

Publications of the Week

The Fibroblast Epigenome Underlies SS18::SSX-Mediated Transformation in Synovial Sarcoma

First Authors: Lesley Hill (*pictured*) and Wilder Scott | Senior Author: Michael Underhill
Nature Communications | Biomedical Research Centre, BC Cancer, Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre, and UBC



Despite recent advancements in our understanding of synovial sarcoma (SyS) biology, the cell-of-origin remains undefined. A mesenchymal stromal cell (MSC) specific CreERT2 line was employed to express SS18::SSX in fibroblasts and related cell types. This study demonstrated that SyS tumorigenesis involves the induction and maintenance of an embryonic-like MSC phenotype.

[Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

Three Researchers Receive Funding Through the UBC-BC Cancer Academic Enhancement Fund Competition 2025

BC Cancer Research



The UBC-BC Cancer Academic Enhancement Fund Competition 2025 supports research projects that either foster collaboration across multiple BC Cancer or address disparities in cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes. Three researchers were awarded this year: Drs. Irene Yu, Maria Ho, and Guliz Ozgun (*pictured*). [Read More](#)

MSL Researchers Awarded BC Knowledge Development Funds

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories (MSL)



Drs. Marco Marra and Marco Todesco (*pictured*) have been awarded grants through the British Columbia Knowledge Development Fund (BCKDF). Through the BCKDF and additional funding sources, Dr. Anna Blakney also received funding to support the acceleration of drug development as a part of Canada's Immuno-Engineering and Biomanufacturing Hub. [Read More](#)

Dr. Kevin Afra Awarded 2025 Sherrold Haddad Excellence in Medicine

UBC Faculty of Medicine



UBC Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Kevin Afra (*pictured*) has been awarded the 2025 Sherrold Haddad Excellence in Medicine Award from Surrey Hospitals Foundation. This honour celebrates UBC clinical faculty whose dedication and innovative research are transforming patient care at Surrey Memorial Hospital and across the Fraser region. [Read More](#)

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Local News

HLI Provides Grant Writing Insights

The Centre for Heart Lung Innovation (HLI)



On November 12, 2025, HLI investigators Drs. Pat Camp and Graeme Koelwyn, and Science and Grant Writers Drs. Kasia Adolphs and Evan Phillips participated in a Providence Research (PR) Trainee Collaborative Grant Writing Workshop. During the session, moderated by PR Research Director Dr. Scott Tebbutt, panelists shared key strategies for writing fellowship and grant applications. [Read More](#)

Nice Genes! Menopause Mysteries

Genome BC



In this episode of the Nice Genes! Podcast, Dr. Kaylee Byers (*pictured*) unpacks the science behind menopause. She calls on educator Shirley Weir to understand what menopause and perimenopause actually are and why so many people feel dismissed when they try to get answers. Plus, reproductive genomics researcher Dr. Aspasia Destouni reveals what our genes can teach us about the rebellious internal clock that drives ovarian aging. [Read More](#)

Rewriting the Playbook on Genetic Counselling

Genome BC



As genetic testing becomes part of routine health care, one question looms large: who helps patients make sense of it all? Led by Dr. Alison Elliott from BC Children's Hospital and UBC and a national team that included Dr. J9 Austin (*pictured*), the GenCOUNSEL project reimaged how Canadians access and experience genetic counselling. [Read More](#)

The Year of the T_{regs}: The Latest Discoveries by the Levings Lab

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



Dr. Megan Levings (*pictured*) and her team recently published two papers on the very different functions and uses of regulatory T cells (T_{regs}). T_{regs} are immune cells that help to rein in immune responses to ensure that they don't go too far and begin harming healthy tissues in their pursuit of foreign invaders. Researchers are still uncovering the many ways in which T_{regs} can be used to improve health. [Read More](#)

Provincial Funding Boosts Development of Made-in-B.C. Medicines

UBC Faculty of Medicine



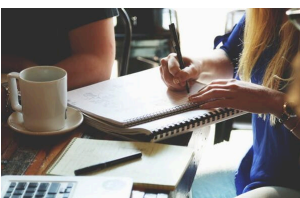
Provincial funding for Canada's Immuno-Engineering and Biomanufacturing Hub (CIEBH), a national initiative led by UBC, is set to usher in a new era of made-in-B.C. medicines that will strengthen Canada's ability to respond rapidly to urgent health challenges. The Government of B.C. announced \$33 million for research infrastructure associated with CIEBH. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Launch of New Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards

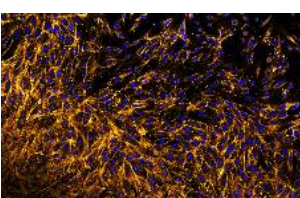
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada



To support the recruitment of top international research talent, the Government is launching the Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards. With a \$133.6 million investment over three years, the Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards will support the recruitment of doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers, securing the current and future talent needed to drive innovation and growth in our strategic industries. [Read More](#)

Science Exposed

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)



Science Exposed is a contest organized by NSERC and devoted exclusively to images of scientific research in all fields of study. Submissions are open for 2026. Submit before February 9, 2026 for your image to be considered and showcased across the country. Previous finalists have included Vancouver-based researchers like Dr. Aaron Danda (*finalist image pictured*). [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

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
February 13 12:00 PM	Peter W. Hochachka Memorial Lecture with Dr. Charles Darveau Michael Smith Laboratories
February 25 8:00 AM	11th Annual Access to Innovation Vancouver Convention Centre West

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

Research Associate UBC
Collaborative Services Project Manager Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre
Clinical Research and Trials Coordinator BC Cancer
Laboratory Assistant, Specialty Assay ALS
Senior/Principal Medical Writer Trilogy

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STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

Scientific Recruiter STEMCELL Technologies
Scientific Inside Sales Representative STEMCELL Technologies
Senior Process Engineer STEMCELL Technologies
Customer Support Associate STEMCELL Technologies
Talent and Orientation Associate STEMCELL Technologies

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Advanced Intestinal and Hepatic Organoids
Webinar by Riya Sharma



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