

Publications of the Week

Cryo-Electron Microscopy Reveals Sequential Binding and Activation of Ryanodine Receptors by Statin Triplets

First Author: Steven Molinarolo (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Filip Van Petegem
Nature Communications | UBC



Statins are the most prescribed class of drugs and inhibit a key enzyme in the cholesterol biosynthesis pathway. Sequence variants in RyR1, the skeletal muscle ryanodine receptor, correlate with intolerance to statins, but whether RyR1 can bind statins directly has remained unclear. Here, researchers report cryo-EM structures of RyR1 in the absence and presence of atorvastatin, firmly establishing RyR1 as an unintended off-target. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

Congratulations to the 2025 Recipients of the Faculty of Science Research Awards

SFU Faculty of Science (FHS)



SFU FHS celebrates the achievements of outstanding researchers with the annual Faculty of Science Research Awards. These awards recognize the excellence in research accomplishments in a broad range of areas, including, but not limited to: career achievement, recent breakthroughs, translational impact, innovation and societal impacts. Among this year's winners is Dr. Lisa Julian (*pictured*).

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SFU Science Announces Recipients of 2025 Excellence in Teaching Awards

SFU Faculty of Science (FHS)



SFU FHS has announced this year's recipients of the 2025 Faculty of Science Excellence in Teaching awards, a list that includes faculty members and graduate students. This award highlights the work of SFU FHS members that have made waves with innovative teaching approaches, novel teaching initiatives, and the careful curation of curiosity in students. Among this year's winners is Dr. Leanne Ramer (*pictured*).

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Dr. Kim Chi Named a Highly Cited Researcher in 2025

BC Cancer Research



Dr. Kim Chi (*pictured*), a Medical Oncologist and Clinician-Scientist with BC Cancer, has been named a highly cited researcher in 2025 by Clarivate, a global organization that analyzes academic publications, citations, and research impact. "This recognition reflects my career-long commitment to improving care for people with prostate cancer," says Dr. Chi.

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Three SBME Students Among Fourteen Women Awarded \$50,000 Engineering Scholarships as Polytechnique Montréal Expands the Order of the White Rose

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering (SBME)



On Monday, Polytechnique Montréal awarded 14 scholarships in the 11th edition of the Order of the White Rose, an initiative established in 2014 to pay tribute to the 14 women killed on December 6, 1989. Those awarded include three outstanding students from the UBC School of Biomedical Engineering: Angela Wang (*pictured, left*), Ruth Yu (*centre*), and Catherine Ko (*right*).

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Local News

Fifteen Ways UBC Researchers Broke New Ground in 2025

UBC News



UBC research made headlines in 2025, capturing global attention and sparking important conversations. These highlights show how UBC researchers advanced knowledge, technology, and real-world solutions in 2025, including special enzymes created by Drs. Jayachandran Kizhakkedathu (*pictured*) and Stephen Withers to convert a kidney to universal type O for transplantation.

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Study Aims to Amplify Indigenous Recommendations for Tailored Depression Care in BC

Genome BC



A Genome BC project co-led by Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers from UBC, Drs. J9 Austin (*pictured*), Brittany Bingham, and Stirling Bryan, will involve discussions on pharmacogenomic testing with Indigenous leaders in research, healthcare, and government, as well as community members. The project's overarching goal is to lay the groundwork for genomic and mental health research to take root and flourish for Indigenous Peoples in BC.

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Acuitas Therapeutics and Partners Publish Comparative Study of AAV and mRNA-LNP Delivery with *in Situ* Sequencing for Spatial Genome Editing

Acuitas Therapeutics



Acuitas Therapeutics, a leader in lipid nanoparticle (LNP) delivery systems, announced the publication of a new study in *Nature Biomedical Engineering*. The study validates *in situ* sequencing as a powerful translational tool to visualize quantitative, spatial maps of editing within organs. It further compares outcomes from adenoassociated virus (AAV) vectors and mRNA-LNP delivery, showing efficient editing with both approaches.

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Increasing Survival from High-Risk Heart Attacks with EARLY SHOCK

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI)



A new early warning system could make significant headway in the prevention of cardiogenic shock, a heart condition with an approximate 50% chance of survival. A study led by VCHRI researcher Dr. Christopher Fordyce (*pictured*) introduced the EARLY SHOCK risk scoring algorithm, a novel approach to detect the signs and symptoms of cardiogenic shock.

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Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute Recognized as One of Canada's Leading Hospital-Based Research Institutes

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Research Infosource has released its annual ranking of Canada's top 40 research hospitals. With \$181 million in combined research funding for the 2024–2025 fiscal year, the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI) and Providence Research rank sixth nationwide. This competitive funding environment enables VCHRI to attract world-class research talent to BC.

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seed2STEM Expands to BC Cancer to Improve Access to STEM for Indigenous Youth

BC Cancer Research



The seed2STEM Summer Research Program for Indigenous Youth increases Indigenous representation in STEM by offering paid, six-week research studentships for Indigenous high school and university students across BC. This past summer, the program expanded to BC Cancer in partnership with the Gynecologic Cancer Initiative.

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Interesting Articles

BIOTECanada Welcomes the Launch of CanReview

Life Sciences BC



By replacing multiple provincial ethics reviews with a single, national process, CanReview is breaking down interprovincial barriers, speeding up clinical trial start-up, and making Canada more competitive on the global stage. This collaborative framework builds on Canada's world-leading reputation for science at a time when geopolitical uncertainty demands decisive, coordinated action.

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📅 Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- December 17
5:00 pm

Life Sciences BC's Holiday Party
Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown Hotel
- December 18
5:00 pm

Beaty Nocturnal
Beaty Biodiversity Museum
- January 23
9:00 am

Life Sciences BC's 7th Annual Career Connect Day 2026
Vancouver Convention Centre East
- January 28
8:00 pm

Kiuryaq
Chan Centre
- February 7
10:30 AM

Nature Club: Fish
Beaty Biodiversity Museum

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📁 Science Jobs in Vancouver

- Laboratory Assistant, Specialty Assay**
ALS
- Research Coordinator**
UBC
- Research Associate, Antibody Optimization & Immunobiology**
SFU
- Associate Senior Scientist, Analytical Development**
Cytiva
- Scientist, Experimental Immunology**
Amgen

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📁 STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

- Scientific Recruiter**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Manufacturing Technologist, Clean Room**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Scientific Inside Sales Representative**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Digital Transformation Product Manager**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Category Manager, Assets**
STEMCELL Technologies

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Advanced Intestinal and Hepatic Organoids
Webinar by Riya Sharma


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