

Publications of the Week

IpdAB, a Virulence Factor in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, Is a Cholesterol Ring-Cleaving Hydrolase

First Author: Adam Crowe | Senior Author: Lindsay Eltis (*pictured*)
PNAS | The Centre for Blood Research, the Life Sciences Institute, and UBC



Mycobacterium tuberculosis grows on host-derived cholesterol during infection. IpdAB, found in all steroid-degrading bacteria and a determinant of pathogenicity, has been implicated in the hydrolysis of the last steroid ring. Phylogenetic analyses revealed that IpdAB orthologs form a clade of CoA transferases. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Breaking the Biomarker Code: PD-L1 Expression and Checkpoint Inhibition in Advanced NSCLC

First Author: Barbara Melosky (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Vera Hirsh
Cancer Treatment Reviews | The BC Cancer Agency and UBC



Lung cancer is the most common cause of cancer-related death among males and the second leading cause among females globally. Checkpoint inhibitors re-engage the immune system to fight cancer. The authors evaluate phase III data on the use of checkpoint inhibitors in the treatment of advanced non-small-cell lung carcinoma (NSCLC) and address PD-L1 expression in predicting efficacy. [Abstract](#)

Enteroviral Infection: The Forgotten Link to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis?

First Author: Yuan Chao Xue | Senior Author: Honglin Luo (*pictured*)
Frontiers in Molecular Neuroscience | The Centre for Heart Lung Innovation, the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, and UBC



The authors summarize the nature of enteroviral infection, review the molecular mechanisms underlying viral infection and highlight the similarity between viral pathogenesis and the molecular and pathological features of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and finally, discuss the potential role of enteroviral infection in frontotemporal dementia, and the significance of anti-viral therapy as an option for the treatment of ALS. [Abstract](#)

Awards

Genome BC Awards \$970K in Funding through Sector Innovation Program

Genome BC



Through the Sector Innovation Program, Genome BC recently awarded four projects a total of \$970k in funding that promise to advance the clinical application of precision health care in BC. The researchers leading these projects include Drs. Liam Brunham (*pictured*), Shyh-Dar Li and Colin Ross at UBC, Dr. Inanc Birol at the BC Cancer Agency, and Drs. Stuart Turvey and Margaret McKinnon at BC Children's Hospital. [Read More](#)

VCHRI Investigator Awards Build and Strengthen Research Capacity

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Each year, Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI) promotes excellence in health research through the annual VCHRI Investigator Awards. These awards recognize outstanding health investigators and support their research efforts through peer-reviewed salary support awards. This year's recipients are Drs. Thalia Field (*pictured*), Nathaniel Hawkins, and Ryan Flannigan.

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Local News

Zucara Therapeutics Secures US\$3.9M from the Helmsley Charitable Trust to Advance Diabetes Drug Candidate to Clinical Trials

Zucara Therapeutics via Science in the City



Zucara Therapeutics Inc., a diabetes life sciences company advancing the first once-daily therapeutic to prevent low blood glucose levels, has secured US\$3.9 million in non-dilutive funding from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust. As part of the agreement, Helmsley will provide the funding to support preclinical advancement of Zucara's lead drug candidate. [Read More](#)

Allen Eaves: The Science of Innovation

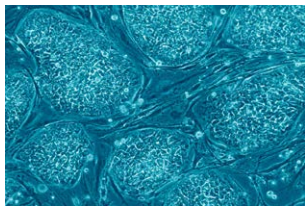
BC Business



Investing in R&D is just one way that 2016 Entrepreneur of the Year winner Allen Eaves (*pictured*) keeps STEMCELL Technologies ahead of the curve. Most people see retirement as an opportunity to step back from the work life and indulge in some leisure time. But Allen Eaves isn't most people. When the founder and former director of the Terry Fox Laboratory took mandatory retirement, he turned a side project into an innovative international biotechnology company. [Read More](#)

Stem Cells Claims Are Ahead of the Science

The Vancouver Sun



Dr. Kristine Chapman, Associate Professor of Neurology at UBC and Director of the Vancouver Hospital Neuromuscular Disease Unit, and Dr. Judy Illes, Professor of Neurology at UBC and Director of Neuroethics Canada, are cautioning the public against claims of certain recently advertised stem cell therapy treatments.

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Interesting Articles

Canada Remains Strong in Research Output and Impact, Capacity for R&D and Innovation at Risk: New Expert Panel Report

Council of Canadian Academics via Global Newswire



A new expert panel report, released by the Council of Canadian Academies, provides the latest data and information on Canada's track record in fundamental research, applied research and experimental development, industrial R&D, and the relationship of these research efforts to wealth creation and prosperity through innovation. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

April 19
5:00 PM

20th Annual LifeSciences BC Awards
Fairmont Hotel Vancouver

April 20
4:00 PM

Discussions Relevant to Inspiring New Knowledge and Science (D.R.I.N.K.S.)
Mahony and Sons, Stamps Landing

April 24
7:30 PM

Cafe Scientifique with Dr. James McCormack
Yagger's Downtown

April 25
7:00 PM

Nerd Nite
Fox Cabaret

April 26
10:00 AM

STEMCELL Technologies Open House
STEMCELL Technologies

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

GMP Manufacturing Technologist, Clean Room
STEMCELL Technologies

Research Technologist, Pulmonary

STEMCELL Technologies

Research Coordinator in the Renal Transplant Research Group

Providence Health Care Research Institute

Research Assistant

Providence Health Care Research Institute and CHÉOS

Technician, Biologics

The Centre for Drug Research and Development

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