

Publications of the Week

Loss of Synapse Repressor MDGA1 Enhances Perisomatic Inhibition, Confers Resistance to Network Excitation, and Impairs Cognitive Function

First Author: Steven Connor | Senior Author: Ann Marie Craig (*pictured*)
Cell Reports | The Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health and UBC



Synaptopathies contributing to neurodevelopmental disorders are linked to mutations in synaptic organizing molecules, including postsynaptic neuroligins, presynaptic neuroligins, and MDGAs, which regulate their interaction. The authors found that mutations in MDGA1 may contribute to cognitive deficits through altered synaptic transmission and plasticity by loss of suppression of inhibitory synapse development in a subcellular domain- and cell-type-selective manner. [Abstract](#)

NEWS & VIEWS: Bacterial Genomics of Plant Adaptation

First Author: Ryan Melnyk | Senior Author: Cara Haney (*pictured*)
Plant Microbiome | The Michael Smith Laboratories and UBC



What allows bacteria, both pathogens and mutualists alike, to survive in close association with a eukaryotic host? The authors comment on a new study by Levy et al. in which a large-scale comparative genomics analysis was performed to identify novel genetic and genomic traits that are enriched in plant-associated bacterial taxa. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Dr. Martin Gleave Appointed to the Order of Canada

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Dr. Martin Gleave (*pictured*), Director of the Vancouver Prostate Centre, was recently named a member of the Order of Canada, one of the country's highest civilian honours, for his leadership role in developing new treatments for prostate cancer and for his research on the mechanisms involved in the development of treatment resistance in cancer. [Read More](#)

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UBC Researcher Thinks Twice about Evidence of Infection and Catheters, Turns Out He Was Right

Biotechnology Focus



Many people around the world rely on catheters every day to empty their bladder – especially people with spinal cord injuries. After a well-respected publication concluded that catheters could be reused without an increased risk of infection, Dr. Andrei Krassioukov, a professor and researcher at the University of British Columbia, began to question the accuracy of the research. [Read More](#)

Rates of Rare, Breast Implant-Related Cancer May Be Higher Than Reported

CTV News

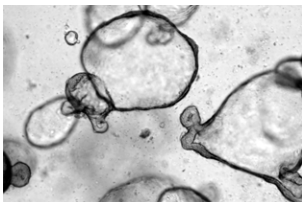


A recent study in JAMA Oncology suggests that cases of a breast implant related cancer (breast implant-associated anaplastic large cell lymphoma) may be higher than reported by Health Canada. Dr. Peter Lennox, the head of the Division of Plastic Surgery at the University of British Columbia, weighs in on the matter.

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STEMCELL Technologies Brings Groundbreaking Intestinal and Brain Organoid Culture Tools to the Global Research Community

STEMCELL Technologies



STEMCELL Technologies has released two product lines for organoid research that will enable scientists to create powerful models for studying human disease in the lab. Organoids, or 'mini-organs', are complex, 3D, *in vitro* culture models that maintain key structural, developmental and functional similarities to the corresponding intact organs. These innovative models provide specific insight into development and disease mechanisms, and offer opportunities for individually tailored treatments. [Read More](#)

VIDEO: UBC Researchers Support the Report

UBC via Youtube



Dr. Moe Elgendi, a postdoctoral fellow and President of the Postdoctoral Association at the University of British Columbia, and Dr. Santa Ono (*pictured*), 15th President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of British Columbia discuss supporting investment in Canada's basic research. In Dr. Ono's own words: "It is an outstanding report, which is really a road map for the future of Canada".

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Precision NanoSystems Named as One of British Columbia's Fastest

Growing Companies

Precision Nanosystems via Business Wire



Precision NanoSystems is one of the fastest growing businesses in B.C. according to the recently published Top 100 fastest-growing companies in B.C. list from business news journal Business in Vancouver (BIV). "We have achieved some major milestones over the past year, and are pleased to be recognized by BIV. We have over 50 employees worldwide, with 170 systems deployed across more than 20 countries," said Dr. James Taylor (*pictured*), CEO and co-founder. [Read More](#)

The Centre for Blood Research Visits STEMCELL Technologies

The Centre for Blood Research



Recently, a group of 26 PhD students and postdocs from the Centre for Blood Research (CBR) at UBC attended an all-inclusive tour of STEMCELL technologies. This event, organized by the CBR Educational Program, was a great opportunity to meet and network with various professionals and to learn what a career at STEMCELL Technologies or other similar biotech companies would look like.

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Interesting Articles

University of British Columbia's Top Scientific Research of 2017: A Year in Review

Science Trends



Last year was a big year for the University of British Columbia, which conducted some extremely interesting and groundbreaking research over the course of the year. The research done at the university covered everything from developing earthquake-resistant concrete to the discovery that Alzheimer's disease may not originate in the brain. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

January 17
8:00 AM

Access to Innovation 2018
Vancouver Convention Centre

January 17
7:00 PM

Public Lecture on Cell Therapies for Diabetes
Life Sciences Institute, UBC

January 22
12:00 PM

Introduction to R Workshop Series
Life Sciences Institute, UBC

January 22
1:00 PM

UBC Medical School FLEX Research Day
Life Sciences Institute, UBC

January 23
7:00 PM

Written In Ice – Glaciers and Climate Change

Telus World of Science

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

Product Marketing Manager, Pluripotent Stem Cells

STEMCELL Technologies

Content Editor and Corporate Writer

STEMCELL Technologies

Research Coordinator, Hematology/Oncology

St Paul's Hospital Hematology/Oncology Research Group

Senior Research Associate, Protein Engineering

Zymeworks

Co-op Student, Pharmacology & Toxicology

The Centre for Drug Research and Development

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