

Publications of the Week

Rap2 and TNIK Control Plexin-Dependent Tiled Synaptic Innervation in *C. elegans*

First Author: Xi Chen | Senior Author: Kota Mizumoto (*far left*)
eLife | UBC



While we begin to elucidate the mechanisms by which extracellular ligand-receptor interactions enhance synapse specificity by inhibiting synaptogenesis, our knowledge about their intracellular mechanisms remains limited. The authors showed that Rap2 GTPase and its effector, TNIK, act genetically downstream of Plexin to restrict presynaptic assembly and to form tiled synaptic innervation in *C. elegans*. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

The Sec1/Munc18 Protein Vps45 Is Involved in Iron Uptake, Mitochondrial Function and Virulence in the Pathogenic Fungus *Cryptococcus neoformans*

First Author: Melissa Caza (*front, third from right*) | Senior Author: James Kronstad (*back, middle*)
PLOS Pathogens | Michael Smith Laboratories and UBC



The pathogenic fungus, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, employs multiple mechanisms to compete for iron during cryptococcosis, a disease primarily of immunocompromised hosts. The authors examined the role of endocytic trafficking in iron uptake by characterizing a mutant defective in the Sec1/Munc18 protein Vps45. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

YAP Transcriptionally Regulates ErbB2 to Promote Liver Cell Proliferation

First Author: Evan Wang (*back, second from right*) | Senior Author: Pamela Hoodless (*back, third from left*)
Biochimica et Biophysica Acta | Terry Fox Laboratory, BC Cancer Agency, and UBC



The Hippo signalling pathway is implicated in regulation of liver size and dysregulation of this pathway contributes to tumorigenesis. The transcriptional targets and downstream pathways of the Hippo pathway effector YAP that contribute to liver growth have yet to be well-characterized. The authors examined the liver transcriptome in response to YAP overexpression and identified the ErbB signalling pathway as a mediator of cell growth downstream of YAP. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

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Awards

33 Postdoctoral Fellows Funded in MSFHR's 2018 Research Trainee Competition

Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR)



This year, 33 talented research trainees, including Dr. Alex Rodriguez (*pictured*) at the BC Cancer Agency, will receive salary support as they establish their careers and train alongside more senior members of BC's health research community. The recipients are working across the four pillars of health research: biomedical, clinical, health services and population health, in areas including antibiotic resistance, HPV vaccination and Alzheimer's disease. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Tackling Climate Change

Genome BC



While spruce beetles are an important part of spruce ecosystems throughout Canada, the recent spruce beetle outbreak in BC is larger than any previously recorded outbreak in the region and has the potential to alter spruce forests in northern BC at the landscape scale. Mitigating the effects of the current outbreak will reduce pressure on BC's timber supply and prevent elevated carbon emissions from large numbers of dead and dying mature trees. [Read More](#)

New Study Discovers Gene that Makes Lavender Smell Sweet

Kelowna Capital News



Valued especially for its pleasant aroma, a new study from UBC's Okanagan campus has discovered the gene that gives lavender its iconic smell, and researchers hope that one day it might lead to a super-smelling plant. Lavender essential oil contains many different types of compounds, but one in particular—S-linalool—is responsible for giving the plant a well-known sweet aroma. [Read More](#)

Essential 'Sugar' for Brain Communication: A New Therapeutic Path for Autism, Schizophrenia

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



For twenty years, researchers thought they knew everything there was to know about the composition of neuexin, a protein that connects neurons and is essential for communication within the brain. Recently, Dr. Ann Marie Craig (*pictured*) and her team discovered a glycan affixed to neuexin that is essential to its function and that, when absent, may increase risk for autism spectrum disorders and schizophrenia. [Read More](#)

ProtoKinetix Enters into 3rd Phase of Retinal Cell Replacement Therapy Testing at UBC

ProtoKinetix



ProtoKinetix Inc. has entered into the 3rd phase of testing in retinal cell replacement therapy at UBC. The new study will include two animal models over a longer period of time to test whether AAGP[®] treated cells continue to develop into retinal cells to potentially restore vision in humans. The study was conducted by the Gregory-Evans Retinal Therapeutic Lab at UBC. [Read More](#)

AbCellera Is Enabling the Translation of Laboratory Research to Clinical Application for Fibrosis Associated with Congenital Degenerative Diseases

AbCellera Biologics



Duchenne muscular dystrophy is one of the most common congenital diseases in the world, affecting one in 3,500 Canadian males. In an effort to fulfill this unmet medical need, AbCellera Biologics Inc. has entered into a three-year partnership with Drs. Fabio Rossi and Michael Underhill of UBC to discover, test, and develop therapeutic antibodies for the treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy-associated fibrosis. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

HIV-AIDS Organizations Fear Federal Funding Shift Will Lead to Higher Rates

CTV News



The head of the Canadian AIDS Society fears HIV rates will continue to rise because of a shift in federal funding towards prevention instead of treatment and support. Gary Lacasse said in a recent interview that HIV rates in Canada went up by 11 per cent in 2016 – the most recent available data. That same year, the federal government started to shift its funding focus. [Read More](#)

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 **Upcoming Events in Vancouver**

August 21 5:30 PM	Tech Ladies Vancouver Bench Accounting
August 23 6:00 PM	Women in Tech End of Summer Networking Party Bench Accounting
August 23 7:30 PM	Science World after Dark Telus World of Science
August 24 4:00 PM	D.R.I.N.K.S. (Discussions Relevant to Inspiring New Knowledge and Science) Mahony and Sons, Stamps Landing
September 19 4:30 PM	Serving Up Science: Plant Genomics and the Future of Food Vancouver Convention Centre

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Genevant
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The Centre for Drug Research and Development
- Postdoctoral Fellow/Research Associate**
BC Cancer Research Centre
- Research Assistant/Technician**
Simon Fraser University

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RE-CREATING DISEASE WITH KIDNEY ORGANOIDs AND CRISPR

Featured webinar by **Dr. Benjamin Freedman**



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