

Publications of the Week

Comprehensive Molecular Characterization of Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer

First Author: Gordon Robertson (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Seth Lerner
Cell | Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre



The authors report a comprehensive analysis of 412 muscle-invasive bladder cancers characterized by multiple Cancer Genome Atlas analytical platforms. Fifty-eight genes were significantly mutated, and the overall mutational load was associated with APOBEC-signature mutagenesis. Clustering by mutation signature identified a high-mutation subset with 75% 5-year survival. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Investigating Immune Gene Signatures in Peripheral Blood from Subjects with Allergic Rhinitis Undergoing Nasal Allergen Challenge

First Author: Young Woong Kim (*right*) | Senior Author: Scott Tebbutt (*left*)



Nasal allergen challenge (NAC) is a human model of allergic rhinitis (AR) that delivers standardized allergens locally to the nasal mucosa allowing clinical symptoms and biospecimens such as peripheral blood to be collected. The authors investigated immune gene signatures in peripheral blood collected after NAC under the setting of AR, and identified and validated seven clusters of differentially expressed immune genes after NAC onset. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

LAG-3+ Tumor Infiltrating Lymphocytes in Breast Cancer: Clinical Correlates and Association with PD-1/PD-L1+ Tumors

First Author: Samantha Burugu | Senior Author: Torsten Nielsen (*pictured*)
Annals of Oncology | BC Cancer Agency, Genetic Pathology Evaluation Centre, and UBC



Novel immune checkpoint blockade strategies are being evaluated in clinical trials and include targeting the lymphocyte activation gene 3 (LAG-3) checkpoint, alone or in combination with PD-1/PD-L1 blockade. The authors investigated LAG-3 expression and its prognostic value in a large series of breast cancer patients, and correlated LAG-3 expression with key biomarkers including PD-1 and PD-L1.

[Abstract](#)

Bio Conscious Technologies Selected as Finalist for Diabetes Innovation Competition

American Diabetes Association via PR Newswire



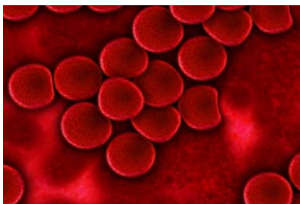
Six finalists have been selected to compete in the American Diabetes Association's second-annual Venture to Stop Diabetes Challenge. One of the finalist submissions, Diabits, developed by Vancouver-based Bio Conscious Technologies, reduces the guesswork associated with managing diabetes by integrating continuous glucose monitoring and wearable data, and using machine learning to predict future glucose values ahead of time. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Iron Chelation Therapy – A Clinical Front in the Treatment of MDS Patients?

The Centre for Blood Research



A major side effect of repeated red blood cell transfusions is the development of transfusion-dependent secondary iron overload. Centre for Blood Research investigator Dr. Heather Leitch analyzed the Canadian Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS) Registry to evaluate whether there is superior survival after blood transfusion in MDS patients receiving iron chelation therapy. [Read More](#)

Quirks & Quarks: Canadian Doctors Show That Blood Flow Can Spread Alzheimer's Disease

CBC Radio



A recent episode of Quirks & Quarks features new Alzheimer's research from the laboratory of Dr. Weihong Song at UBC. Dr. Song has found evidence that Alzheimer's Disease may originate outside the brain and spread to the brain via blood flow. This opens new possibilities in the treatment of Alzheimer's Disease as future drugs may target other places in the body. [Read More](#)

Applications Open for MSFHR's 2018 Scholar Competition

Michael Health Foundation for Health Research



Since 2001, the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) Scholar Program has supported more than 400 early-career health researchers as they establish independent research careers, build leading health research programs and train junior scientists. Each award provides salary support for up to five years, helping scholars protect time to conduct research and expand their potential to make significant contributions to their field. [Read More](#)

Genome BC Invests in Vancouver-Based CuePath Innovation to Support Medication Adherence

Genome BC



Genome BC has announced a staged investment of \$750,000 into CuePath Innovation through its Industry Innovation Program. CuePath is developing a connectivity platform for patients, their family members and professional caregivers, built around a novel form of smart medication packaging. By combining smart blister packs, cloud analytics and mobile applications, CuePath is increasing prescription adherence and providing family caregivers peace of mind. [Read More](#)

UBC Journal Retraction Raises Controversial Question: Can an Activist Be a Scientist?

The Vancouver Sun



Science ethics experts don't think there's anything inherently wrong with activism in science, as long as researchers don't fudge their results or ignore findings to fit a particular agenda and are open about where their funding comes from. Academic institutions should encourage scientists to engage the public more with the results of their research and shouldn't be afraid if researchers pursue controversial topics.

[Read More](#)

Merck & CDRD Announce Joint Investment in the Canadian Life Sciences Ecosystem

The Centre for Drug Research and Development



Robert Livingston (*right*) of Merck Canada Inc. and Gordon McCauley (*left*) of the Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD) have announced the establishment of a new \$1.5M Merck-CDRD Innovation Fund. This fund will go directly towards the advancement of projects of high therapeutic potential carried out at CDRD in collaboration with academic researchers. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Pay for US Postdocs Varies Wildly by Institution

Nature



Some postdoctoral researchers at public universities in the United States apparently work for fast-food wages whereas others make more than US\$100,000 a year, an analysis of postdoc pay has revealed. The salary data, which a science-advocacy group released after a year-long investigation, underscore the challenges of getting basic information about an under-recognized and misunderstood segment of the academic workforce. [Read More](#)

Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- November 17
9:30 AM

Vancouver Diabetes Research Day 2017
BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
- November 17
7:00 PM

Cafe Scientifique
Boston Pizza, private room
- November 22
7:00 PM

Nerd Nite
The Fox Cabaret
- November 23
6:30 PM

Genome BC: Does Your DNA Hold the Key to Preventing Adverse Drug Reactions?
UBC Robson Square
- November 24
4:00 PM

Discussions Relevant to Inspiring New Knowledge and Science
Mahony and Sons

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

Manufacturing Technologist, Labs
STEMCELL Technologies

Scientific Inside Sales Representative
STEMCELL Technologies

President and Chief Scientific Officer
Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research

Research Assistant
Providence Health Care Research Institute

Lab Operations Manager
Renaissance BioScience

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