

Publications of the Week

Cell of Origin Affects Tumour Development and Phenotype in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma

First Author: Alex Lee (*middle*) | Senior Author: Janel Kopp (*second from left*)
Gut | UBC



Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) is a highly aggressive tumour thought to arise from ductal cells via pancreatic intraepithelial neoplasia precursor lesions. Modelling of different genetic events in mice suggests both ductal and acinar cells can give rise to PDAC. However, the impact of cellular context alone on tumour development and phenotype is unknown. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

BLM Helicase Suppresses Recombination at G-Quadruplex Motifs in Transcribed Genes

First Author: Niek van Wietmarschen | Senior Author: Pater Lansdorp (*pictured*)
Nature Communications | Terry Fox Laboratories and UBC



Bloom syndrome is a cancer predisposition disorder caused by mutations in the BLM helicase gene. Cells from persons with Bloom syndrome exhibit striking genomic instability characterized by excessive sister chromatid exchange events (SCEs). The authors applied single-cell DNA template strand sequencing to map the genomic locations of SCEs. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Circulating Tumour DNA Genomics Correlate with Resistance to Abiraterone and Enzalutamide in Prostate Cancer

First Author: Matti Annala | Senior Author: Kim Chi (*pictured*)
Cancer Discovery | The Vancouver Prostate Centre, BC Cancer Agency, and UBC



Primary resistance to androgen receptor directed therapies in metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC) is poorly understood. The authors randomized 202 treatment-naive mCRPC patients to abiraterone or enzalutamide, and performed whole exome and deep targeted 72-gene sequencing of plasma cell-free DNA prior to therapy. [Abstract](#)

Inhibition of Methyltransferase Setd7 Allows the *In Vitro* Expansion of

Myogenic Stem Cells with Improved Therapeutic Potential

First Author: Robert Judson (*left*) | Senior Author: Fabio Rossi (*right*)
Cell Stem Cell | The Biomedical Research Centre and UBC



The development of cell therapy for repairing damaged or diseased skeletal muscle has been hindered by the inability to significantly expand immature, transplantable myogenic stem cells (MuSCs) in culture. To overcome this limitation, a deeper understanding of the mechanisms regulating the transition between activated, proliferating MuSCs and differentiation-primed, poorly engrafting progenitors is needed. [Abstract](#)

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Spotlight

Dr. Carol Chen Talks Epigenetics and Bioinformatics



Dr. Carol Chen (*pictured*) is a recent doctoral graduate in the laboratory of Dr. Matt Lorincz in the Molecular Epigenetics Group at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Chen is finishing up in the lab, and will be starting a postdoc in the laboratory of Dr. Nada Jabado at McGill University this month. We sat down with Dr. Chen to discuss her research: past, present, and future. [Read More](#)

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Awards

Genetics Society of America Honours Philip Hieter with 2018 George W. Beadle Award

Genetics Society of America



The Genetics Society of America has announced that Dr. Philip Hieter (*pictured*) is the recipient of the 2018 George W. Beadle Award, bestowed in honour of his outstanding contributions to the genetics research community. Dr. Hieter is a Professor of Medical Genetics in the Michael Smith Laboratories at the University of British Columbia. [Read More](#)

Four Faculty Members Win UBC's 2017 Faculty Research Awards

UBC Faculty of Medicine



Four members of the UBC Faculty of Medicine have been recognized by UBC's Faculty Research Awards. Winners of these awards were selected by UBC's Faculty Research Award Committee, which spans arts and humanities, business, education, applied science, science and medicine. The recipients of this year's awards include Drs. Corinne Hohl (*pictured*), Pat Camp, Jayachandran Kizhakkedathu, and Ian Pike. [Read More](#)

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Longer, Better, Faster... Smaller? New Genome Sequencing Tool Promises Richer Biological Insight

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



For the past three years, Dr. Terrance Snutch (*pictured*) has been developing a novel DNA sequencing tool with promising implications for personalized medicine. The MinION device is a USB-powered DNA sequencer capable of mapping complex genomic structures; with it, researchers were recently able to assemble a complete human genome using reads hundreds of times larger than has previously been possible with conventional methods. [Read More](#)

BC and UK Partnership to Tackle Rare Diseases through Genomics

Genome BC



A new partnership pilot project between Genome BC and Genomics England will focus on improving the diagnosis of rare diseases in children while furthering the discovery of new, novel diseases in BC and around the world. Researchers will use whole genome sequencing to shed light on the genetic cause of these conditions and, in some cases, find answers for patients and families who have endured an odyssey of unnecessary tests, procedures and treatments in their search for a diagnosis. [Read More](#)

Making Complex Data Easy to See: Q&A with Dr. Mohamed Elgendi

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



Growing up in Alexandria, Egypt, Dr. Mohamed Elgendi (*pictured*) knew he wanted to make a difference and help others. Despite facing steep odds after being orphaned at a young age, Dr. Elgendi earned a PhD in biomedical engineering and now pursues innovative research projects as a UBC postdoctoral fellow supervised by Dr. Kenneth Lim and Dr. Rabab K. Ward. [Read More](#)

Applications Open for 2018 Research Trainee Competition

Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research



Applications are now open for the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) 2018 Research Trainee competition. The letter of intent deadline is March 1st, with full applications due April 10th, 2018. The Research Trainee Program is one of MSFHR's flagship programs, funding more than 1,270 researchers since it was launched in 2001. [Read More](#)

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Jump in Animal Research in Canada Generates Debate on Science Ethics

The Vancouver Sun



According to the Ottawa-based Canadian Council on Animal Care, member institutions used 4.3 million animals in research, teaching, and testing in Canada in 2016. That's a 21-per-cent increased over the previous year, and a 50-per-cent increase over five years ago. Critics charge that Canada is lagging other countries in seeking alternatives to using animals in research, and suggest that universities, in particular, can be slow to change their ways. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

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|-----------------------------|---|
| February 15 6:00 PM | Science Slam Beaty Biodiversity Museum |
| February 16 9:30 AM | Building the Future BC Children's Hospital Research Institute |
| February 19 - 23 9:00 AM | Molecular Biology Workshop AMBL Lab at Michael Smith Building |
| February 22 9:00 AM | SBN Biotech Expo 2018 Jack Poole Hall, Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre |
| February 23 4:00 PM | Discussions Relevant to Inspiring New Knowledge and Science Mahony and Sons, Stamps Landing |

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

- Scientific Marketing Specialist**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Manager, Environmental Monitoring & Microbiology**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Graduate Student, Chemistry**
Zymeworks
- Product Development Manager**
BioLytical Laboratories
- Research Coordinator**
BC Cancer Agency

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MAINTAINING AND ASSESSING HIGH-QUALITY hPSC CULTURES

Webinar by Dr. Adam Hirst & Dr. Andrew Gaffney



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