

Publications of the Week

Diminished Sialoside Binding in Novel H5N1 Influenza Hemagglutinin Variants Identified in a Human Patient

First Author: John Ni | Senior Author: Sriram Subramaniam *(pictured)*
Nature Communications | UBC



In 2024, an adolescent female in BC was hospitalised with a novel H5N1 influenza strain (BC24). Using cryogenic electron microscopy, researchers showed that the N169 α 2,3-linked auto-glycan that is found in the sialic acid binding site of previously studied H5 hemagglutinin (HA) proteins is absent in purified BC24 HA protein, suggesting greatly reduced affinity for α 2,3-linked sialosides. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

September 2026 Award Winners

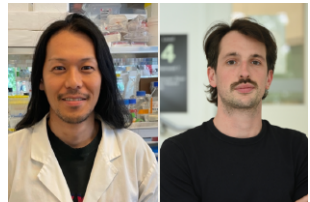
Science in Vancouver



Out with the sun and in with the rain! September brought more change than just the weather this year with the announcement of the the inaugural cohort of the Eddie Goldenberg Research Chairs of Canada program. Nine of the sixty-four chairs will be coming to UBC in summer 2027, including former Vancouverite Dr. Peter Caravan *(pictured)*, a world-leading researcher in molecular imaging. See the full list of awardees in this month's award summary. [Read More](#)

Dr. Yusuke Shiraishi and Dr. Jan Vanwelkenhuyzen Receive Health Research BC Awards

Vancouver Prostate Centre



Postdoctoral research fellows Drs. Yusuke Shiraishi *(pictured, left)* and Jan Vanwelkenhuyzen *(right)* of the Vancouver Prostate Centre have received 2026 Research Trainee Awards from Michael Smith Health Research BC. The awards support outstanding postdoctoral fellows and health professional researchers as they advance innovative health research and build lasting careers in British Columbia. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Shoot Your Shot: Is Male Birth Control Finally Here?

Nice Genes! Podcast



For the past 25 years, we've been hearing that male contraceptives are just a few years away. What is with the hold up? In this episode of the Nice Genes! Podcast, Dr. Kaylee Byers *(pictured)* takes listeners through the history of birth control before sitting down with Drs. Premal Patel and Stephanie Page to discuss the current and future options of male birth control. [Read More](#)

Advancing Treatment for Children with Rare Genetic Diseases

Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre



While advances in genomic medicine mean more children are receiving diagnoses for rare genetic diseases, families are often left wondering what comes next. The Provincial Health Services Authority and BC Children's Hospital are partnering with UBC and McGill University's Montreal Neurological Institute-Hospital to establish a pathway from diagnosis to potential therapy for people with rare genetic diseases. [Read More](#)

26 New UBC Ventures Join Venture Founder's Fall 2026 Cohort

Innovation UBC



Innovation UBC is supporting the next wave of entrepreneurs building at UBC. This September, 26 new teams joined their Venture Founder program, building companies across health, biotechnology, advanced engineering, agriculture, AI, and more. Over 16 weeks, teams work through venture validation, business model development, and leadership capacity-building to establish viable startup companies. [Read More](#)

Beyond Immunity: The Hidden Role of Immune Cells in Early Development

Djavad Mowalaghian Centre for Brain Health



Recent research from Dr. Jessica Rosin's *(pictured)* lab is uncovering how colony-stimulating factor 1 receptor (CSF1R)-expressing immune cells help guide the formation of bones, teeth, and facial structures during embryonic development. "CSF1R is well known for its role in immune cell survival, allowing us to target this signalling pathway to study the important role immune cells play in the environment that growing tissues rely on," says Dr. Rosin. [Read More](#)

New Study Identifies Markers That May Predict Prostate Cancer Treatment Response

M.H. Mohseni Institute of Urologic Sciences



A new study published in the Journal of Nuclear Medicine has identified biomarkers that could help predict which patients with advanced prostate cancer are most likely to benefit from a combination of radioligand therapy and immunotherapy. Drs. Sofie Tolmeijer *(pictured, right)* and Alexander Wyatt *(left)* found that a blood-based tumour DNA test could provide an early indication of whether the treatment is working. [Read More](#)

Terry Fox Research Institute Announces Pan-Canadian Project Teams Approved for \$25M Digital Health Innovation Fund

The Terry Fox Research Institute



The Terry Fox Research Institute (TFRI) announced that 14 pan-Canadian project teams have been approved to receive funding through its first Digital Health Innovation Fund, a national funding program led by TFRI's Digital Health & Discovery Platform. The selected projects represent a total value of \$40.9M and bring together 55 partners from across Canada. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

October 20 9:00 AM	From Bench to IND/CTA: Building a Strong Preclinical Package for First-in-Human Trials Van Dusen Gardens, Floral Hall
October 22 4:30 PM	Women Founders Meetup at UBC Robson Square UBC Robson Square
October 30 6:00 PM	After Dark: Sinister Science – Halloween Edition Science World
November 2 4:00 PM	2026 Don Rix Distinguished Keynote Address Vancouver Convention Centre West
November 3 - 4 7:30 AM	LSBC's 11th Annual Invest in BC Presented by Lumira Ventures Vancouver Convention Centre West

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

Research Associate, Systems Neuroscience UBC
Director, DP MSAT AbCellera
Laboratory Assistant ALS
Coordinator, Research Ethics Board SFU
Senior Product Scientist Sino Biological

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STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

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Recruiter STEMCELL Technologies
Manufacturing Technologist, GMP STEMCELL Technologies
Scientist, Process Development STEMCELL Technologies
Research Associate STEMCELL Technologies

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[An interview about AI uses in scientific research with César de la Fuente of the University of Pennsylvania.](#)

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