

Publications of the Week
Chemically Controlled Aggregation of Pluripotent Stem Cells

 First Author: Yonatan Lipsitz | Senior Author: Peter Zandstra (*pictured*)
 Biotechnology and Bioengineering | The Michael Smith Laboratories and UBC


Heterogeneity in pluripotent stem cell (PSC) aggregation leads to variability in mass transfer and signaling gradients between aggregates, which results in heterogeneous differentiation and therefore variability in product quality and yield. The authors have characterized a chemical-based method to control aggregate size within a specific, tunable range with low heterogeneity, thereby reducing process variability in PSC expansion. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

The Intestinal Epithelium: Central Coordinator of Mucosal Immunity

 First Author: Joannie Allaire | Senior Author: Bruce Vallance (*pictured*)
 Trends in Immunology | BC Children's Hospital and UBC


The intestinal epithelium is crucial for preserving gut homeostasis and acts both as a physical barrier and as a coordinating hub for immune defense and crosstalk between bacteria and immune cells. The authors highlight recent findings regarding communication between microbes and intestinal epithelial cells (IECs), as well as the immune mechanisms employed by distinct IEC subsets to promote homeostasis, emphasizing the central and active role that these cells play in host enteric defense. [Abstract](#)

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Awards
Twelve BC Health Professionals to Use Clinical Expertise to Answer Burning Research Questions

Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research



Twelve exceptional BC health professionals, including Dr. Thalia Field (*pictured*) of Vancouver General Hospital, have been funded in the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research's second Health Professional-Investigator competition. Each will receive funding to support research focused on answering questions derived from their practical experience and clinical expertise. [Read More](#)

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Local News
Guarding Women against One of Their Deadliest Cancers

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute researcher Dr. David Huntsman (*pictured*) is investigating prevention and treatment strategies for clear cell carcinoma of the ovary, the second most common type of ovarian cancer. He and his research team recently received a \$1.25-million 2017 Impact Grant—one of Canada's premier cancer research grants—from the Canadian Cancer Society to support their work. [Read More](#)

Scientist Wants Genetic Test across Canada to Gauge Risks of Kids' Cancer Drugs

CTV News



Dr. Bruce Carleton, director of the Pharmaceutical Outcomes Programme at BC Children's Hospital, has developed a lab test to predict whether children with cancer are susceptible to potentially life-threatening side effects from three chemotherapy drugs. He's now focusing on five other medications, so parents and doctors can discuss safer, personalized treatment. [Read More](#)

"Arms Race" between Cancer and Immune System Revealed

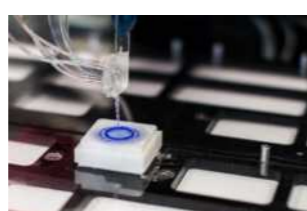
UBC Faculty of Medicine



Dr. Sohrab Shah (*left*) and Allen Zhang (*middle*) have uncovered some of the tricks used by the deadliest ovarian cancer to escape the immune system, setting the stage for a better understanding of how and why patients respond to promising new immunotherapies. The study used advanced molecular measurements and computer algorithms to analyze how immune cells infiltrate tumours. [Read More](#)

2018 BC Tech Summit Features 3D Printed Neural Tissue that Could Fight Brain Diseases

CBC News



Dr. Stephanie Willerth, a biomedical engineer, is working toward using 3D printers to create living, functioning human neural tissue. "The long-term goal is to engineer replacements for diseased or damaged tissue," said Willerth. She teamed up with BC tech firm Aspect Biosystems and is using its latest 3D printing technology to create models of neural tissue. [Read More](#)

PCF-Funded Investigators Report Progress on a Promising New Treatment for a Highly Lethal Form of Prostate Cancer

Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF)



Dr. Amina Zoubeydi (*pictured*) has found that BRN2, a protein that regulates gene expression in neuronal cells, is found at high levels in neuroendocrine prostate cancer (NEPC). Her team hypothesized that turning on BRN2 may be a tactic that prostate cancer cells use to switch to the NEPC form, and that blocking BRN2 may effectively treat NEPC or prevent it from developing. [Read More](#)

CDRD Appoints Dr. Lana Janes as Entrepreneur-in-Residence

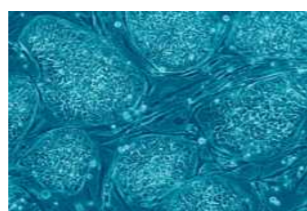
The Centre for Drug Research and Development



The Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD) has announced the appointment of Dr. Lana Janes as an Entrepreneur-in-Residence. As a life sciences industry executive for over 20 years, Dr. Janes has extensive pharmaceutical development experience that spans the full life cycle of therapeutic product development from discovery through commercialization. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles
Crowdfunding Campaigns Sow Misinformation About Stem Cell Treatments, Study Finds

The Star Vancouver



Crowdfunding campaigns for stem cell treatments may be duping patients seeking relief and leaving donors out of pocket. These campaigns, which encourage strangers to help fund medical procedures, fail to emphasize risks and often exaggerate efficacy, according to a new study co-authored by Jeremy Snyder, a bio-ethicist professor at Simon Fraser University. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

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|-------------------------|--|
| May 22
9:30 AM | The Non-Academic Job Search for Graduate Students and Postdocs
The Life Sciences Institute |
| May 22
7:00 PM | The Strange Case of the Singing Toadfish and its Bizarre Mating
Vancouver Aquarium |
| May 25
4:00 PM | D.R.I.N.K.S. (Discussions Relevant to Inspiring New Knowledge and Science)
Mahony and Sons, Stamps Landing |
| May 29
7:30 PM | Cafe Scientifique: Insects in the City
Yagger's Downtown |
| June 11 - 15
9:00 AM | Molecular Biology Workshop for Professionals
AMBL Lab at Michael Smith Building |

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