

Publications of the Week

MechRNA: Prediction of lncRNA Mechanisms from RNA-RNA and RNA-Protein Interactions

First Author: Alexander Gawronski (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Rolf Backofen
Bioinformatics | The Vancouver Prostate Centre and SFU



Because of their potential role in cancer, lncRNAs are receiving a lot of attention, and computational tools to predict their possible mechanisms of action are needed more than ever. The authors introduce MechRNA, a pipeline for corroborating RNA-RNA interaction prediction and protein binding prediction for identifying possible lncRNA mechanisms involving specific targets or on a transcriptome-wide scale. [Abstract](#)

Similarities in Temperature-Dependent Gene Expression Plasticity across Time-Scales in Threespine Stickleback

First Author: David Metzger | Senior Author: Patricia Schulte (*pictured*)
Molecular Ecology | UBC



Phenotypic plasticity occurs at a variety of timescales, but little is known about the degree to which plastic responses at different timescales are associated with similar underlying molecular processes, which is critical for assessing the effects of plasticity on evolutionary trajectories. The authors identified differential gene expression in response to developmental temperature in the muscle transcriptome of adult threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*). [Abstract](#)

ILC2 Memory: Recollection of Previous Activation

First Author: Itziar Martinez-Gonzales | Senior Author: Fumio Takei (*pictured*)
Immunological Reviews | The BC Cancer Agency, The Terry Fox Laboratory, and UBC



Immunological memory, traditionally thought to belong to T and B cells, has now been extended to innate lymphocytes, including NK cells and ILC2s, myeloid cells such as macrophages, also termed "trained immunity" and more recently to epithelial stem cells. The authors discuss the mechanisms underlying memory generation on ILC2s and speculate about their potential role in human allergic diseases, such as asthma. [Abstract](#)

Awards

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute Recognized with International Gold Quill Awards

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI) has won two international Gold Quill awards from the International Association of Business Communicators. The awards recognize VCHRI's successful health research awareness campaign that promotes study participation opportunities in Vancouver and connects potential participants to research teams at VCH. [Read More](#)

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Local News

What's in a Niche? Time to Rethink Microbial Ecology, Say Researchers

UBC Science



Microbial systems have many ways to get energy, and are highly redundant. How do microbes come about this jack-of-all-trades redundancy? Based on an analysis of more than 59,000 sequenced microbial genomes, Dr. Stilianos Louca (*pictured*) and colleagues at UBC argue it's baked into the system—genes responsible for specific biochemical functions are widely and irregularly distributed across the microbial tree of life. [Read More](#)

TED Talk Introduces Potential for DNA Printing to Launch next Industrial Revolution

The Vancouver Sun



Biological teleportation sounds like something futuristic, but it's something bio-engineer Dan Gibson (*pictured*) has already done and continues to refine, which he laid out in a presentation for the TED Talks conference in Vancouver. Teleportation is the term Gibson's team came up with to distill 15-years worth of science that has gone into decoding genomes, then taking the code to write out fully functioning synthetic versions of those organisms. [Read More](#)

STEMCELL Technologies Announces \$45 Million Government Funding for Advanced Manufacturing Facility

STEMCELL Technologies

STEMCELL Technologies has announced a \$45 million joint funding agreement between the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to help the company build a state-of-the-art advanced manufacturing facility. The funding agreement will accelerate the Vancouver company's rapidly scaling business of providing cutting-



edge reagents and tools to support life science researchers around the world working in the cell therapy and regenerative medicine fields. [Read More](#)

Pharmacogenomics - A New Era in Precision Health

Biotechnology Focus



Genomics is driving a paradigm shift from a disease-oriented health-care system to one that is more precise, personalized, predictive, preventative and cost effective. Catalina Lopez-Correa (*pictured*), CSO of GenomeBC, discusses why we should no longer be asking 'if' genomics should be integrated with clinical care, but 'when' and 'how' we can use genomics to benefit as many people as possible. [Read More](#)

Qu Biologics Begins Phase 2 Clinical Trial in Crohn's Disease

Qu Biologics via Global Newswire



Qu Biologics Inc., a Vancouver-based biopharmaceutical company developing Site Specific Immunomodulators (SSIs), a unique platform of immunotherapies designed to restore innate immune function, has announced the receipt of a 'No Objection Letter' from Health Canada and the initiation of their follow-on Phase 2 clinical trial to study QBECO SSI for treatment of Crohn's disease. [Read More](#)

Funding Agency Investment Strategies: Where to Begin

Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research



The Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) has a long track record of impactful and strategic investment in BC's health research system. As part of its ongoing efforts to grow, improve and best support BC health research, MSFHR is aiming to become more focused and transparent about its approach to investing in health research, and research impact. Dr. Zena Sharman (*pictured*), MSFHR's Director of Strategy, outlines MSFHR's efforts to develop a more explicit investment strategy. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

March for Science Returns for a Second Year

Science Borealis

On Saturday, April 14, scientists and science enthusiasts once again took to the streets to advocate for science and evidence-informed policy. This year, there were 230+ March for Science satellite events across the world. In Canada, *Evidence for*



MARCH FOR SCIENCE

APRIL 14
2018



Democracy (along with local organizers) arranged events in 10 cities (St. John's, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Windsor, Winnipeg, Regina, Vancouver and Victoria). [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- April 30
5:00 PM

Discover Your Passion - Medicine
Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health
- May 3
8:00 AM

Nanolytica 2018
Leslie & Gordon Diamond Family Auditorium, SFU
- May 4
8:00 AM

Oxford Nanopore MinION Sequencing Bootcamp
Michael Smith Laboratories
- May 4
8:30 AM

Discovery Talks with Dr. Dana Dabelea
BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
- May 7
5:00 PM

2nd Annual Health xChange
St. Regis Bar and Grill

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

- Research Associate, Neural Research**
STEMCELL Technologies
- GMP Manufacturing Technologist, Clean Room**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Coordinator, Project Search & Evaluation**
The Centre For Drug Research And Development
- Scientist, Technology Integration & Bioinformatics**
Zymeworks
- Research Associate, Biochemistry**
Alectos Therapeutics

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RE-CREATING DISEASE WITH KIDNEY ORGANOIDS AND CRISPR

Live webinar by **Dr. Benjamin Freedman**, University of Washington



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