

SCIENCE in VANCOUVER

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Publications of the Week

A Novel Minimally Humanized Mouse Model of Aniridia for Preclinical Evaluation of CRISPR Gene Editing Strategies

First Author: Seyedeh Zeinab Mirjalili Mohanna | Senior Author: Elizabeth Simpson *(pictured)*
Frontiers in Genome Editing | BC Children's Hospital and UBC



Aniridia is a rare congenital vision-loss disorder primarily caused by variants in the paired box 6 (*PAX6*) gene. CRISPR-mediated genome editing holds great promise for treating genetic diseases. New work aimed o generate and test a minimally humanized mouse model of aniridia, carrying a FLAG-tagged *Pax6* and the most common recurring pathogenic aniridia-patient variant, introduced for the first time in mice. **Abstract**

Cannabidiol Regulates Amyloid-β Plaque Deposition and Astrogliosis in the 5xFAD Transgenic Mouse Model

First Author: Sarah Ng *(pictured)* | Senior Author: Ujendra Kumar
Journal of Molecular Neuroscience | UBC



Alzheimer's Disease (AD) is marked by the accumulation of amyloid-beta plaques, neurofibrillary tangles, and neuroinflammation. Cannabidiol (CBD) has demonstrated significant pharmacological potential for the treatment of AD. Researchers performed immunohistochemistry and immunoblotting in AD-compromised brain regions, specifically the cortex and the hippocampus, to understand changes following CBD treatment. **Abstract**

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Awards

Three Research Teams Receive Cancer Research Society Operating Grants

Vancouver Prostate Centre



Drs. Nada Lallous *(pictured)*, Nathan Lack, and Syam Somasekharan have each received Cancer Research Society Operating Grants for projects investigating how prostate cancer progresses and becomes resistant to treatment. The Cancer Research Society Operating Grant program funds some of the most promising research projects in Canada, supporting researchers whose work advances essential knowledge to better prevent, detect, and treat all types of cancer.
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Local News

How a Common Prairie Plant Could Contain the Key to New Medicines

UBC Science



One of the most common prairie plants dotting the coulees of southern Alberta may prove to be anything but ordinary, thanks to a collaboration between Dr. Roy Golsteyn's lab at the University of Lethbridge and UBC chemist Dr. Raymond Andersen *(pictured)*. Extracts from the Prairie Crocus (*Pulsatilla nuttalliana*) may help researchers gain a greater understanding of what happens when mitosis goes wrong, creating a cancer cell. **Read More**

What Can We Learn from Cancer Super Survivors?

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Why some patients survive so much longer than others is one of ovarian cancer's biggest mysteries. Is it their lifestyle? Their genetic makeup? Their immune systems? These are questions that UBC researchers like Drs. Brad Nelson, Ali Bashashati, and Gillian Hanley *(pictured)* are working hard to figure out as part of a major international study, the Multidisciplinary Ovarian Cancer Outcomes Group.
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Blood Test and PET Imaging May Help Personalize Treatment for Advanced Prostate Cancer

Terry Fox Research Institute



A new study found that a blood-based tumour DNA test, used alongside PSMA PET scans, could help predict which patients with advanced prostate cancer are most likely to benefit from a combination of radioligand therapy and immunotherapy. This provides an early indication of whether the treatment is working. The work is led by Dr. Sophie Tolmeijer *(pictured)* and the Wyatt lab at UBC. **Read More**

Innovation UBC Announces 17 UBC Companies to Present at 2026 Venture Showcase

T-Net



Seventeen UBC companies will take the stage at Innovation UBC's 2026 Venture Showcase on December 1, 2026. This year's teams reflect the range of research translation emerging from UBC, spanning therapeutics and biotech, medical devices and diagnostics, clean technology, and more. Every company has been built through Innovation UBC's Venture Founder or HATCH Venture Builder progreams.
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Push Forward With UBC: Igniting a Biotech Boom

UBC Beyond



BC's biotech boom is all around us, and our research is the pulse. UBC discoveries have led to the creation of more than 300 spin-off companies, including the globally recognized AbCellera and Aspect Biosystems. UBC researchers and students have also been at the heart of companies such as STEMCELL Technologies, Canada's largest biotech company. **Read More**

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

November 19, 4:30 PM — **Women Founders Meetup at UBC Robson Square**, UBC Robson Square

November 27, 11:00 AM — **Dr. Cagla Eroglu: How Do Glia Sculpt Synaptic Circuits?**, Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health

November 28, 10:00 AM — **Saturday Morning Lectures Fall 2026**, TRIUMF

December 1, 4:00 PM — **Innovation UBC's 2026 Venture Showcase**, UBC Robson Square

December 3, 4:30 PM — **Music on the Brain Holiday Concert**, Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

Senior Manager/Associate Director, Quality Control
Xenon Pharmaceuticals

Research Associate, Pouladi Lab
UBC

Senior Manager, Clinical Education
Kardium

Grants Facilitator & Writer, Global Health
UBC

Quality Assurance Associate
Canadian Blood Services

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STEMCELL Technologies

Customer Support Associate
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