

Publications of the Week

siRNA Rescues Nonhuman Primates from Advanced Marburg and Ravn Virus Disease

First Author: Emily Thi | Senior Author: Thomas Geisbert
The Journal of Clinical Investigation | Arbutus Biopharma Corporation



The development of broad-spectrum therapies against members of the *Marburgvirus* genus, including Marburg virus (MARV) and Ravn virus (RAVV), is difficult because of substantial sequence variability. The authors assessed the therapeutic efficacy of lipid nanoparticle delivery of a single nucleoprotein-targeting siRNA in nonhuman primates at advanced stages of MARV or RAVV disease to mimic cases in which patients begin treatment for fulminant disease. [Abstract](#)

Development and Evaluation of a Pan-Sarcoma Fusion Gene Detection Assay Using the NanoString nCounter Platform

First Author: Kenneth Chang | Senior Author: Tony Ng (*pictured*)
The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics | BC Cancer Agency and UBC



The NanoString nCounter assay is a high-throughput hybridization technique using target-specific probes that can be customized to test for numerous fusion transcripts in a single assay using RNA from formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded material. The authors designed a NanoString assay targeting 174 unique fusion junctions in 25 sarcoma types. [Abstract](#)

REVIEW: Transitioning to DNA Genomes in an RNA World

First Author: Razvan Cojocaru (*not pictured*) | Senior Author: Peter Unrau (*second from right*)
eLife | SFU



For as long as history has been recorded, humanity has tried to answer the ancient question of our origins. The flow of information from DNA to RNA to protein is thought to have evolved out of a simpler evolutionary period when genetic information was stored and transmitted solely by RNA molecules. The unexpected ability of an RNA polymerase ribozyme to copy RNA into DNA has had ramifications for understanding how DNA genomes evolved. [Abstract](#)

Roger Wong Named 2017 Trevor Howell Guest Lecturer by the British Geriatrics Society

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Dr. Roger Wong of UBC has been selected by the British Geriatrics Society as the 2017 Trevor Howell Guest Lecturer. Dr. Wong, a geriatrician and clinical professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine, is the second Canadian — and first UBC professor — to receive this honour, which recognizes eminent physicians or scientists with an international reputation. [Read More](#)

Dr. Jürgen Niesser Wins 2017 Michael John Page Postdoctoral Fellow Award

The Centre for Blood Research

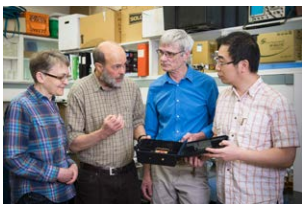


The UBC Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, along with the Centre for Blood Research, has presented the fifth annual Michael John Page Postdoctoral Award to Dr. Jürgen Niesser (*pictured, middle*), a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Natalie Strynadka. The award, established in 2013, honours the memory of UBC alumnus, Dr. Michael John Page, and recognizes a postdoc who reflects Dr. Page's academic excellence and his passion for life. [Read More](#)

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SFU Pheromone Research Builds a Better Rat Trap

The Vancouver Sun



Researchers led by Dr. Gerhard Gries (*pictured, second from left*) at Simon Fraser University have devised a fiendishly clever way to trick rats into getting inside a trap by exploiting food odorants, sex hormones, and the cries of baby rodents to play on a mother's instincts. The lab's results have attracted attention from pest-control firms all over the world, and the technology promises to be extremely affordable.

[Read More](#)

Brain Bytes Offers Bite-Sized Neuroscience to a Broad Audience

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



A group of UBC neuroscience students are taking science communication into their own hands, and broadcasting their discoveries to the world on YouTube. To do so, they have begun collaborating with students in UBC's Graduate School of Journalism. Brain Bytes, a talk show-style web series, tells the stories of neuroscience discoveries in a way that's accessible to colleagues and neuroscience neophytes alike. [Read More](#)

More Than Engaging with Government – Let’s Work Together

Novateur Ventures



Dr. Ali Ardakani, Managing Director of Novateur Ventures and Director of the LifeSciences BC Board of Directors, shares some impressive and enlightening facts about the life sciences sector in B.C., as well as the top threats and challenges it faces as it continues to expand. The LifeSciences BC board shared this message with government on a recent trip to parliament. [Read More](#)

Meet the HyperGrowth: Life 2.0 Companies!

BC Tech Association



Genome BC and the BC Tech Association have announced the *HyperGrowth: Life* second cohort. Four companies have been selected to be a part of the six-month program: Careteam Technologies, Creatus Biosciences, DNA Power, and LifeBooster. *HyperGrowth: Life* is B.C.’s first cohort-based program designed to advance tech companies in the healthtech and life sciences industries. [Read More](#)

Achieve Announces Results of Clinical Study Demonstrating Similar Bioavailability of Cytisine in Fed and Fasted Subjects

Achieve Life Sciences



Achieve Life Sciences, Inc., a clinical-stage pharmaceutical company committed to the global development and commercialization of cytisine for smoking cessation, has announced results of a clinical study evaluating the effect of food on the bioavailability of cytisine. The study evaluated the bioavailability of 3 mg cytisine under fed and fasted conditions in 24 healthy volunteer subjects. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

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|------------------------|--|
| November 28
8:30 AM | FlowBC 2017
BC Cancer Reserach Centre |
| November 28
7:30 PM | Cafe Scientifique
Yagger’s Downtown Restaurant and Sports Bar |
| December 4
9:00 AM | UBC Postdoctoral Association Research Day
UBC Pharmaceutical Sciences Building |
| December 5
11:00 AM | Opportunities and Challenges in Phenotypic Drug Discovery: An Industry Perspective
VanDusen Gardens, Floral Hall |
| December 8
8:00 PM | Science Slam
Cafe Deux Soleils |

Science Jobs in Vancouver

Manufacturing Technologist, Labs

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STEMCELL Technologies

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BC Cancer Research Centre and Vancouver Prostate Centre

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