

Publications of the Week

Gestational Inhibition of CSF1R Signaling Using PLX5622 Drives Musculoskeletal Changes in Postnatal Offspring

First Author: Rouzbeh Ostadsharif Memar | Senior Author: Jessica Rosin *(pictured)*



The interplay between muscle and bone development in response to gestational perturbations is less well understood. Here, researchers used the colony-stimulating factor-1 receptor (CSF1R) inhibitor PLX5622 to disrupt macrophage and osteoclast proliferation, differentiation, and survival during the embryonic period in order to study the impacts on craniofacial development using high-resolution microcomputed tomography. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Dr. Xin Li Elected to Royal Society of Canada

UBC Michael Smith Laboratories



Dr. Xin Li *(pictured)* has been named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Dr. Li is a world-leading expert in plant-microbe interactions. Her lab focuses on two interconnected research directions – plant immunity and biology of plant pathogenic fungi – to understand more about how plants defend themselves against pathogens, and how fungal pathogens develop and negatively impact plants. [Read More](#)

SBME's Dr. Megan Levings Elected to Royal Society of Canada

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering (SBME)



Dr. Megan Levings *(pictured)* has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, one of Canada's highest honours for scholarly achievement. Dr. Levings is an internationally recognized pioneer in the study of T_{regs}, immune cells that play a critical role in controlling the body's immune response. Her research has helped advance the field toward using T_{regs} as cellular therapies for immune-mediated diseases. [Read More](#)

UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences Researcher Dr. Mary De Vera Named to the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars

UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences



Dr. Mary De Vera *(pictured)* has been elected to the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists as part of the academy's 2026 class. An internationally recognized epidemiologist, Dr. De Vera is dedicated to transforming chronic disease management through innovative multi-method research that bridges population-level evidence with patient perspectives. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Snakes in an Egg All Coil in the Same Direction. Scientists Think They've Learned Why.

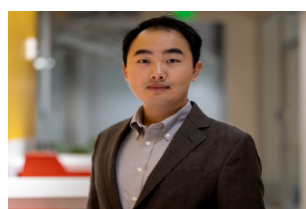
UBC News



Baby snakes perform a curious feat early in the egg, coiling and forming a tight spiral that is almost always clockwise. To find out why, researchers at UBC, including Alexandra Weber *(pictured)*, utilized a CT scanner and made an interesting observation: a detached pillar of gut stretching through the spiral of the coiling embryo's body. Turns out, snake embryos likely coil due to a developmental mismatch. [Read More](#)

A Pair of Projects Using AI to Remove Bottlenecks in Lab Analysis

Genome BC



Genome BC is supporting two projects led by researchers at UBC that are using AI to address time-consuming lab diagnostic bottlenecks. Overcoming these challenges could help speed diagnoses, improve research and bring us closer to more personalized healthcare. One project, led by Dr. Xin Tang *(pictured)* and Michael Underhill, is developing an AI-powered platform that automatically aligns spatial transcriptomics data with standard pathology images. [Read More](#)

Trainee-Led Review Reopens Discussion on Neonatal Transfusion Care

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute (BCCHR)



BCCHR researchers are helping clinicians reevaluate early use of erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (ESAs), medications that increase red blood cell production, for low-birthweight infants. "Rather than replacing a necessary blood transfusion, ESAs are intended to support the infant's own production of red blood cells over time, potentially reducing the need for later transfusions," says Dr. Souvik Mitra *(pictured)*. [Read More](#)

Terry Fox-Funded Researchers Discover New Form of Hereditary Prostate Cancer

Terry Fox Research Institute



Terry Fox-funded researchers at UBC have identified a new form of hereditary prostate cancer that, while rare, can cause aggressive disease at a young age. The discovery paves the way for genetic testing programs that could help identify at-risk families and support early cancer detection. Dr. Alexander Wyatt *(pictured)* is the senior author of the study, which was published in *Cancer Discovery*. [Read More](#)

Expanding Access to Knee Osteoarthritis Imaging

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



A new AI tool spearheaded by Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute researcher Dr. Ilker Hacıhaliloğlu *(pictured)* could expand the early detection and treatment of knee osteoarthritis. Dr. Hacıhaliloğlu and his team's recent study introduced the MonoUNet AI tool, which enhances handheld ultrasound images and automatically highlights knee cartilage, making it easier for clinicians to see and measure changes associated with osteoarthritis. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Applications Reopen for NSERC Alliance International Collaboration Grants

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)



Canadian university researchers can once again access funding to collaborate with international research teams through the NSERC Alliance International Collaboration grants program. The grants provide \$20,000 to \$100,000 per year for up to three years to support the Canadian research components of international projects. The next deadline is November 25, 2026. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

September 17 5:00 PM	An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the World Around Us The Old Auditorium
September 18 8:00 AM	BC Cancer Research Day 2026 UBC Medical Student & Alumni Centre
September 19 8:00 AM	Bigger Ideas Conference™ Microsoft Offices
September 19 10:00 AM	STEM Britannia Britannia Community Centre
October 22 4:30 PM	Women Founders Meetup at UBC Robson Square UBC Robson Square

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

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Genome Sciences Technologist Genome Sciences Centre
Coordinator, Research Ethics Board SFU
QC Specialist EVONIK
Lead, Laboratory Quality and Process Improvement PHSA

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STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

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Scientist, Process Development STEMCELL Technologies
Research Associate STEMCELL Technologies
Manufacturing Technician, Finished Goods STEMCELL Technologies
Content Editor and Corporate Writer STEMCELL Technologies

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Commercializing a Cutting-Edge Cell Therapy:
An Interview with ExCellThera

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