

Publications of the Week

Oncolytic Virotherapy Blockade by Microglia and Macrophages Requires STAT1/3

First Author: Zahid Delwar | Senior Author: William Jia (*pictured*)
Cancer Research | The Vancouver Prostate Centre and UBC



The first oncolytic virotherapy employing HSV-1 (oHSV-1) was approved recently by the FDA to treat cancer, but further improvements in efficacy are needed to eradicate challenging refractory tumors such as glioblastomas (GBM). Microglia/macrophages comprising ~40% of a GBM tumor may limit virotherapeutic efficacy. The authors showed that these cells suppress oHSV-1 growth in gliomas by internalizing the virus through phagocytosis. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

The North American Bullfrog Draft Genome Provides Insight into Hormonal Regulation of Long Noncoding RNA

First Author: Austin Hammond | Senior Author: Inanc Birol (*pictured*)
Nature Communications | Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre and the BC Cancer Agency



There are currently no genomic resources for the Ranidae frog family, an important group of amphibians. More widely applicable amphibian genomic data is urgently needed as more than two-thirds of known species are currently threatened or are undergoing population declines. The authors report a 5.8 Gbp genome assembly of a representative North American bullfrog, *Rana catesbeiana*. [Abstract](#)

REVIEW: Towards a Genomics-Informed, Real-Time, Global Pathogen Surveillance System

First Author: Jennifer Gardy (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Nicholas Loman
Nature Reviews | BC Centre for Disease Control and UBC



The recent Ebola and Zika epidemics demonstrate the need for the continuous surveillance, rapid diagnosis and real-time tracking of emerging infectious diseases. Fast, affordable sequencing of pathogen genomes can affect each of these areas. Coupling genomic diagnostics and epidemiology to innovative digital disease detection platforms raises the possibility of an open, global, digital pathogen surveillance system. [Abstract](#)

Awards

November 2017 Award Winners



Dr. Marco Marra (*pictured*) at the BC Cancer Agency is one of two UBC researchers, including Dr. Teresa Liu-Ambrose, to recently be named Canada Research Chairs. Find out who else in Vancouver won grants, awards, fellowships, and scholarships in the month of November in this month's Vancouver award summary. [Read More](#)

Dr. Dessa Sadovnick Is the 2018 Women Against Multiple Sclerosis Honouree

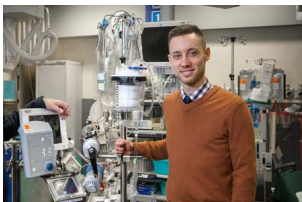
Women Against Multiple Sclerosis



Dr. Dessa Sadovnick (*pictured*) was recently announced as the 2018 Women Against Multiple Sclerosis Honouree. Dr. Sadovnick is a Professor in the Department of Medical Genetics and the Division of Neurology at UBC. Dr. Sadovnick's research has focused on the genetic epidemiology of common complex disorders, most notably multiple sclerosis and dementia. [Read More](#)

CHÉOS Scientist Receives AHA Young Investigator Award

Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences (CHEOS)



Dr. Brian Grunau (*pictured*), scientist and emergency physician at St. Paul's Hospital, was recently recognized for his research at the American Heart Association (AHA) Resuscitation Science Symposium. Dr. Grunau received the Young Investigator Award, which is presented annually for the top research submitted to the Symposium by scientists within the first five years of their appointment. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Science Is Alive and Thriving at Simon Fraser University

The Vancouver Sun



Dr. Peter Ruben, Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies in the Faculty of Science at SFU, was recently taken aback when someone exclaimed to him, "There's science at SFU?". In this opinion editorial for The Vancouver Sun, he discusses the first-rate education and world class scientific research taking place at the university. [Read More](#)

UBC's Faculty of Medicine Has Most Highly Cited Researchers among

Canadian Medical Schools

UBC Faculty of Medicine



The UBC Faculty of Medicine has ten members on the 2017 list of Highly Cited Researchers — the most of any Canadian medical school. The list is based on Clarivate Analytics' compilation of highly cited papers, which are defined as those ranking in the top one percent by citations in that field and year of publication in the Web of Science. [Read More](#)

New Technique Can Detect Impurities in Ground Beef within Minutes

UBC News



Researchers at the University of British Columbia have found a better way to identify unwanted animal products in ground beef. Food science students led by professor Xiaonan Lu used a laser-equipped spectrometer and statistical analysis to determine with 99 per cent accuracy whether ground beef samples included other animal parts. They were able to say with 80 per cent accuracy which animal parts were used, and in what concentration. [Read More](#)

Preventing a Bad Injury from Getting Worse: New Research into Inflammation and the Brain

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



Dr. van den Elzen at UBC is investigating the role of a molecule called sulfatide, an abundant fat located in the brain and spinal cord. Sulfatides don't interact with the immune system because they are contained by the blood-brain barrier. But when the blood-brain barrier breaks down due to disease or injury, the immune system reacts to sulfatides from the brain as if they are a foreign virus or bacteria, and attack, causing inflammation. [Read More](#)

Outrunning Disease: A New Key to Unlock the Relationship between Our Genes and Drugs

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



A breakthrough technology, now in the hands of Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute scientists, is paving the way for rapid and effective drug discovery. Dr. Artem Cherkasov, a senior research scientist with the Vancouver Prostate Centre, and his colleagues are spearheading the integration of cryo-electron microscopy technology. [Read More](#)

Children out of Cancer Treatment Options Offered Hope by New Terry Fox Program

CBC News

A program called Terry Fox PROFYLE, short for Precision Oncology for Young People, provides precision treatment by sequencing tumour samples on a



molecular level and analyzing the vast amount of information at any of three labs in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal for patients up to age 29, regardless of where in Canada they live. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Gender Gap in STEM Fields Proving Difficult to Close, Say Experts, Census Data

CTV News



More than four in ten Canadian women aged 25 to 34 had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2016. However, of those women with an earned doctorate, only about one-quarter opted for architecture, engineering and related technologies. Among those younger Canadians with bachelor's degrees or higher, five times as many men as women opted to follow a path towards science, technology, engineering or math. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

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|------------------------|--|
| December 4
9:00 AM | UBC Postdoctoral Association Research Day
Pharmaceutical Sciences Building, UBC |
| 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 |
| December 12
7:00 PM | UBC Postdoctoral Association Holiday Party
Nuba Kitsilano |
| December 13
6:00 PM | MedTech Holiday Social
St. Regis Bar and Grill |

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

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STEMCELL Technologies

Research Technologist
STEMCELL Technologies

PCR/qPCR Lab Technician Intern

Genome Me

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Providence Health Care Research Institute

Laboratory Coordinator

Genome Sciences Centre

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