Technology Clears First Human Test Toward Universal Donor Organs for Transplantation

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories



The first successful human transplant of a kidney converted from blood type A to universal type O used special enzymes developed Dr. Stephen Withers (pictured) and colleagues at UBC to help prevent a mismatch and rejection of the organ. Published in *Nature Biomedical Engineering*, the achievement marks a major step toward helping thousands of patients get kidney transplants sooner. [Read More](#)

Study at St. Paul's Hospital Aims to Reduce Pain for Cardiac Surgery Patients

Providence Research



Dr. Terri Sun (pictured), a cardiac anesthesiologist at St. Paul's Hospital, is investigating a novel tactic to improve acute pain after cardiac surgery, known as a bilateral paravertebral blockade. Her funded project is a randomized control trial to determine if a bilateral paravertebral blockade, a tactic commonly used in breast surgery to minimize pain, is similarly effective after cardiac surgery. [Read More](#)

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Biomanufacturing for Advanced Therapies Training Program

OBIO



The biomanufacturing sector for advanced therapies is experiencing rapid growth and an escalating demand for personnel with specialized skill sets compared to conventional biopharmaceutical manufacturing. To address this need, OBIO® and CATTI have partnered to deliver the Biomanufacturing for Advanced Therapies Training Program, including cell and gene therapy. [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

- Scientific Recruiter**
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- Knowledge Mobilization Specialist**
Bridge Research Consortium
- Research Assistant 2, Research Integrative Oncology**
BC Cancer
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Slaunwhite Lab**
UBC
- Principal Scientist/Senior Principal Scientist, CMC, Analytical Chemistry**
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7 PM

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