

Publications of the Week

Circulating Tumour DNA Abundance and Potential Utility in *De Novo* Metastatic Prostate Cancer

First Author: Gillian Vandekerckhove (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Alexander Wyatt
European Urology | Vancouver Prostate Centre, BC Cancer Agency and UBC



Several systemic therapeutic options exist for metastatic castrate-sensitive prostate cancer (mCSPC). Circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA) can molecularly profile mCSPC and can influence decision-making, but remains untested in mCSPC. The authors sought to determine ctDNA abundance at *de novo* mCSPC diagnosis and whether ctDNA provides complementary clinically relevant information to a prostate biopsy. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Recalibrating the Relevance of Adult Neurogenesis

Author: Jason Snyder
Trends in Neurosciences | Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health and UBC



Conflicting reports about whether adult hippocampal neurogenesis occurs in humans raise questions about its significance for human health and the relevance of animal models. The author reviews species' neurogenesis rates across the lifespan and proposes that accelerated neurodevelopmental timing is consistent with lower rates of neurogenesis in adult primates and humans. [Abstract](#)

Transcriptional Regulation of Normal Human Mammary Cell Heterogeneity and Its Perturbation in Breast Cancer

First Author: Davide Pallacani (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Connie Eaves
The EMBO Journal | Terry Fox Laboratory



The mammary gland in adult women consists of biologically distinct cell types that differ in their surface phenotypes. In this review, the authors summarize current knowledge about key transcriptional regulatory processes operative in partially characterized subpopulations of normal human mammary cells, and the effects of disrupting these processes in experimentally produced human breast cancers. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

January 2019 Award Winners



Dr. Teresa Liu-Ambrose (*pictured*) has received a CIHR Operating Grant to study the effects of physical exercise on bed rest and cognitive function in older adults. This grant supports ambitious, innovative, multi-disciplinary collaborative research projects to help understand the health impacts of inactivity. Find out which other Vancouver researchers won grants, awards, or fellowships this January! [Read More](#)

UBC PhD Students Recognized for Inventiveness and Initiative in Research

UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences



Congratulations to UBC Pharmaceutical Sciences PhD students Zeynab Nosrati (*pictured*) and Sunny Yang for being named the 2018 recipients of the Mitchell-Dwivedi Graduate Award in Pharmaceutical Sciences. "The award recognizes [...] graduate students who show exceptional inventiveness and initiative in their work," said Dr. Michael Coughtrie, Dean of the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Access to Human Big Data to Accelerate Research and Improve Patient Care

SFU News



Registered researchers will have rapid access to an "unprecedented scale" of clinical research data through the new Common Infrastructure for National Cohorts in Europe, Canada and Africa. SFU professor Fiona Brinkman (*pictured*), the initiative's Canadian lead, says the project will not only accelerate disease research but will also help to advance benefits to patients worldwide through the responsible sharing of genetic, physical and lifestyle data. [Read More](#)

Uncovering the Genetic Ins and Outs of Diarrheal Infection

Michael Smith Laboratories



Diarrheal infections remain a major problem, even in developed countries. To study bacterial pathogenesis and the role of the microbiota during infection, scientists commonly infect mice with *Citrobacter rodentium* as a robust model system. Dr. Stefanie Vogt (*pictured*), a postdoctoral fellow in Professor Brett Finlay's laboratory at UBC, investigated factors that govern the deployment and maintenance of critical virulence factors in bacterial pathogens. [Read More](#)

Unlocking the Potential of Biologics to Put a Bulls-Eye on Cancer

National Research Council Canada



When Dr. Ali Tehrani (*pictured*) began pursuing his vision of intelligent, computer-assisted modelling of protein molecules, he didn't fully grasp the potential impact that his work might have. The company he founded in British Columbia in 2003, Zymeworks Inc., is now a global leader in the field of biotherapeutics, the science of treating disease with medicine made from or using living cells. [Read More](#)

Understanding Breakdowns in the Tiny Machinery that Powers Our Bodies: Q&A with Shawn Shortill

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



At the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics at the BC Children's Hospital, Shawn Shortill (*pictured*) studies the hidden inner-workings of cells. His research could lay the groundwork for new treatments that help children with serious neurological disorders. Shawn discusses his work studying a key protein, and how his research could lead to new insights into how the human body works and how devastating childhood diseases develop. [Read More](#)

SFU Researchers Link T Cell Recognition Diversity to HIV Control

SFU News



The immune system is the body's best defense in fighting diseases like HIV and cancer. An international team of researchers is harnessing the immune system to provide new clues that may help efforts to produce an HIV vaccine. SFU professor Mark Brockman (*front, 2nd from left*) and co-authors from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa have identified a connection between infection control and how well antiviral T cells respond to diverse HIV sequences. [Read More](#)

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 **Upcoming Events in Vancouver**

- February 6
2:30 PM **Career Connect: AbCellera**
AbCellera
- February 7
8:00 PM **Science of Cocktails**
Telus World of Science
- February 7 - 8
7:00 AM **Heart + Lung Health FEST 2019**
Pinnacle Hotel Harbourfront
- February 13
6:00 PM **Biotech Networking Night**
BCIT Downtown Campus
- February 20
7:00 PM **Are Bees Really Dying? Are We the Cause or the Solution?**
John M.S. Lecky UBC Boathouse

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 **STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver**

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Evonik
- Research Manager**
UBC Social Exposome Research Cluster
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Aspect Biosystems
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